

# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Growing Followers of Christ Since 1902*



## The Grapevine

*I am the vine; You are the branches.*

John 15:5

Year 122, Issue 2  
June—August 2024

### Summer Suppers

Summer is the perfect time to connect with others! Consider attending one or all of the MVPC Summer Suppers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of June, July, and August from 5:30 to 7 pm in Good Shepherd Hall. We will connect with each other while we enjoy a potluck dinner and hear stories from our MVPC Mission Partners. If you are able and willing, please bring a potluck dish to share and a note of the ingredients of your dish to help those with food restrictions. Even if you aren't able to bring something for the potluck, we hope you'll come to connect with old and new friends! Here's the exciting list of our Summer Supper Speakers:

June 12th - Summer Suppers Kick Off!  
June 26th - GROWTH - Kevin and Danielle Riley  
July 10th - SEEK - Underground Ministries  
July 24th - TRUST - New Earth Recovery  
August 14th - HOME - Family Promise  
August 28th - HOPE - Love INC

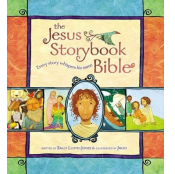


### Summer Prayer Journeys

Everyone is invited to join monthly Prayer Journeys to seek God in Creation through a series of prayerful walks and experiences in nature on 4th Thursdays this summer (June 27th, July 25th, and August 22nd). We will meet at the church at 9 am and carpool together. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in joining one or all of the Prayer Journeys so you can be included on a reminder email for all the details. Prayer Group will continue to meet every Thurs 9 am.

### Summer Stories Kids Program

Elementary and preschool kids are invited to the Summer Stories Kids Program on Sundays in June, July, and August! We will be exploring the Jesus Storybook Bible stories with a fun craft each week. The Summer Stories Kids Program will take place in the MVPC Play Room (the right side of the Nursery) starting at 10:30 am on Sundays, but kids are welcome to start playing as early as 10 am. As always, all ages will continue to be welcome in Sunday Worship and the left side of the nursery will be open for infants and toddlers from 10 am to noon. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you have any questions or would like to find out more.



### Summer Youth Adventures

Youth heading into Middle School and High School are invited to participate in monthly Summer Youth Adventures after worship on June 23rd, July 28th, and August 11th! Email reminders will be sent out before the adventures with more details. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you have any questions or want to volunteer.

### Summer Women's Fellowship Pop Ups

Connect with fellow women to enjoy lunch at noon this summer (June 13, July 11, and August 8).

### Summer Senior Ice Cream Social

Seniors are invited to enjoy an ice cream social gathering on Thursday Aug 1 at 1 pm in Good Shepherd Hall or on the back lawn if weather allows.

### Sunday Worship 10:30 am

In person and on Zoom (Go to [zoom.us/j](https://zoom.us/j) - enter Meeting ID: 360 424 7675 Passcode: MVPC; or Meeting Room 1)

# Discipleship

## **THANK YOU EVERYONE! Please come be appreciated at Worship and Lunch on 6/2!**

The 2023-2024 Program Year has been amazing and we want to appreciate everyone who has helped to make it so, whether you served in the church nursery, were a part of the super seniors team, helped keep the grounds and building beautiful, shared a gift or talent of yours at any

point during the year, or anything in between. We appreciate you all! Please plan to attend Worship on Sunday, June 2nd as well as a special Appreciation Lunch following worship in Good Shepherd Hall to help appreciate all of the volunteers and to be appreciated too. Everyone is welcome and invited! There will be an open mic for church leaders to come and share their thanks for individuals and teams they would like to appreciate.

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## **Prayer at MVPC**

Be a part of the team of people independently praying for Prayer Requests at MVPC. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Team and the best email to use for the requests. When prayers are requested, you will receive an email with the prayer request to hold in prayer. A huge thank you to everyone who is already part of the Prayer Team. Your prayers are appreciated.



## **Thursday Prayer Group**

The MVPC Prayer Group continues to meet Thursdays at 9 am this summer to connect with each other to learn, explore, and practice contemplative prayer. Everyone is welcome to join this friendly group to connect and grow in faith. Please note we will be going on a Prayer Journey the 4th Thursdays, meeting at the church at 9 am and heading out to a prayerful walk or experience, but we will meet in the church library on the other Thursdays. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you would like to receive reminder emails or want to find out more!

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## **Deacon Connectors**

The Deacon Board has selected and trained a team of Deacon Connectors who will be calling people in the congregation in the coming months to connect, check in on how they are doing, and see if there are additional ways the church can be supportive. Please let the office know if you are interested in being contacted by a Deacon Connector and/or being trained as a Deacon Connector. The Deacons will be continuing to seek out ways to empower the caring ministries at MVPC. Please talk to the Deacons or Pastor Rebecca if you have additional ideas of how to continue to build Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church into a place of welcome, deep caring, and support.

