



The Grapevine

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

Year 115, Issue 11
November

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



THE NEXT STEP — STEWARDSHIP 2017

The question of stewardship is a lot bigger and a lot more nuanced than just how much money should I pledge to the church's budget next year. Particularly this year, when we take into account the larger context of the discernment process that's going on at MVPC, stewardship becomes a question of who we are, what God is saying to us, and how we are called to faithfully respond.

Walter Brueggemann, who is one of the most influential Old Testament scholars in recent history says, "biblical faith is always geared to the future. It moves toward God's coming miracle, it pushes past the old treasured miracles and beyond the old ways of judgment." Part of our story as Christians is that we are always looking forward expectantly.

That's what this season of discernment is about for us at MVPC; and that's what this season of stewardship is about too. As the church is in process of discerning our collective next steps, the stewardship team would invite you also to consider your next steps. How will you choose to grow in faith, hope and love in the coming year?

In February, after the discernment process has helped to map our way forward, we will be asking for time and talent pledges so that we can live into the call we've received together. At this point we're asking you to consider what proportion of your financial resources you can commit to the life and ministry of the church so that we can plan accordingly.

God is already in the midst of doing a new thing at MVPC. The hearts and hands, the resources and relationships, the energy and commitment of the members and friends of the church will be a large part of what makes it possible for us to take the next steps forward together in Christ.

Gratefully yours,

The stewardship committee



An Invitation to: Lunch

Date: November 12th

Time: Consecration Sunday Worship Begins at 10:30, with Giving Thanks Lunch to follow. Bring your favorite dessert for the Dessert Table.

Place: MVPC, Sanctuary and Good Shepherd Hall

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE OCTOBER STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

Regular Session Meeting October 17, 2017

Opened with prayer, praying Lectio Divina with Ephesians 3:16-19

Approved a request by Tierra Nueva to host a concert/fundraiser.

Approved a called session meeting November 5, 2017, after worship to receive new members.

Approved use of conference room by Underground Ministries as their office space.

Began budget process with projected asks.

Approved 3.5% C.O.L.A. increase for all employees.

Closed with prayer.

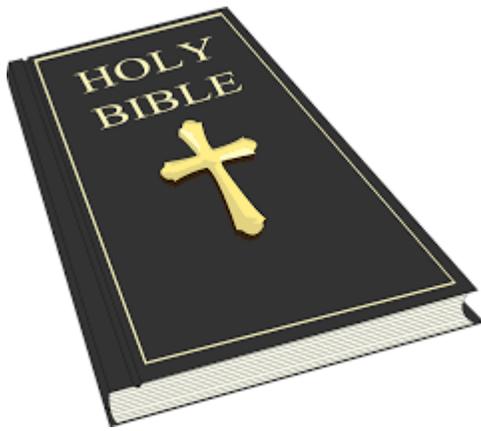
—Ward Ernst, Clerk of Session

Meet Elder Pat Papadopoulos



Hi, I am Pat Papadopoulos, wife of Pete, mother of Patty, Alex and Nick, grandmother of Gabe, Mia, Lila, Dylan, Gia, Riese and Peyton. I have been blessed over and over by God with this family and I spend every minute I can enjoying their lives! Pete and I moved to Mount Vernon in about 2004 after raising many of the above in Bellevue, Wa. This was a good change for us. I became a hospice nurse for Hospice of the Northwest, finding that “end of life” care is a gift from God to me. I have been blessed to know what a beautiful time of life this is, and I am thankful I am able to hold others during this rich and difficult time. I am retired now, but I continue to be available to anyone who needs someone to listen. This past year I completed a program in Spiritual Direction, giving me the opportunity to be a companion to others as we listen to the movement of the Spirit in their lives. I am available in this venue also for anyone who wants to “go deeper” in their relationship with God. Again, I have been blessed — with a community here at MVPC that allows me to grow in my faith, to act on my calling, and be loved in God’s amazing way.

A Lectionary Experiment



For about a year now, Pastor Dan and the worship ministry team at MVPC have been thinking and talking about making a change in how the texts for worship on Sunday morning are selected. According to the book of order, ultimately the responsibility for choosing texts lies with Pastor Dan and he's decided to try an experiment for a season in the life of the church by using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) as a guide.

