

## Get to Know 2024 Nominees for MVPC

### Elders

#### Bill DeHon



I have a wife Jan and two grandsons as well as four great grandsons all of whom are very special. Moved to the Presbyterian church 13 years ago and have been active in establishing the endowment which is now 2 funds, worked on the remodel of Good Shepherd Hall and the church roof repair.

Because of my other emergency work I often find God in crisis scenes where people are stretched to the maximum.

I did enjoy my 6 years on session.

#### Howard Koozer



Moments that I remember being touched by the Holy Spirit: When in junior high I happened to find a certificate for my infant baptism that I knew nothing about. That triggered an afternoon of intense Spiritual feelings. Next while struggling with the demands of an education in physics I began to feel the need for more contact with the Spirit. So, I visited a number of churches. I found a small friendly Presbyterian Church on the outskirts of town. Next was when I visited Barbara's home church with her. The pastor had an uncanny ability to open one to the Spirit. Another high point was the presentation of our son for baptism. Serving as deacon twice and elder twice had moments when I felt a touch. The strangest and by far the most powerful experience was a few years ago as I was driving home from work as I passed a home along the road I felt a very strong pull from the evil one trying to invite me in. This went on daily for a couple of weeks progressively getting stronger and more dreaded. Finally I had more than I wanted to resist on my own and called on the Holy Spirit and Jesus to protect me. The feelings were intense and the attack was over.

#### Mary Pugsley



Raised in Oklahoma, and glad to leave. (Not my cup of tea in many ways). Have been a PNWer for 35yrs, and continued to marvel at the magnificent beauty of this place. Steve and I are here because our two daughters and their families are in the area, one in MV. I'm retired, and my days now are filled with child care of grandkids, reading with first graders, climate action work, various church activities, learning Spanish, and being outside and staring at the mountains.

I was raised Presbyterian and the choir was a grounding place for me through my youth. The choir and the organ touched my soul and helped me make good connections with humans and with the Holy. Music continues to fuel me, so I'm really happy to be able to be in the bell choir and the vocal choir at MVPC.

I believe in the presence of God, and I consider myself a searcher. Allowing my human brain the grace to not understand and know in an intellectual manner, the wonder and ways of God has been a challenge! Some of my contemporary guides along the way (besides those at MVPC of which there are many), are Nadia Bolz-Weber, Anne LaMott, Rachel Held Evans, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Christian Wiman.

I continue to try to open myself to God's presence and to reflect that in how I live my remaining time on this earth.

## **Deacons**

### **Barbara Koozer**



These last 6 ½ years as the Ministry Facilitator have given me a chance to get to know you. Now a bit more about me. Howard and I met at Oregon State University in a literature class and have been married for almost 61 years. Our travels took us to Idaho, Alabama, Seattle WA and then to Skagit Valley where we bought a small farm in 1976. In each location we found a Presbyterian church family with support for our family. Over the years I have taught Sunday School (middle school mostly) when time allowed, served as an elder and a church financial secretary. Running a farm business with Howard for 46 years and working off the farm for the last 23 years has limited my energies for participating in most things except for the joy of playing handbells with a congenial group of people.

With impending retirement, I am looking forward to becoming a Deacon and getting to know all of you better as we journey into the future God has for us.

### **Sandy Pinaire**



I am a "Cradle Presbyterian," baptized shortly after birth at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Independence, Missouri. This is the congregation where all five of us girls were baptized. I have the seven-foot church pew from the original Westminster building. In 1982, my sister found out that Westminster was closing, and furnishings were to be sold. Without hesitation she purchased two pews, one for her and one for me. My pew is still with us, complete with aged chewing gum under the seat. I love to tell visitors that this pew is from the church where I was baptized. How many people can say that? The pew is a daily reminder of my "great cloud of witnesses."

As a family, we were at church every time the doors were open. I have fond memories of Sunday School, VBS, youth group, lock-ins, mission trips, and too many adult faith mentors to list.

There is nothing like parenthood to bring humility to a struggling Christian. After a few years of being too busy for church, I returned to find loving, if sometimes flawed, fellow Christians. In my life I find much encouragement in my church family. I felt God calling me to "return the favor." I have been involved in ministry to children, youth, and women.

I was ordained as a Ruling Elder in the PCUSA in 1989. I look forward to being ordained as a Deacon at MVPC. My Stephen Ministry training will enrich my ability as a Deacon.

My life is a journey to fully understand the mystery that is the Trinity: Creator, Jesus, Holy Spirit.

## **Endowment**

**Jessica Jasper**



Hello. I am Jessica Jasper and I am living my dream after retiring from the Army and moving to Sedro-Woolley. Kyle and I have been married for over 17 years and he is starting the process of retiring from the Army now. We have two children, Kristen and Daniel, who are often in the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings helping with Zoom and the soundboard.

I currently serve as an MVPC Elder, the Assistant Financial Secretary, a MomCo Leader, and I am coordinating the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University. I love how much MVPC supports the Community and is continually looking for ways to help others.

I was raised in a Presbyterian USA Church and am thankful we found MVPC so my family, including my parents Ron and Sandy Pinaire, can all worship together.

## **Nominating**

**David Lorente**



I have been a member of MVPC since 2012, and have served as a Deacon for the last two years, starting my third year. Dragged kicking and screaming onto the Nominating Committee as the deacon representative (thanks Jan!), I found that it is really a good fit for me. I also help with other areas of worship, and am currently employed as the Parish Administrator for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, just around the corner from MVPC. I have so much respect for the outreach programs housed at MVPC, and I'm feeling quite blessed to be a part of two welcoming and outward looking faith communities.