



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

The Grapevine

Year 115, Issue 2
February 2017

Membership Orientation Course

At this Spring's membership orientation course, whether you're a long time friend or a relative newcomer to MVPC, you'll have a chance to share your story, get to know other people considering membership and gain insight into our answers to three fundamental questions for every organization:

"Who are we?" "What do we do?" "Why do we do it?"

The course is organized primarily for people exploring the possibility of becoming members of MVPC but everyone is welcome. If you've ever wondered how the church functions, or who's responsible for which aspects of the church's ministry; if you question what it means to be Presbyterian or what the larger church believes, if you want to ask questions of the MVPC leadership or to get more involved in our local faith community, this course is an excellent opportunity. We'll learn and grow as we journey together.

The course will be led by Pastor Dan along with some of the other leaders of the church.

We will meet March 12, 26 and April 9th from noon until 1:30. Lunch will be provided.



Ash
Wednesday



Lectio Divina and Art Reflection Worship Service
March 1, 7 p.m.
Childcare Provided!

CYF Discernment Meeting

Be a part of prayerfully planning the coming year!

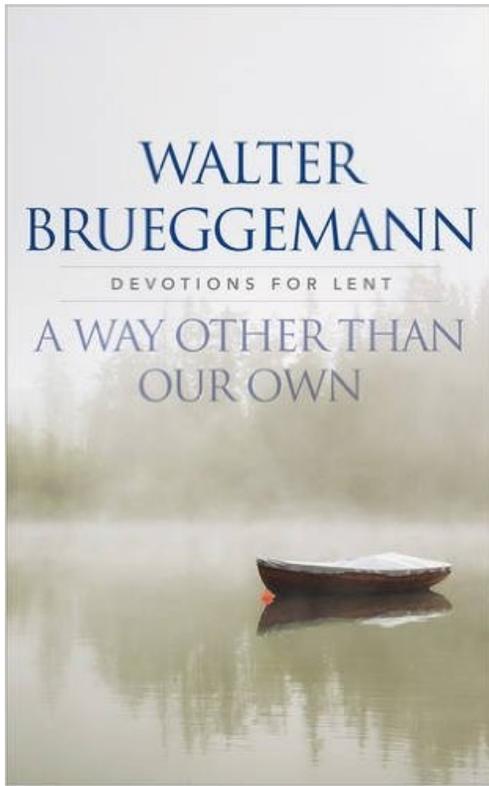
Children, Youth & Family Discernment

Team Meeting

February 5th after worship

in the Great Room

The Lenten Small group study has been selected!



From the Editor:

Lent recalls times of wilderness and wandering, from newly freed Hebrew slaves in exile to Jesus temptation in the desert. God has always called people out of their safe, walled cities into uncomfortable places, revealing paths they would never have chosen. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path one of humility, justice, and peace. Walter Brueggemann's thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace.

Throughout the season of Lent, the sermon series in worship will complement the study. If you are not currently part of a small group and would like to be, let Michelle in the church office know and we will help find the right fit for you. If you would like a copy of the book to read on your own you can also order through the church.

Small group leaders, please let us know how many books you will need. The books are here and available in the office for \$10 suggested donation.

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 1 this year. Watch for more details to come.

Dear MVPC Family,

My sincere thanks to you all for the gorgeous flowers, cards, and prayers. I appreciate them all.

Fondly,

Ruth Figenshow



Building community, strengthening lives.

GET INVOLVED!

Our next Family Promise week is coming up!

March 5 through March 12.

You can cook, stay overnight, or just sit and talk with our families. Contact Meredith Kostek for general information, Jodie Kercheval for food and entertainment, and Gary Jones for overnights.

Volunteer with MVPC in the Community!!

Participate in crafts time

at Where The Heart Is on Monday mornings

Serve dinner at Friendship House

twice a month (First Thursday, Second Tuesday)

Participate with Family Promise

During our quarterly host weeks

Volunteer at MVPC

- * Participate in Church work parties inside and outside
- * Setup/cleanup for events
- * Be a sound technician during worship
- * Volunteer with Children, Youth & Family
 - * Count Offering after church
- * Help with building maintenance (changing light bulbs and batteries, paint touch-up, trouble-shooting, etc.)
- * Volunteer in the church office

Contact the church for more information:
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE MOST RECENT STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

At the January 17, 2017, Stated meeting of the Session, the following occurred:

- The meeting convened at 5:30pm in the Fireside Room with fellowship and dinner.
- Following dinner members offered prayers of thanksgiving for both personal and church related aspects of their lives.
- The Session approved moving Appreciation Sunday and Graduation Sunday to May 28th this year.
- The Session discussed at length the tasks to be performed during the Pastor and family's absence this summer. The group emphasized need for elders and deacons to "step up" and fill that void in leading and ministering to the congregation.
- The Session started to develop a prioritized listing of projects that need to be completed around the building.