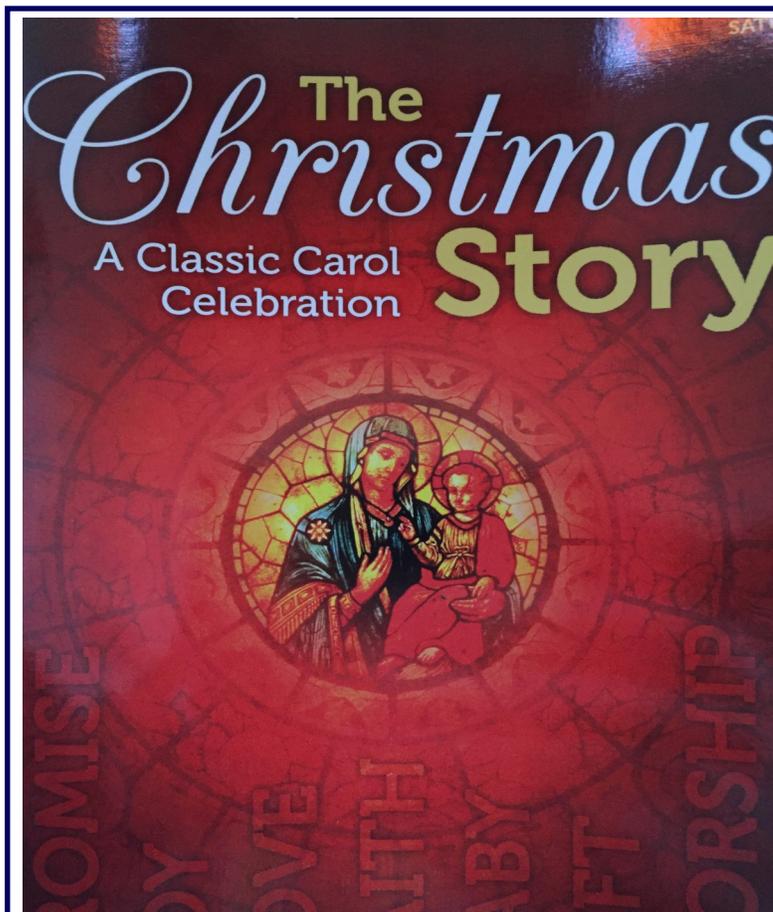
The RCL is a collection of scripture passages intended to be read in worship. The texts were selected and arranged in 1992 by the *Consultation on Common Texts (of which the PCUSA is part)*. The

lectionary was built in hopes of bringing unity: within a church by allowing the congregation at large, and bible study leaders in particular to more easily know and follow the plan for biblical proclamation; and also between churches who might want to work and pray together as they share the Christian faith in the greater community. The RCL also has the added benefits of exposing the congregation to texts their pastors might not normally choose to preach, encouraging a message which is "bible-applied-to-life" and making it easier for those in positions of worship leadership to plan and prepare worship services.

Don't worry! Pastor Dan's preaching will stay as relevant and interesting as it always has been. He will be guided by the same principles of interpreting the scriptures and he will continue to look for ways to help the bible hold richness of meaning for you. It's likely that many members and friends of the church might not know a shift has happened, but it's coming. We plan to begin using the RCL on December 3rd, which is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the year for the lectionary (it will be year B in the RCL). If you would like to see the planned readings for any given week, the PCUSA Mission Agency (www.pma.pcusa.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary) is a wonderful resource among many online and print listings. And if you have questions or want further information you can talk with Anne Long (Elder for the worship ministry) or Pastor Dan.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join the choir on December 10 at 3pm in the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church sanctuary for a performance of the Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi cantata "The Christmas Story". "The Christmas Story" combines popular and lesser known carols from around the world with a new narration of the classic Christmas story. The remaining portion of the program will be filled with other solo and group performances from members of the church and community as a whole. The performance will last approximately one hour and is free to attend.



NOV 2017 Children and Family Ministries

November Sunday School Lessons

	Seeds (Preschool) Meets in Nursery	Sprouts (K-2nd) Begin in Worship	Saplings (3rd-5th) Begin in Worship
Nov. 5th	Ten Commandments	Ten Ways p.100*	Lesson 7: Jesus Proclaims
Nov. 12th	Joshua's and Jericho	Warrior Leader p.108	Lesson 8: Assemble Disciples
Nov. 19th	David and Goliath	Young Hero p.122	Lesson 9: Teaching Word/Deed
Nov. 26th	Isaiah the Prophet	No More Tears p. 144	Lesson 10: Jesus the Healer

*In the Jesus Storybook Bible

Creative Kids

Sundays 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Great Room. Kids of all ages express their faith creatively. From November 5th to December 17th Creative Kids will be creating and preparing a Christmas Program to present to the congregation on December 17th during worship. Talk to Rebecca or Jodie if you have children or youth interested in participating or if you might be willing to volunteer to help!

