



# 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 3  
March 2019

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

## The Lenten Journey

Self-emptying, weak, ordinary by choice... as the apostle Paul wrote, it's foolishness to follow Christ, especially for the people who don't understand. His life leads to the cross, after all... But of the cross and the resurrection, there were many instances of the first but only one of the second. This God of Lent and Easter, who was unknowable came into the world to reveal God's self to us. And yet with all of the power possible, God came not as a king or conqueror, but vulnerable (remember, it's not so long ago that we celebrated Christmas). He would become a friend, healer, servant and eventually sufferer. He would leave this life even more vulnerable hanging on a cross charged with the crime of being "King of the Jews." This is the lenten journey.

How can we possibly comprehend all of the paradoxes that are present in the one we call God?

Well, I've often told students in confirmation classes or 'Theology 101' type of Sunday school classes that we can't... at least not fully. Whoever God is, God is always bigger than our understanding. Whatever God hopes and dreams is always more than we can imagine. In the burning bush, God tells Moses "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14) – including all the paradoxes and things that are hard to understand... but then, we also are able to see Jesus, the revelation of God. We can know his life and stories and because of that, even if we don't know God fully, we can know God truly. We can look at the actions and the words of the one who revealed God to us. This is also the lenten journey.

To draw close to God, to listen for the Holy Spirit, to be guided by the life of Christ: these are the disciplines and the invitation of the Lenten Season. However they manifest for you, I'd encourage you to engage; study, pray, serve, share... whether you do it as part of what's going on here at church or in other ways God is inviting you, the Lenten Journey is before us and I'd invite you to take part in order to grow in your faith and in the knowledge of our Lord.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Dan

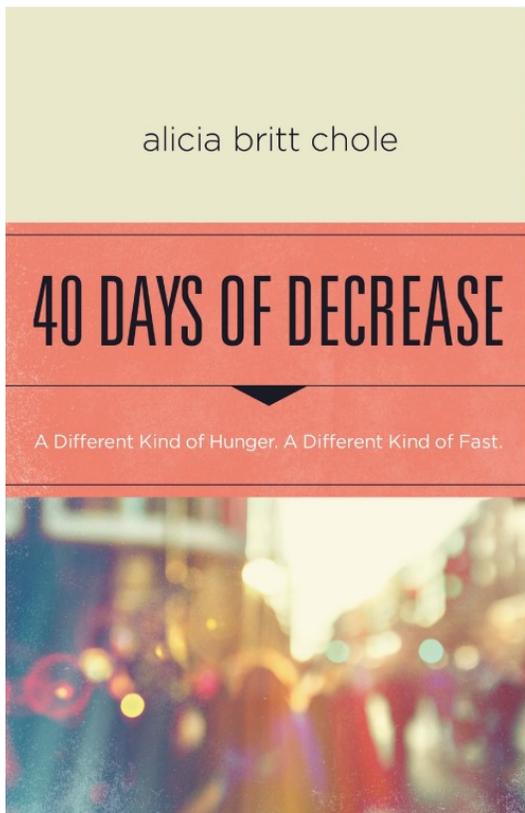


**Ash Wednesday**

**March 6th**

**7:00pm**

A contemplative and creative worship service to begin Lent.



## 2019 Lenten Study Book

Lenten study books will be here at the Ash Wednesday Service, March 6th. If you did not order a book, extras were ordered and will be available. A Sunday morning group meeting in the library at 9am is possible. Contact Patti Allen. In addition a group will be meeting Thursday evenings. Contact Lou Cheney.

Some testimonies from others:

“Alicia has a unique way of framing truth. Her heartfelt and thoughtful words penetrate the soul and make you feel and think in new ways”; “...a beautiful Lenten devotional, filled with gems that will draw your soul to God and His love.”

- About the Author -

Alicia lives with her husband, their three amazing children (all Choles through the miracle of adoption), four somewhat-less-than-amazing dogs, one truly strange cat, and eight confused chickens off of a dirt road in a country home devoted to writing and reflection.

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## Nominations

As members of Christ's church, all of us seek the guidance of the holy Spirit in order to do God's work in the world. Everyone is called to serve in some manner and some people are called to particular roles of service within the church. The task of the Nominating Committee is to discern who from among our congregation is called into the ordained leadership roles of Elder and Deacon, as well as those who are called to serve as part of the Nominating and Endowment committees.

