



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902*

# The Grapevine

*I am the vine; You are the branches.*  
John 15:5

Year 117, Issue 7  
July 2019

1511 East Broadway Street . Mt Vernon, WA . 360 424-7675 . [www.MountVernonPres.org](http://www.MountVernonPres.org)  
[mvpc@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:mvpc@MountVernonPres.org)



## **A Psalm from the Seekers (Middle School) Sunday School Class**

God is my Pilot

God steers me through the jungle of life

Even when I feel trapped and cannot get through

Even then, God steers me in the right direction

God you are my Resting Place

You provide me with peace

---

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Thank You**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance appreciates those of you who prepared and supported the Gift of the Heart kits. We believe you are helping to offer not only essential supplies such as personal hygiene kits—but also hope. In 2018, more than 174,000 total kits, cleanup buckets and blankets were distributed internationally and in the United States. The neighbor you helped might be in Honduras, Puerto Rico, Syria, North Carolina, Serbia, or Florida among many other areas stricken by disaster. We encourage you to pray for these neighbors, that the enduring hope of Christ will be evident to them.

Paul said: "For freedom, Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1) and I'm aware that there are different kinds of freedom. The first is "*Freedom From*" which is an absence or removal of social, economic or political oppression. It represents liberation from something that holds us down. In essence this is the kind of freedom that we celebrate when we remember the Declaration of Independence on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with fireworks and parades and parties. It's the kind of freedom the people of Israel experienced when Moses led them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. This is the kind of freedom the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of when he said: "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor. It must be demanded by the oppressed." Those of us who have never experienced blatant oppression all too often take this kind of freedom for granted.

When people realize this "freedom from," a whole new world is opened which I like to call "*Freedom To*." This is the kind of freedom that allows a choice from a wide variety of options. It's the freedom of someone standing, unintimidated, in a voting booth where they are able to vote for anyone they want (even a write-in candidate). This freedom is beautiful, but inherently, it can also be used poorly. Ghandi said "Freedom is not worth having if it doesn't include the freedom to make mistakes." Others go further saying that you're not free at all if you can't choose to be wrong or even irresponsible - a lesson learned the hard way by too many college freshmen experiencing this kind of freedom for the first time. Paul seemed to know that danger because right after he proclaimed freedom to the Galatians, he immediately encouraged them to not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Then a few verses later, he listed things that might be a yoke of slavery: "fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these". Every one of those are as alive and well in our society as they were in his. If we wanted to, we could add more. In fact, you probably already know the things that tend to grab hold of you that might be considered a yoke of slavery. Feel free to add your personal struggles to the list. So to paraphrase, Paul says: with the freedom Christ has given, you do have the ability to choose unhelpful and perhaps unhealthy things, but that's not why you're here. That leads us to the third kind of freedom.

The question becomes what are you going to do with the freedom you have? This is "*Freedom For*" and I believe it's at the heart of what Paul was talking about and it's at the heart of how we live our faith. Right in the middle of his discussion about freedom, Paul urges the people who have been freed to become slaves: not in the old way of being held captive by something; and not by being mastered by your own self interest. He says Christ has made you free, so in love, become slaves to one another. Deeds done in Christian freedom address real needs of real people. Decisions made in Christian freedom aren't made out of fear or anxiety, but rather they're based on understanding who God is, trusting that God is for us, and desiring to give something back to the God who has given us so much.

Fundamentally freedom is a gift from God and the way to celebrate that gift is to bind ourselves to God as God has already bound God's self to us. Be aware of what's important by studying the way of Christ, seek God's desire in prayer and discernment, step out in faith in order to go where the Spirit leads. Where we are free, we have been given freedom for a reason and that reason is to follow God's call in love and in service. So as you watch fireworks that celebrate our country's freedom, don't only remember what we have been freed from. Consider also what we have been freed for. For the whole of the law is summed up in the single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Many Blessings, Pastor Dan

---

## **Women's Christmas Dessert Coordinator & Co-coordinator opportunity**

If you feel called to help plan and coordinate this event please let the office know. There are notes from previous years to help you.



---

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church is in search of a **Nursery Child Care Worker** for Sundays from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Here is a link to the website information:

[mountvernonpres.org/employment-opportunity](http://mountvernonpres.org/employment-opportunity)

If you or someone you know would be interested please refer them to the website or the church office for more information.

Ph 360-424-7675

---

# July 2019 Children and Family Ministries



## Godly Play

Begin in Worship  
Kindergarten to 5th Grade  
Story - Reflection - Prayer

July 7th - Helping Stories: Miss Becky

July 14th - Helping Stories: Mr. Gary

July 21st - Helping Stories: Miss Carol

July 28th - Godly Play Bonus Play Day

*Godly Play will not meet in August.*



## VBS - To Mars and Beyond!

**July 15th to 19th - 9 am to Noon**

Kids heading in to preschool to 5th grade can register for a week of games, crafts, stories, science, music and drama! Registration forms are in the church office or on the church website.