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW TO BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DEC. 17TH!

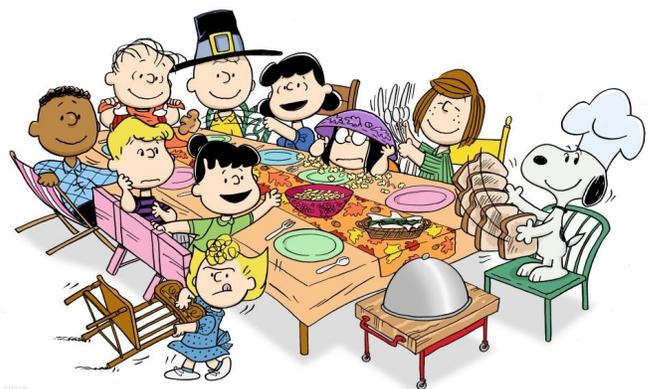
Family Night

Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Great Room for food, faith, and fellowship for families of all ages and stages. We will have a special Family Night Thanksgiving on Nov. 15th! We will not have Family Night on November 22nd due to Thanksgiving Break. Family Night will host Family Promise Families on November 29th. Talk with Rebecca to get on the email reminder list!

**Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.
Church Office 360.424.7675 - Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org**

Family Night Thanksgiving

Everyone is invited to a special Family Night Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 15th from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Great Room. We will enjoy a potluck "Thanksgiving" dinner and begin to think about Advent as we share our Advent traditions and create Advent calendars! Yes, as families with lots to do, we want to make sure we are prayerfully preparing for the season of Advent before it begins on Sunday, December 3rd. See you there!



Save the Date: We will be hosting a "Kids Afternoon" of pizza, games, crafts, and a movie in the Great Room on Sunday, Dec. 3rd from Noon to 3 pm so that parents can enjoy an afternoon off (Lunch and Christmas Shopping?) but you must RSVP by Nov. 26th so we can plan for enough volunteers, pizza, and fun!



Youth & Family Ministries November 2017



Christmas Program Seeking Youth Participants!



Creative Kids will be writing and preparing a Christmas Program to present to the congregation on December 17 during worship. Talk to Rebecca or Jodie if you or your youth are interested in participating, lending a talent, or if you might be willing to volunteer to help! Sundays Nov. 5 to Dec. 17, Sundays 9:30-10:15am in the Great Room.

Youth Classes

Seekers (middle school) is studying the letters of Paul, and Explorers (high school) is looking at the Gospels. Classes are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, now through June 10. Drop-ins welcome!

Youth Group totally blows my mind!



Youth Group!

All youth are welcome to join our monthly youth group gathering! We have pizza, an activity, and discuss topics relevant to today's youth and world. On Nov. 26 we will focus on Advent.



Save the Dates! Nov. 9 & Dec. 10

We are teaming up to help the incarcerated dads that Underground Ministries works with get gifts to their kids this Christmas! Many of these men have been in prison for years and seldom have the chance to let their kids know that they love them. On Thursday, Nov. 9 from 6-7:30, we will meet in the Fireside Room to help Neaners address and stamp letters to the dads about the gift program. Dinner will be provided. Later we'll gather gifts and, after Worship on December 10, we will wrap the donated gifts and prepare them for delivery. Some gifts will be mailed and others will be hand delivered by Chris and Neaners from Underground Ministries. All are welcome to join our Youth Group in this effort! Please let Jodie know if you plan on helping out!



Coming Up ...

Sun., Nov. 5	Creative Kids - Christmas!	Great Room	9:30-10:15
Thurs., Nov. 9	Underground Min. Support	Fireside Room	6-7:30pm
Sat. Nov. 11	Set-up for Giving Thanks	Good Shepherd Hall	10-11:00am (donuts!)
Sun. Nov. 12	Creative Kids—Christmas!	Great Room	9:30-10:15
	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Giving Thanks Meal	Good Shepherd Hall	After Worship
Sun., Nov. 26	Creative Kids—Christmas!	Great Room	9:30-10:15
	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group	Great Room	12:00—1:30

Questions? Please contact Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

360-424-7675 or Jodie@MountVernonPres.org



Thank you to everyone
for another wonderful
MYPC Pumpkin Party!