According to materials from ThePresbyterianLeader.com, “In some ways the nominating committee is the most important committee in the church. It may even have as much long-term impact on the life of the congregation as the Session does, because it nominates those who will be on the Session and the Board of Deacons”.

The Nominating Committee has begun the work of identifying the next class of MVPC's leaders. **They are relying on you, the members and friends of MVPC, to nominate people.** For each of the roles, please nominate those

- whose faith you admire,
- whose counsel you trust,
- whose compassion shines through in their actions, and
- whose life reflects the love of Christ and a desire to share it with others!



You can nominate people using one of the forms handed out at church last Sunday and this Sunday, you can send an email to Barbara in the church office ([mvpc@mountvernonpres.org](mailto:mvpc@mountvernonpres.org)) or if you're reading this online you can [click here](#) for an online form.

Role descriptions for Deacon and Elder are available in the church office!



# Discovering Your Path In Life

Recognizing God's Will for Us

March 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

At Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Facilitator

Dave Reamer

With special Guest Appearance by  
Rebecca Holland

*Developed with Assistance and Permission from*

**Renewal Ministries Northwest**

No matter what stage in life we find ourselves, we want to discover the path that God has for us now that gives meaning and purpose. We want to experience the joy of discovering more of our true self and to live more fully into the person God has created us to be. We were not created to conform to some abstract ideal but to live authentically and fully embrace our limitations. Parker Palmer, in his book, "Let Your Life Speak" invites us to ask this compelling question: "Is the life I am living the same as the life that wants to live in me?" Being sensitive, recognizing God's Will for us is a pathway for listening to and accepting our true self with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we discover and live as God created us to be, we find greater fulfillment. We are better able to find communion with others and ways to serve the world with passion and creativity.

During this Discovery Workshop we will –

- Become sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is saying.
- Become aware of what God is already at work doing in our lives.
- Become obedient by accepting His invitation to join Him at what He is already doing.

Sign in on sheet in the Narthex. Questions? Ask Dave Reamer

**SAVE THE DATE** On Sunday, May 19th at 2 pm we will have an Inter-generational Spring Tea in Good Shepherd Hall for all ages of our church to get to know each other better while enjoying a fancy tea party. Please talk with Rebecca if you are interested in being a part of the fancy food team (you can be on the team and also attend the tea) or if you have a nice teapot, a multi-tiered serving tray, pretty teacups with matching saucers, or pretty tea plates we could use for this event.



## **Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed**

We are already starting to plan this Summer's Vacation Bible School which will happen July 15th to 19th from 9 am to Noon. Please let Rebecca Holland know if you are interested in being a part of the amazing team of volunteers who have fun spreading God's love to kids! This year's theme is "To Mars and Beyond—Explore where God's Power can take You!"

MVPC  
Church  
Leadership  
2019

Elders		Class Year	Ministry Area	Deacons		Class Year
Patti	Allen	2020	Worship	Laurel	Coalwell	2019
Lou	Cheney	2021	Worship	Madeline	DeLia	2019
Bob	Rauch	2020	Discipleship	Tracy	Hall	2019
Chris	Hoke	2021	Discipleship	Pete	Papadopoulos	2019
Sandy	Ball	2019	Hospitality	Brian	Anderson	2020
Steve	Hansen	2019	Hospitality	Sarah	Catton	2020
Pat	Papadopoulos	2019	Evang/Member	Colleen	Higbee	2020
Anne	Long	2021	Evang/Member	Toni	Hulbert	2020
Becky	Goodell	2020	Mission/Service	Danya	Wolf	2021
Bill	DeHon	2019	Mission/Service	Ruth	Neal	2021
Bob	Higbee	2020	Ministry Support	Vacant		2021
Bruce	Lavers	2021	Ministry Support	Vacant		2021

### Notes from February Session meeting

- Opened with prayer and review of the Session covenant
- Approved reports, minutes of January session meeting and congregational meeting
- Approved the following transfer of funds: sidewalk balance to parking lot reserve; remainder of roof special project to capital fund; remainder of Good Shepherd Hall to capital fund.
- Approved the request of the Orthodox Mission for building space for three month trial period, then month to month for the remainder of the calendar year
- Delegated oversight and payment authority for Capital campaign according to the negotiated contract to elders serving on the stewardship committee
- Set March Session meeting back to the 26th

### Biography for Elder Sandy Ball

Greetings Everyone!