Tom Howard
Clerk of Session

Meet Elder Molly Howard!

My name is Molly Howard and I have been a member of MVPC for 29 years. I have served as a Deacon and am finishing up my second term as an elder. In the past I have taught Sunday school and vacation bible school. My hobbies are crafting, knitting and quilting. I have worked on many of the banners that hang in the church and most recently made the Encounter part art that hangs in the entry. Helping Plan the women's retreat last year and being on the Women's Christmas Desert committee are two of the events that I have been proud to be a part of.

Tom and I have been married for 42 years. We have three children and 5 grandchildren. Spending time with them is at the top of my list!



NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

"When it comes to the health of a church, It may be impossible to overestimate the importance of choosing the leadership of the church"

The board of Elders (aka. "Session") and the board of Deacons are the elected leadership of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We believe that God calls people into these positions, and each year the nominating committee convenes to discern that call on behalf of the church. The first step in that discernment process is listening for the voice of the congregation. Who do you think is right to lead this congregation at this point in time?

You are invited to nominate men and women who are members of the congregation. According to the Book of Order, God gives suitable gifts to those called into the role of Deacon and Elder. "Those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world."

The nominating committee is in the process of reaching out to the congregation to hear your nominations. Over the course of the couple months, they will engage in a discernment and invitation process to call Elders and Deacons. Most will be called to a 3 year term.

The nominating committee is also charged with nominating members to serve on the nominating committee and on the endowment committee. Nomination forms are available in the narthex and the office at church. Please fill one out for each person you would like to nominate and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate at church.

Those who are nominated to serve will be elected in May and ordained and/or installed into their positions in July.

SABBATICAL NEWS

For a couple of months now we've been sharing about the Lilly Endowment Funded Grant via the grapevine. This grant will allow Pastor Dan to take a 3 month Sabbatical during the summer of 2017, to hire a part-time temporary pastor while Dan is away, and to engage the congregation in activities that will parallel Dan's practice during the time of Renewal.

The Renewal program has been built around the theme "Capturing the Moment." Here are some excerpts from the grant proposal:

"While on leave Dan will explore some of the most famous parks in the western United States and Canada, finding space and time to breathe deeply and enjoy the beauty of the creation which God spoke into being and called good. He will savor unhurried connection with his wife, enjoy moments of delight with his children, and venture into the wilderness with friends who have been his long-time support network. Throughout the Sabbatical, as a spiritual practice, Pastor Dan will engage his love of photography to capture and reflect upon the moments of God's presence and grace so that the eyes of his heart might be enlightened (cf. Ephesians 1:18)."

"The Sabbatical will provide moments in beautiful places engaging in life-giving activities with people Pastor Dan loves. He will attempt to capture those moments through the lens of his camera and capture God's movement in those moments as he reads, writes, prays and reflects. Each day will bring opportunity for many photos and his discipline will be to choose one to reflect upon with the question: "God, why have you drawn me to this moment and what do you have for me in it?"

While Pastor Dan is away, the congregation will also be offered opportunities to be intentional about capturing the moment. We're in process of developing a Seminar on Photography as a Spiritual Practice which will be held toward the beginning of the summer (Look for more info the next Grapevine!). The church will have some cameras available to borrow and we will set up ways to share photos from your equipment so that over the summer we can have photo montages in worship of meaningful moments that have been captured in our own lives and our life together. On a number of Sundays afternoons we'll have hikes organized for different levels of hikers (families, avid hikers, casual walkers) to get out into the beauty of our local area and find God's hand in nature.

The hope of these programs is to allow the congregation to find something over the summer that will encourage their vision and inspire their passion about God's work in the world and in their lives.

As Pastor Dan wrote in his personal statement on the grant application:

"I'm excited for the ways the creative expression of seeing the world through a new lens will renew the congregation and deepen our journey together. More than simply sharing what happened, we'll be able to share why particular images or moments of our lives that we captured in a snapshot spoke to us of God's goodness, or the world's brokenness, or our community's expression of the good news of Jesus Christ. The possibilities for captured moments are endless and I look forward to sharing the practice and the journey with the congregation when I get back.



Knitting/Crochet Fellowship

4th Wednesday of the month at noon
in the Fireside Room

All are welcome to join, regardless of your knitting
or crocheting expertise (or lack thereof)!