*Youth heading in to 6th to 12th grade can apply to be VBS Youth Volunteers too!*

## Church Nursery

Sundays 9 am to Noon

Drop Off & Pick Up

Play - Story - Craft



*In August, school aged kids are welcome too!*

## MVPC Family Small Group

The Family Small Group will kick off again on August 25th (after a break for summer fun) with a potluck picnic at the Maas' Home. Please consider coming if your family might be interested in being a part of the family small group in the

2019-2020 program year. We will be deciding as a group on when we will meet and more!



## How to Support VBS

VBS happens with the help of a lot of people working together to show God's love to kids in Skagit Valley.

-Please pray for VBS kids, families, volunteers, and for the program.

-Please sign up to donate a snack and bring it to the church by Noon on 7/14.

-Please consider volunteering July 15th to 19th from 9 am to Noon, even if you can just join the fun for a day or two.

**-THANK YOU!!!!!!**

Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.

# Youth & Family Ministries

## July 2019



### Summer Youth Programs



**Summer Youth Group:** Middle & high school students are invited to attend Summer Youth Group on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during worship. Our theme this summer is: Letting Your Light Shine! Come to celebrate the light that Jesus shines on all the world!

- ☺ July 14-19: Tall Timber Jr. High Camp
- ☺ July 21: Campers' Lunch, after worship
- ☺ July 26: Youth Movie Night
- ☺ July 28—Aug 3: Tall Timber Sr.. High Camp
- ☺ Aug 24: Youth Retreat, all day!

**Also This Summer... Pop-Up Events!** Check your email for invitations to join a picnic in the park, beach day, hike, or other casual event! Schedules can be difficult to predict in the summer, so we're opting to hold youth and family gatherings with 1-3 days notice ~ just enough ahead of time to assess whether you're able to join in! Not on the Youth & Family Ministry Email List? Email me and I'll add you on: [Jodie@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:Jodie@MountVernonPres.org).

*Thank You to everyone that donated supplies for PDA Hygiene Kits! Your contributions will help future disaster victims keep clean and groomed during difficult times.*



### Friday Movie Night!

July 26  
6:30—8:30 pm

Movie Night!  
(Chariots of Fire)

Movie Nights are held at the home of our Youth & Family Ministries Director. Please contact Jodie or the church office for more information.

All youth are invited, and, as usual, friends are welcome to come too!

### Seeking Summer Volunteers

If you're curious about what's going on with Youth & Family Ministries, volunteering to help is a great way to find out! This summer there are lots of opportunities to connect with youth and their families. Here are some of them:

- ☞ Be a helper in Summer Youth Group! We will meet Sundays during worship on these dates:
  - July 14 & 28
  - August 11
- ☞ Help plan and attend a hike, beach day, BBQ, bowling day or trip to the water slides.
- ☞ Help plan and attend the all day Youth Retreat on August 24.

Talk to Jodie for more information!





**Thanks to all who attended the  
Children, Youth & Family Summer Kick-off BBQ Potluck!**





## MVPC Church Leadership 2019-2020



Elders			Class Year	Deacons			Class Year
Patti	Allen		2020	Brian	Anderson		2020
Becky	Goodell		2020	Sarah	Catton		2020
Bob	Rauch		2020	Colleen	Higbee		2020
Bob	Higbee		2020	Toni	Hulbert		2020
Lou	Cheney		2021	Danya	Wolf		2021
Chris	Hoke		2021	Ruth	Neal		2021
Bruce	Lavers		2021	Connie	Bowser		2021
Anne	Long		2021	Tracy	Hall		2021
MaryEllen	Byerly		2022	Tom	Howard		2022
Bill	DeHon		2022	Chris	Johnson		2022
Gail	LaFleur		2022	Sandi	Seabott		2022
			2022	Sumiko	Shinozaki		2022

### Notes from June 18th Session meeting

- Received the Committee and Ministry Area Reports. The finance report shows May (\$2,404.40) with the year to date difference of \$17,631.72.
- Approved minutes of May Session meeting and two Congregational meetings.
- Approved entering into a Shelter Facility Use Agreement with American Red Cross exclusively.
- Approved a Commitment/Consecration Sunday for the Capital Campaign on November 24th with the All Church Banquet on Saturday November 23rd.
- Authorized Bill DeHon, Bruce Lavers, Bob Higbee and person with expertise to work on and articulate priorities for expenditures of monies from Capital Campaign.
- Approved allocating \$500 from the 2020 operating fund to take part in the Healthy Pastors Healthy Congregations Grant Program.
- Extended appreciation to Outgoing Elders: Pat Papadopoulos, Steve Hansen, Sandy Ball and Bill DeHon (Bill is returning to serve another term).