I have been part of the MVPC Church Family since late Fall 2001. You may have seen my husband, Ken, around the premises from time to time; assisting with setting up and tearing down for a special event or, just sharing an occasional meal with us.

I hail from Eastern Canada and grew up attending St Paul's United Church in a small community called Deer Lake, Newfoundland. My MVPC Family has seen me graduate from College, become an American Citizen and become a Grandma – we have 4 grandchildren in total who live in North Carolina. Since joining MVPC I have had the honor of serving as a Deacon twice and an Elder 3 times; and I have served on Worship, Endowment, Finance and Nominating Committees, and Women's Fellowship & Choir.



I have always found MVPC to be a very welcoming place and I am in constant awe of just how much we do to serve our community. I feel very humbled and proud to be part of the MVPC Faith community.

In my professional life, I work with Skagit County government in their computer department; providing technical support to about a thousand of my closest friends. Ken works with AT & T. In my personal life, Ken and I are avid members of the Mount Vernon Lions Club where like-minded individuals provide service to those in need in their community. We have a son and a daughter. In our spare time we like to go camping in our RV.

# March 2019 Children and Family Ministries



## Godly Play

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

3/3 - Story of Baptism

3/10 - Jesus' Birth and Growth

3/17 - Jesus is Lost and Found

3/24 - Jesus' Baptism and Blessing

3/31 - 5th Sunday in Worship

## Church Nursery

Sundays 9 am to Noon  
Drop Off & Pick Up  
Play - Story - Craft



3/3 - Hidden Treasure Parable p. 250

3/10 - Jesus and the Children p. 256

3/17 - Zacchaeus p. 264

3/24 - The Lost Son p. 272

3/31 - Jesus' Anointing p. 280

## MVPC Kid's Choir

*Preschool to 5th Grade*

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

5:30 to 6ish - Singing!

6ish to 6:30 - Potluck Dinner

*Talk with Rebecca to sign up!*



## Family Picnic on the Farm!

Sunday, March 31st  
After Worship

Families of all ages are invited to the annual picnic on Mr. Gary's farm to see the baby lambs and enjoy a bring your own picnic. Please talk with Rebecca to get on the email list for directions and updates.



## Family Small Group

2nd and 4th Sundays 5 to 6 pm

4:30 to 5 pm - *Optional Group Game*

5 to 5:30 pm - Pizza, Salad, & Dessert

5:30 to 6 pm - Share & Prayer

(Plus Lenten Study in March and April)



*Talk with Rebecca if your family is interested in joining this committed small group.*

## Save the Dates:

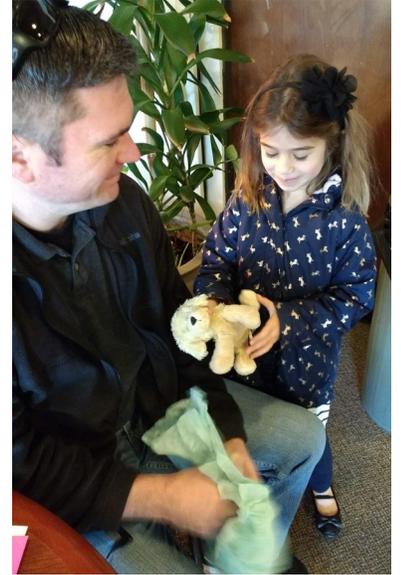
-APRIL 20th: Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

-MAY 19th : Intergenerational Spring Tea

-JUNE 15th: Summer Kick Off BBQ

-JULY 15th to 19th: VBS Day Camp!

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



**Thank you  
Secret  
Valentines!**



**David & Ruth Neal  
Playing in the Snow!**



**Family Small Group Kids celebrating the sunshine!**

## Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt Planning

Please consider being a part of MVPC hosting the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th (along with Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool and First United Methodist Church). It's a huge event with hundreds of families and we need everyone's help! We know it's still a couple months away but we want to make sure we are ready to host this year! In addition to bringing in small wrapped candy to the office for the Easter Eggs (we will stuff Easter Eggs on Sunday, April 14th after worship), please sign up in the church office to:



- Donate cookies for the cookie walk and bring them in to the kitchen by noon on 4/19.
- Help hide eggs from 8 to 9 am on 4/20. We need a number of people!
- Help guard eggs from 9 to 11 am on 4/20. You can bring a chair so you'll be comfortable.
- Help with games and activities from 9:15 to 11:15 am on 4/20. We will have Easter Bunny photos, a bouncy house, a petting zoo, a cookie walk, face painting, crafts, games, and more from 10 to 11 am, before the Easter Egg Hunt. You'll be a part of a fun team of volunteers!