**All Yarn and Thread Crafters welcome ... crochet or
knit, even quilting questions have been discussed
so come check it out!**



Women's Fellowship

The good fellowship, coffee, tasty refreshments,
and warm fireplace go along with the spiritual lift
on the 4th Saturday of the month. *Come and see!*

All are welcome @ 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February

1-Rita Vander Stoep

4-Bill Waldron

6- Danya Wolf

7-Jamie Daut

Katie Worley

8-Bill Stendal

9-Mackenzie Fox

Irene Johnson

Eloise Stendal

11-Bill Stuurmans

13-Ruth Figenshow

John Hazelwood

Don Wortham

15-Natalie Holland

16-Dan Long

16-John & Barb Hazelwood

17-Paul Coalwell

18-Rebecca Holland

20-Brad Clure

Jonathan Holland

21-Kyle Brown

Bill Ream

Clara Swanson

23-Laurel Coalwell

23-Jamie & Sheila Daut

26-Dan & Rebecca Holland



Are we missing your special date?
Please contact Michelle in the church office at
Michelle@MountVernonPres.org or
424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

Senior Shepherds

Everyone 50 years and better is invited!
Join us February 21 for a delicious Taco Salad lunch.
Harmony Northwest Chorus will sing for us.
Only \$5, as usual!

Questions? Please talk to Dave & Arlene Andersen
or Bob & Glenda Mitchell.

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to join us on the 4th Saturday of the
month at 9:00 a.m. in Good Shepherd Hall for a delicious
home-cooked breakfast and great conversation.
If you have any questions about Men's Breakfast,
please speak to Bob Wygal.

Want to keep up with
what's going on at MVPC?
Check out the calendar that's
posted on our website!

<http://www.mountvernonpres.org/calendar/>



We are working our way through the
"Facets of Hope" sermon series.
This picture is from our recent
5th Sunday worship service.

MVPC Children, Youth, & Family ~ Feb. 2017

CYF Discernment Team Meeting

February 5th following worship in the Great Room! We will be prayerfully planning CYF Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Talk with Rebecca if you have ideas but aren't able to be there.



SECRET VALENTINES!

MVPC Kids can look for a small card/gift from their Secret Valentine on Sunday 1/29 and 2/5 after worship, and find out who it is at the Secret Valentine Party on 2/12 at 9 am!

SUNDAYS

Nursery 9 to Noon Sundays

A time for the youngest kids to play! Everyone in the nursery is invited to join the Seeds Sunday School.

Creative Kids 9 to 10 am Sundays

A wonderful opportunity for grade school and middle school kids to creatively express their faith. We will finish up our 5 week Art session on Feb. 5th, and then do a special 2 week Music session on Feb. 19th and 26th. We are taking sign ups for the Creative Kids Easter Drama that will be meeting March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, and 9th in preparation for an Easter drama on Sunday, April 16th during worship. You must sign up and commit to participating to be a part of the fun! Sign up today!

Sunday School during 10:30 am Worship

	<u>Seeds (Preschool)</u>	<u>Sprouts (K to 2nd)</u>	<u>Saplings (3rd to 5th & Youth)</u>
2/5	Jesus Calms the Storm	Jesus Calms the Storm	The Sacrament of Communion
2/12	The Ultimate Valentine	Jesus Feeds 5,000	From Reformation to Reformations
2/19	Jesus' Parables	The Hidden Treasure	John Knox, a fiery reformer
2/26	Jesus Welcomes Children	Jesus Welcomes Children	The Westminster Assembly

FAMILY NIGHT Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Everyone is invited to Family Night on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Saplings and Great Room for food, faith, and fellowship! Dinner is potluck so please bring food to share. Talk with Rebecca if you would like to be on the weekly email list to know who is bringing what for our potluck or just show up ready for fun!

YOUTH GROUP 3rd Sundays Noon to 1:30 pm

A time for middle and high school students to grow closer to God while having fun together. Youth Group will meet February 19th from Noon to 1:30 pm for pizza, games, fellowship, and a faith activity.

“Like Us” on [facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry)
Questions? Email Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org or call 360.424.7675.



Creative Kids
Painting places
where they
experience God



Sprouts-Story Time



**Kids having fun
after worship!**



Saplings Sunday School

**Want to help plan our
Children's Programs?**
Attend our Children, Youth &
Family Discernment
Team Meeting:
February 5 after worship
in the Great Room.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Centering Prayer: Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Office

Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Small Groups: Call the church to get connected to a small group!

Family Night: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC

Youth Group: 3rd Sundays, noon-1:30 in the Great Room

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Glorify!: Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Senior Shepherds: Third Tuesday of the month at noon.

Women's Fellowship: Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast: Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Deacons Meeting: 1st Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Worship Team Meeting: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon

Finance Committee: 2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Mission Team Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at noon

Personnel Committee: 3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.

Session Meeting: 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC ...

9:00 ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

ADULT CLASSES:

The Bible Class

Join teacher Bob Rauch for an in-depth exploration of the Bible. This class is a discussion-based study and meets in the Conference Room. No prior Bible experience required.

KIDS PROGRAMS:

Nursery - Birth to preschool age kids enjoy playing together.

Creative Kids - Kids express their faith through art, music, and drama.

10:30 WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery / Seeds Sunday School - Birth to preschool age kids are introduced to Bible Stories

Sprouts Sunday School - kindergarten-2nd Grade (begin in worship) journey through the Bible.

Saplings Sunday School for 3rd - 5th Grade (begin in worship) journey through Christianity.

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