### Dale Irvine Receives Award

At the conference June 19 - 21, 2019 Dale Irvine received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Northwest International Circulation Executives. He spent 25 years at the Seattle Times in various management positions in the circulation department and was also the circulation director for Skagit Publishing for 12 years. After retiring Dale was secretary-treasurer for 13 years for NICE (Northwest International Circulation Executives), an organization that covered six states and four Canadian provinces. The conference is an event that includes three organizations that provide education and training for circulation and marketing managers for daily newspapers from western states including Texas.



Congratulations Dale!

## Thank you to:

- \* Family Promise overnight hosts, laundry volunteers and meal providers too numerous to mention but as many as the stars in the heavens.
- \* Elders completing their terms: Sandy Ball, Bill DeHon, Steve Hansen and Pat Papadopoulos  
Deacons completing terms: Laurel Coalwell, Madeline Delia, Tracy Hall and Pete Papadopoulos
- \* To Elders and Deacons elect who have heard a call to serve: Mary Ellen Byerly, Bill DeHon and Gail LaFleur as Elders; Connie Bowser, Tracy Hall, Tom Howard, Sumiko Reamer and Sandi Seabott as Deacons. They will all be ordained and/or installed on Sunday July 14th.
- \* To all who participate on the building & Grounds Team. We are on the move and making good things happen together.
- \* To Dan Long and team for all tender loving care of the landscape.
- \* To the children and youth of MVPC who make us smile!
- \* To Josh VerHalen, Glorify and the choir for the wonderful and inspirational music.
- \* To Bell Choir members for being so flexible in adapting to new positions and faithful practice.
- \* To our MFOC for ALL she does! \*Hugs\*
- \* To our outstanding speakers on Fifth Sunday: Sarah Maas, Laurie Parker, and Graham Kerr.



## A Huge Thank You to the Team that built MVPC's Gaga Ball Pit!

Thank you to the amazing team who helped complete the MVPC Gaga Ball Pit! Gaga Ball is a great game for everyone, young and old alike. There's a basket in the Christian Education hallway with a ball or two in it whenever you want to play (please return the balls when you are done). The rules of the game are pretty basic and don't take a whole lot of skill, just a desire to have a fun:

1. All players start with one hand touching a wall of the pit. A player tosses the ball into the middle of the pit as the players yell "Ga" on the first two bounces and "Ball" on the third bounce, indicating the start of play.
2. Any player can hit the ball with an open or closed hand. There is no holding or scooping the ball. If the ball is caught on a fly or goes out of the pit, the player hitting the ball is out. If a player hits a ball more than once without another player hitting it or the ball hitting the wall, the player hitting the ball is out.
3. If the ball touches a player below the knee, even if they were the one who hit it, that player is out.
4. Players who are out cheer on the players still playing and then can hop back in once a new game is started. The game moves pretty fast and if you need it to speed up, feel free to add in one of the optional challenges.
5. Optional Challenges: If players agree, when the game gets down to the last few players, the players who are out may reach in from the outside of the pit to try to tag the remaining players out, otherwise known as "zombie arms". An additional ball may be added if a more challenging game is desired. Or add your own challenges!



# July Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Gary Jones

6- Pat Call

7-Ken & Sandy Ball

Annie Rogers

11-Wendy Bartholomew

12-Tonnie Boer

13-Spencer Fox

*Don & Danya Wolf*

14-Abram Hoke

14-Jean Byron

19-Tom & Molly Howard

Barbara Koozer

20-Elaine McIvor

21-Sue Farrar

24-Shayla Brown

25-Phil McLaughlin

26-Malik Sumareh

27-Debbie Parker

29-Josh VerHalen

30-Doris Wygal

Larry Peterson

31-Bev Helton



## Women's Fellowship

Meets the fourth Saturday,  
July 27th at 9:00 am in the  
Fireside Room.

The women have a message for  
you. God will give you a cool glass of  
water whenever you want one.

**Men's Breakfast** meets the  
fourth Saturday, July 27th for  
breakfast at 9:00 am in Good  
Shepherd Hall. Come  
experience fellowship and a  
great home-cooked  
breakfast.

Are we missing your special date?  
Please contact the church office at  
[mvpcc@mountvernonpres.org](mailto:mvpcc@mountvernonpres.org)  
or call or text  
360-424-7675 so we can celebrate  
with you!

**Help Wanted:** A volunteer proficient with Microsoft Publisher and/or Microsoft PowerPoint to create the bulletin and/or PowerPoint slides for worship when Barbara (MVPC's Ministry Facilitator/Office Coordinator) is on vacation. Hours are flexible and we are excited to train you as needed. Please let us know of your interest and facility with the aforementioned programs by emailing [personnel@mountvernonpres.org](mailto:personnel@mountvernonpres.org). We hope to fill the need by early July.