### Spring Retreat

**"Unbounded Love"** - Saturday, April 6th (9:00 a.m- 4:00 p.m.) Please join us at a uniquely designed Spring Healing Retreat (for men and women) featuring acclaimed musician Kathy Troccoli AND Renewal Ministries Northwest. Consider setting this day aside for yourself and your friends. Let Kathy's transforming music and sharing along with RM's teaching and prayer exercises refresh you and bring hope, encouragement and healing. Learn more at <http://renewalminnw.org/retreats/spring/>

Please bring in small wrapped candy to the basket in the church office for the Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. We have thousands of plastic eggs to fill so every bit helps! We will have an Egg Stuffing Party after Worship on Sunday, April 14th. Thank you!"



### From the MVPC library

For Lent

“Release and you will receive. It is a waiting space asking to be filled.”

Excerpt from The Circle of the Spirit, by Joan Walsh Anglund, and in your church library, shelved with ‘Devotionals’. As a source for Lenten renewal, it is rich.

# Youth & Family Ministries

## March 2019



### Regularly Scheduled Youth Programs

**Seekers (MS) & Explorers (HS) Youth Classes:**

Students are excused from worship to their classes on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month to study the Bible. March 10 & 24

**Youth Group:** 12-1:30 in the Great Room on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Middle & high school students enjoy lunch, engage in fellowship, and celebrate our faith through lessons, activities and prayer. March 10 & 24

**Confirmation:** Meets on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month from 6:00-7:00pm, and runs September thru June. We reflect on the fundamentals of our faith and how that translates into a life committed to following Jesus.



### Fun Fridays!

Mar 22 6:30—9:30 pm	<u>Movie Night!</u> <b>Fiddler on the Roof</b>
Apr 26 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night!
May 24 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night!

At the request of the youth who attended the last movie night, our next movie night will be held at Jodie's house and we will be watching Fiddler on the Roof! This is a longer movie, so please note the extended time.

As usual, friends are welcome to come too!

### Youth Mission

At Youth Group on Sunday, March 24 we will be assembling Hygiene Kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. We are looking for donations of the following items. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex or email [Jodie@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:Jodie@MountVernonPres.org).

- 25 hand towels
- 25 washcloths
- 25 wide tooth combs
- 25 nail clippers
- 25 bars of soap (in wrapper)
- 25 toothbrushes (in original packaging)
- 250 adhesive bandage strips
- 25 1-gallon bags with zipper closures



Photo by Paul Jeffrey, ACT

# Youth Summer Camp Update!



## Register Now!



If you have not already registered your youth for camp at Tall Timber this summer, now is the time to do that before the camp fills up! We register and fundraise as a group (there are 10 of us going so far!), to ensure everyone who wants to go, gets to go. Email [Jodie@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:Jodie@MountVernonPres.org) for our coupon code, then visit [www.TallTimber.org](http://www.TallTimber.org) to register.

Jr. High Camp (entering 6-9): July 14—19.

Sr. High Camp (entering 9-12): July 28—August 3.

## Thank You MVPC Deacons!



A special Thank You goes out to the MVPC Deacons, who once again have offered to provide 50% scholarships for all of our youth attending camp at Tall Timber this summer. Your support means that, even if our fundraising falls short, all of our youth who want to go to camp, can go. This is such a precious gift to give to our youth and all of the parents, grandparents, and youth leaders who are passionate about our young people connecting with God and God's creation through a summer peer group experience. Once again, THANK YOU!

## FundRaising Kicks Off Sunday, March 10!



Our fundraising efforts kick off after Youth Group on Sunday, March 10! Pick up your first fundraising packet, see the incentives uniquely designed for our campers, and taste a sample of the quality and deliciousness that See's puts into all of their products! Can't make it after Youth Group? See Jodie for your packet and a run-through of our fundraising calendar or email [Jodie@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:Jodie@MountVernonPres.org).

## Camper's Lunch Planning!



Our annual Camper's Lunch, where our campers will share some of their camp experiences with the congregation, is scheduled for Sunday, July 21 after worship. Please note that this is a Sunday directly following camp. Our first planning meeting will be after worship on Sunday, May 19 where we will plan the menu and assign volunteer roles. Campers and parents/guardians, please save the date!