Deacon Connector Training



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## **Annual Garage Sale Success**

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the Annual Skagit Mom Co Garage Sale in April. This MVPC ministry to Moms and Kids was able to raise funds for the 2024-2025 Program Year. Please start saving your items for next Spring's Garage Sale. Thank you for supporting Skagit Valley Moms and Kids.

# Discipleship

## Soup-er Senior Lunches



Soup-er Senior Lunch

Thank you to MVPC for the Soup-er Senior lunches this past year. Mary Ellen and Doris came up with some great soup recipes, Sandy and team set everything up and people from

the congregation shared their knowledge and interests--

The Blue Zone, Simple Physical Therapy, Hear, Hear!, and the Harmony Northwest Chorus, along with other speakers. And a huge thank you to Pat Papadopoulos for pulling it all together!

If you are interested in being a part of next year's team, please contact Pastor Rebecca. Thank you to all who participated. The donations made will help cover the costs and the overflow is being used to purchase replacement items in the kitchen. See you next year at these special First Thursday Soup-er Senior Gatherings!

**Summer Senior Ice Cream Social Thursday 8/1 at 1 pm!**

## Confirmation 2023-2024

Do you remember when you went through Confirmation? The MVPC Youth have wrapped up a fantastic year of Confirmation, learning about the foundations of our faith and discerning their own faith journey and all they feel called to in life. In addition to attending Confirmation Classes, they all volunteered at the church and in the community, because Confirmation is not only about knowing God's love, it's about reaching out to share that love with others in all we do. You are invited to support and celebrate the students who have chosen to be Confirmed during Worship on Sunday, June 9th - plus there will be a cake reception after worship!

We also want to say a huge thank you to the Youth Team who volunteered during classes/youth group - Becky Goodell, Dan Long, and Mary Pugsley. And a huge thank you to the Youth Mentors who each mentored one of the youth through the Confirmation process - Steve Butt, Connie Bowser, Liz Ernst, Ward Ernst, Rosemary Gale, Becky Goodell, Dan Holland, Dan Long, Sandy Pinaire, and Mary Pugsley!



Confirmands and Mentors



Confirmands Retreat



# Discipleship

## Summer Nursery Care

We have a team of folks excited to welcome and play with the youngest members of our congregation every Sunday from 10 am to Noon. Please talk with Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions or would like to be a part of this amazing team of volunteers and nursery staff. A huge thank you to our 2023-2024 Nursery Staff: Miriam, Kimora, Michaela, Natalie, and Avalon!

## Join the Godly Play Team

If you've enjoyed the Godly Play stories in Worship and felt the nudge to work with the elementary aged kids at MVPC, please let Pastor Rebecca know if you might be interested in being a part of the MVPC Godly Play Team! The team rotates through volunteering in the Godly Play Room on Sundays during the Program Year as either Storytellers or Helpers. It's a wonderful way to get involved at MVPC. We will have a Godly Play Team Training in August so it's a great time to get started. A huge thank you to this year's amazing Godly Play Team: Mim Ambrose, Lou Cheney, Ruth Dunn, Becky Goodell, Tracy Hall, Michaela Holland, David Neal, Ruth Neal, Laurie Parker, Carol Peterson, Mary Pugsley, and Margo Wortham!

## Thank you for supporting the Skagit Mom Co (and Kid Co) Program!

The Skagit Mom Co (and Kid Co) Programs wrapped up another wonderful year of ministry to moms and kids in Skagit Valley thanks to the ongoing support of MVPC. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday morning, moms gathered at MVPC for a special faith filled program and connecting time while their kids played and enjoyed a VBS style program to help them grow in faith. They were able to raise almost \$2,000 at their annual rummage sale in April that will go toward next year's programs. In the 2024-2025 Program Year, they will switch to meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at MVPC to fit the program better with the start of school and holidays. The VBS style Kid Co Program is looking for more volunteers willing and able to be a part of the Kid Co Team. Please talk with Pastor Rebecca if you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more. A huge thank you to this year's Kid Co Team: Lou Cheney, Ruth Dunn, Becky Goodell, David Neal, Ruth Neal, Rand O'Donnell, and Sandy Pinaire! And a huge thank you to the Mom Co Leadership Team: Ashley Brown, Vanessa Buska, Jessica Jasper, and Sarah Maas!