**Graduates  
Confirmants  
and  
New Members**



# Prayer

Would You like to join a prayer group?

## PEOPLE OF PRAYER

A few years ago, members of MVPC gathered to clarify how prayer is used in our church. Our vision for prayer at MVPC at that time was to pray with love in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, that one day the entire church body will be involved in this ministry without fear, as it belongs to all of us.

My experience of prayer in our church is that our congregation trusts in the power of prayer, we share our burdens and we care for each other. And we celebrate as we see the many ways God answers our prayers.



We have many venues to present prayer requests.

- On Sunday, we have the Prayers of the People, during the service.
- Please feel free to write a prayer request on the Friendship Register form during worship. These requests are given to the deacons and Tuesday prayer gathering.
- Tuesday Intercessory Prayer Gathering - this takes place each Tuesday, at 10:30 in the library. Anyone who wishes to participate in group prayer is encouraged to come. It is a warm and caring experience, with huge rewards as we recognize all of the ways God has blessed us with answered prayer.
- Small Group Gatherings - sharing and praying together in our activities, requesting interaction with the rest of the church, as desired.
- Do you know about the EMAIL PRAYER MINISTRY? This is a place we can receive prayer during the week. There are two ways you can participate. 1) Sign up to be on the email Prayer Contact List (use the following email address) to receive prayer requests 2) Send in a prayer request to this same email address: [prayers.mvpc@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.mvpc@gmail.com). When you send in a request it will be reviewed by an individual for permission and confidentiality, and then sent out to those on the Prayer Contact List for immediate prayer. At this time about 30 people are participating in this ministry. Please sign up if you are interested. And if you have a friend that does not have email, sign up and then call that friend so they can pray along with you.

"Peace to you, and may we all become people of prayer".

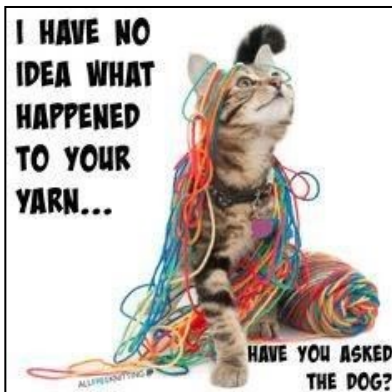
## MVPC Knitting/Crafts

Bring your craft project and enjoy fellowship with other MVPC knitters, crocheters, and more on the

2nd & 4th  
Tuesdays of  
every month  
from Noon to 1  
pm in the Great  
Room.

Questions?

Talk with Patti  
Allen.



## Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

*Growing followers of Christ*

### Our Vision Statement

*E*ncounter The Hope  
of the living God through Jesus Christ

*E*ngage One Another  
in authentic friendship

*E*mbrace The World  
with the heart and hands of Jesus

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

<b>Centering Prayer:</b>	Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Dan's office
<b>Intercessory Prayer Group:</b>	Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
<b>Small Groups:</b>	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
<b>Friendship House:</b>	First Thursday and second Tuesday @ Friendship House
<b>Family Small Group:</b>	Kick Off on August 25th with a potluck picnic
<b>Summer Youth Group:</b>	2nd & 4th Sundays, during worship in the Great Room
<b>Youth Movie Night:</b>	4th Fridays @ 6:30 pm
<b>Chancel Choir:</b>	Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm
<b>Glorify!:</b>	Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
<b>Bell Choir practice:</b>	Mondays , 7:00-8:00 p.m.
<b>Tea @ 2:</b>	Last Thurs at 2 p.m. in Fireside Room (March through Sept)
<b>Women's Fellowship:</b>	Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
<b>Men's Breakfast:</b>	Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
<b>Deacons Meeting:</b>	1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
<b>Personnel Committee:</b>	3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
<b>Session Meeting:</b>	3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
<b>Worship Team Meeting:</b>	1st Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in library
<b>Mission Team Meeting:</b>	4th Sunday (Stay tuned for meeting time)
<b>Children &amp; Family Team:</b>	3rd week of Oct, Jan, April & July

## THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC ...

### 9:00 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

#### The Bible Class

An in-depth exploration of the Bible through discussion-based study for adults in the Conference Room.

### 10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

**NURSERY** Preschoolers are introduced to Bible Stories.

**GODLY PLAY** (K through 5th) Begin in Worship and return to parents during Fellowship time.

**SEEKERS & EXPLORERS** Youth (MS & HS) Begins again in September.

**SUMMER YOUTH GROUP** YOUTH (MS & HS) on the 2nd \* 4th Sundays during worship.

**11:45 FELLOWSHIP TIME:** Please stay to enjoy treats and good conversation!

**\*Nursery Care Available 9 am to Noon.**