Questions? Please contact Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries. 360-424-7675 or [Jodie@MountVernonPres.org](mailto:Jodie@MountVernonPres.org)

# March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-Ruth Haines

Lucy Nash

5-Jim Byron

Don Schlumberger

Katie Weeks

7-Ariel St. James

8-Barbara Hazelwood

Marjorie Riedel

10-Margo Wortham

15-Brad Vardy

19-Kurt Swanson

20-Ken Ball

*22-Ron & Rita Vander Stoep*

25-Brian Anderson

Rob Hall



26-Dottie Thayer

*27-Pete & Pat Papadopoulos*

29-Wayne Yerigan

Joan Lavers

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact the church office at

[mvpc@mountvernonpres.org](mailto:mvpc@mountvernonpres.org)

or call or text

360-424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

**Men's Breakfast** meets the fourth Saturday March 23rd for breakfast at 9:00 am in Good Shepherd Hall. Come experience fellowship and a great home-cooked breakfast.

## Women's Fellowship

Meets Saturday March 23rd 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.



SPRING  
CLEAN-UP DAY

Dan Long has volunteered to be our new grounds team leader. Our first goal is to get our grounds ready for Easter!

### April 6—Pruning and Weeding

Come anytime between 9am and 1pm. Bring your gardening gloves and your favorite pruning or weeding tool or use ours! Vehicles to haul material to yard waste are appreciated.

### April 13—Planting and finish weeding/ Pruning

Come anytime between 9am and 1pm. Help us plant and get ready for Easter.

## THANK YOU CORNER

- To the MVPC greeters each Sunday morning for making everyone who comes through the door feel welcome.
- To all who contribute to refreshments for Sunday morning fellowship.
- To all who add their musical talent to worship.
- Thanks to Bill Dehon and Nathan Curtis for shoveling snow...over and over again
- Thanks to Sarah Catton for organizing the Kitchen Clean Up Crew (and the crew for cleaning!)
- Thanks to Bruce Lavers and Bob Higbee for managing the kitchen compliance project
- Thanks to Rebecca Holland for bringing Godly Play to MVPC and the Godly Play storytellers and doorpersons for such a wonderful program for my kids
- Thanks to Barbara Koozer for diligently updating the website!

If you would like to acknowledge your gratitude for someone's role in the church in next month's newsletter please email Barbara in the church office. [Office.mvpc@gmail.com](mailto:Office.mvpc@gmail.com)





# Prayer

Would You like to join a prayer group?

We have a small but dedicated group that meets to pray every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Library. You are always welcome to come pray with us. There is no right or wrong way to pray, so don't feel intimidated. You don't have to come every week—come when your schedule permits. Centering Prayer, a form of contemplative prayer, is held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in Pastor Dan's office.

Would you like prayers, for you or someone you know?

Email prayers.mvpc@gmail.com and you will be prayed for during this time as well as throughout the week. You can also write your prayer request on the Friendship Register on Sunday mornings and they will be forwarded to the Prayer Team.

Talk to Pat Papadopoulos if you have any questions about the Prayer Team, or just about praying in general.

Thank you from Family Promise



The following are accomplishments in 2018 because of the generous support:

- A new facility was opened, the Grace House, to serve pregnant mothers needing more time in the program. Grace House enables us to serve four more families at a time for a maximum of twelve families in the program.
- 118 individuals were served in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, 55 individuals in Promise House, and 5 pregnant mothers in Grace House.
- Remodeling was done in the day center, nursery and kitchen.
- Post stay and mentoring programs are continuing to develop.

## 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.



In February Skagit Bank became Banner Bank. This means, if you receive a reimbursement check from the church it will be from Banner Bank instead of Skagit Bank.

## 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 10:00 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>	Second and fourth Sundays 5:00-6:00; food, fellowship, fun
<b>Youth Group:</b>	2nd & 4th Sundays, Noon-1:30 in the Great Room
<b>Chancel Choir:</b>	Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm
<b>Kids Choir:</b>	1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 5:30—6:30
<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 noon
<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>CF Discernment Team:</b>	3rd Sunday of Oct, Jan, April & July 8:30-10 a.m.

## 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 will be returned to parents at 11:45 during Fellowship time.

**SEEKERS & EXPLORERS** Youth (MS & HS) Begin in worship; dismissed on 2nd and 4th Sundays to classes. Youth are always welcome to stay in worship.

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

**Noon—1:30 YOUTH GROUP** meets on 2nd & 4th Sundays

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