MVPC  
Nursery



Skagit MomCo  
meeting



Men's  
Breakfast

Women's  
Fellowship



# Endowment

## A Gift that Keeps Giving!

40 years ago, MVPC received a gift that would long outlive the giver. Ms Julia Gray Cook (JGC), with some level of visionary foresight, used her last will and testament to establish a charitable remainder trust with MVPC as the ultimate beneficiary. For decades the trust was managed by a trustee and all of the beneficiaries saw regular (but relatively small) distributions. In 2022 (huge thanks to Rosemary Gale) an agreement was struck that would equitably divide the capital among remaining beneficiaries and then dissolve the trust. Since then, the fund has been under management of MVPC's endowment committee. The goal of the JGC endowment is to provide money over-and-above the church budget to support youth and families in need in Skagit Valley and organizations who support those people, in perpetuity. According to the 2022 agreement, the Endowment committee decides the size of the annual distribution and the Mission Ministry team allocates and disburses money in alignment with Ms Cook's desires.

This year, the distribution was significant and the impact is already being noticed by our mission partners!

In 2024, The JGC endowment of MVPC has already:

Given an extra measure of support to the Friendship House;



Paid for flooring and bathroom renovations for the Blessing House and Promise House (Family Promise Transitional Housing)



Provided furnishings for the new Hilltop House (New Earth Recovery - Graduate House)



Purchased 20 Graduation Robes for Seniors at Mount Vernon High School who can't afford them.

There's more to come! We've spent approximately 55% of this year's distribution.

MVPC also maintains a separate, unrestricted endowment fund that has been established to aid the church's ministries and missions forever. The management process is similar but there are fewer restrictions on how the MVPC endowment can be utilized. The value of the MVPC endowment is over \$300k and they expect to make an initial distribution in 2025. If you are interested in endowed giving either now, or through planned or estate giving we would encourage you to talk with one of the Endowment Committee members (listed below) or one of the Pastors.

The MVPC Endowment is a way to make your gift live in perpetuity and support the mission and the ministry of MVPC long after you're gone. Thanks for considering it!

Endowment Committee:

Bill Dehon (Chair)

Sandy Ball, Dave Gale

Jessica Jasper, Bob Wygal

## We have two major transitions coming soon!

- Leslie Braun, MVPC's volunteer Financial Secretary since 2014 is handing off the reins to Jessica Jasper
- Barbara Koozer, MVPC's Ministry Facilitator and Office Coordinator since 2017 is retiring!

They have each in their own right been a huge blessing to MVPC and we will miss them in their roles. Come, celebrate them (and others) at the Appreciation Sunday Lunch on 6/2 after worship. They will both continue to be around at the church, just in different roles.

## Mission Partners

Pictures from Family Promise of their "Promise House" transitional housing project. MVPC was able to donate \$6,000 from the Julia Grey Cook Fund toward it's completion. The project was just recently completed and the timing of our gift was perfect because it came in February when business is slow for contractors, so Family Promise was able to get very good quotes.



**Before**



**After**




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## Tall Timber Update Letter

With great regret, Tall Timber is canceling all camps for the 2024 summer season. However, the camp is open for guest groups. The decision to cancel camp was not made lightly, or eagerly by the Board of Directors of the Camp. However, it is Tall Timber's desire to offer a strong, Christ-centered summer program, in line with our mission statement. Unfortunately, we are simply not able to offer a quality program in the summer of 2024. This is due to a number of factors, including resignations of key staff. We do hope to return to a full summer camping program for all ages in 2025. On the positive side, the existing staff and board hope to catch up on some long-needed repair and improvement of our facilities during this "guest group summer." Please do keep the board, remaining staff, supporters, and donors in your prayers as we work through this difficult transition. Your understanding and support would be greatly appreciated. Tall Timber remains a place of incredible beauty and serenity so needed in our lives, and we are hopeful for a bright future of service and ministry.

Sincerely, Rev. Jim Deal, Chair of the Board of Directors

A photograph showing several people in a meeting room. They are standing around a table, looking at documents or a whiteboard. The room has large windows and modern furniture.

Underground  
Ministries  
Open  
House

## Come meet our Mission Partners at the 2nd/4th Wed Summer Suppers!

Be sure to come to the Summer Suppers to get an opportunity to connect and meet with some of our Mission Partners while enjoying a delicious potluck meal.

June 12th - Summer Suppers Kick Off!

June 26th - GROWTH -Kevin & Danielle Riley

July 10th - SEEK - Underground Ministries

July 24th - TRUST - New Earth Recovery

August 14th - HOME - Family Promise

August 28th - HOPE - Love INC

# Noteworthy

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### June

4-Kennedy Hurtado-Stewart  
 7-Jan Eerkes  
 7-Bill & Jan DeHon  
 8-CarolAnn Ross  
 9-Mabel Long  
   *Don & Margo Wortham*  
 10-Ron Vander Stoep  
 11-Lynn Grobschmidt  
   Don Riedel  
   *Howard & Barbara Koozer*  
   *Bob & Colleen Higbee*  
   *David & Ruth Neal*  
 12-Bavon Olwete  
 15-Madeline DeLia  
 18-Bob Higbee  
   Ben Branigh  
 19-Miriam Cooksey  
 20-Bob & Glenda Mitchell  
   *Larry & Carol Peterson*  
 24-Dick Johnson  
 25-Linda Walser  
 26-Colleen Higbee  
   Tom Long  
 29-Jim & Jean Byron

### August

1-David Reamer  
 3-Brad & Barb Clure  
 4-Toni Hulbert  
 5-Karen Lorente  
 6-Wayne Schneider  
 9-Seaver Milnor  
 11-Mim Ambrose  
   Sarah Maas  
 12-Rob & Tracy Hall  
 13-Cathy Riddle  
 15-Chris Hoke  
   *Paul & Laurel Coalwell*  
 18- Collie Ridgeway  
 19-Douglas Catton  
   Jessica Jasper  
 20-Paula Rutledge  
 21-Tracy Hall  
   *Brian & Mackenzie*  
   *Anderson*  
 25-Ross Anderson  
 26-Ted Langrehr  
   Mike Weeks  
   *Dave & Rosemary Gale*  
 27-Don & Marjorie Riedel  
 30-Daniel Jasper  
 31-Avalon Hurtado-Stewart

### July

7-Ken & Sandy Ball  
 11-Annie Rogers  
   Wendy Mayville  
 12-Tonnie Boer  
 13-Don & Danya Wolf  
 14-Abram Hoke  
   Jean Byron  
 15-Bruce & Joan Lavers  
 19-Barbara Koozer  
 21-Sue Farrar  
 26-Malik Sumareh  
 27-Debbie Parker  
 29-Josh VerHalen  
 30-Doris Wygal  
   Larry Peterson  
 31-Bev Helton



## Save the Date!

The 7th Wedding Anniversary

*Phanice & Francis*

You're cordially invited to the celebration of  
our 7th wedding anniversary

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 14 AT 1 PM

Phanice & Francis were married at MVPC 7 years ago. They are inviting you to celebrate with them. Details on how to RSVP will be forthcoming.

### Kitchen Sharing

#### MR. NOBODY UNKNOWN AUTHOR

I know a funny little man, As quiet as a mouse,  
 Who does the mischief that is done In everybody's house! (kitchen)  
 There's no one ever sees his face, And yet we all agree  
 That every plate we break was cracked By Mr. Nobody.

For all groups that use the kitchen at MVPC remember the Golden Rules.

- The refrigerator. Label and date items when placed inside.
- The freezer. Label and date items placed inside.
- If you use it, please wash it and put it away.
- If food is served please put trash in dumpster.
- Leftovers MVPC can use are:
  - unopened nonperishables (please place in community pantry in south parking lot)
  - cookies, please put in ziplock and into freezer, label for use on Sunday mornings

Perishable leftovers should be taken directly to Friendship House café

THANK YOU TO ALL

## MVPC Summer Adventures 2024

- \* Appreciation Sunday, - June 2nd
- \* Graduation and Confirmation Sunday - June 9th
- \* Summer Suppers - Connection, Stories and Special Guests:
  - June 12th - Summer Suppers Kick Off!
  - June 26th - GROWTH - Kevin and Danielle Riley
  - July 10th - SEEK - Underground Ministries
  - July 24th - TRUST - New Earth Recovery
  - August 14th - HOME - Family Promise
  - August 28th - HOPE - Love INC
- \* Summer Stories Kids Program Sundays during Sunday Worship
- \* Summer Youth Adventures - 6/23, 7/28, and 8/11 after Worship
- \* Summer Prayer Journeys at 9 am - 4th Thursdays 6/27, 7/25, and 8/22
- \* Women's Fellowship Pop Ups at Noon - 2nd Thursdays 6/13, 7/11, and 8/8



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*MVPC is...and is becoming...a caring, welcoming and graciously safe community.*

### **Know God's Love**

*Deepening life of prayer and discernment  
Growing understanding of the Bible*



### **Share it with Others**

*Caring for one another, the church and the community  
Unified mission with the marginalized*

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Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
**Rev. Dan Holland, Pastor**  
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<http://www.MountVernonPres.org>

Please  
place  
stamp  
here