A SEASON OF *Discernment*

According to Suzanne Farnham, in her book titled *Grounded in God*, “*Discernment is more than saying prayers that ask God to guide us in rational consideration of matters. It is a mode of prayer that involves opening our entire selves to the working of the Holy Spirit. It bids us to let go of preconceived ideas so that we can be open to new possibilities with a readiness to view things from new perspectives. Discernment beckons us to be still and listen with the ear of our heart. It draws us into alignment with God.*”

Denise Easter and Dianna Kunce from Renewal Ministries Northwest (www.renewalminnw.org) have already led us in two discernment retreats. At the first retreat, on September 30th, we practiced praying with the scriptures and listening for God’s voice through *Lectio Divina*, we received an invitation to listen for God’s voice daily in prayer and we heard an overview of what our discernment process was going to look like. At the second retreat, October 14th, the leadership of MVPC gathered to listen for the congregation’s unique giftedness, or charism, which we discerned to be: “*MVPC is and is becoming a welcoming, caring and graciously safe community because we are deeply committed to seeking Christ, listening for the Holy Spirit, and discerning God’s will.*” And we also set out to frame a question for us to ask of our God: “*Lord, what are you saying to us about nurturing and extending our charism inside and outside our church?*”

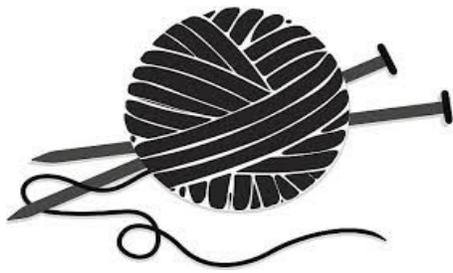
Between the second and third retreat (which is where we are now!) we hope that everyone is continuing to increase awareness of God’s presence and how God may be speaking to you through the practice of *lectio divina* and other abiding prayer. (If you need or want instruction, there are printed *lectio divina* guides in the church office or get in touch with Pastor Dan.)

The third retreat will be held on November 18th. All members and friends of MVPC are welcome to participate as we listen for and share what God is saying to us regarding our charism and question.

After we have listened and gathered information, on December 2, the fourth retreat (for the leadership of the church) will focus on distilling the results of the congregation’s discernment and developing a plan of action that faithfully represents what we’ve heard from the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the discernment process, listen for what God is saying to you and to us, and plan to participate in the retreat for the whole congregation on November 18th from 9:00-3:00.





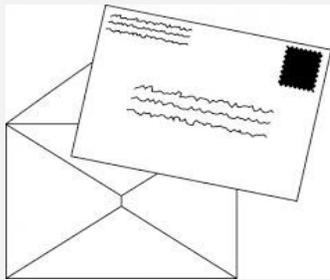
Knitting/Crochet Fellowship

The MVPC Knitting Group will meet on Thursday, November 16th, from Noon to 1 pm in the Great Room (instead of on our normal 4th Thursday which is Thanksgiving)! Everyone is welcome - bring any craft you want and come enjoy fellowship and friends!



Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary on Sunday November 26th after Service.

Hanging of the Greens in Good Shepherd Hall Friday December 1st.



notes TO mvpc

A heartfelt thank you to our church family for the cards, flowers, and many kindnesses received since my husband's death. I am especially thankful for the way you surrounded our family at John's memorial service and for the deacons who prepared it. The love that you shared with us in this time of loss lingers and sustains us.

Lou Cheney -

Hello & Greetings of the day to you.

I just wanted to say thank you for allowing our families from "Family Promise" stay at your church from Sept 10 to 17, 2017. My daughter Maddy Sweetie (10) and I are forever grateful you opened up your church to us in our time of need! May God bless each of you who have made this possible, and also providing food, which was yummy!

Thank you again and may God continue to bless your church.

Tracy & Maddy Smith

Women's Christmas Dessert

Table Decorators: if you have any questions that come up, Mim Ambrose will be stationed at the reservation signup table following the Sunday services.



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/>

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

Women's Christmas Dessert at MVPC

Plans for the MVPC Women's Christmas Dessert are underway!
Please mark your calendars for **Thursday December 7th, 2017 at 6:30PM.**

You don't want to miss this very festive evening, beautifully decorated tables and a meaningful program! This is a wonderful opportunity for the women of our church to bring friends and neighbors from outside the church to an event filled with the spirit of Christmas.

Reservations (\$7.00) for the Women's Christmas Dessert will go on sale November 5th, 2017 before and after church services. If you have any questions or would like to assist by volunteering please contact Toni Hulbert.



Contemplative Prayer Group

The Contemplative Prayer Group will begin meeting Thursday, November 9th in the Great Room from 6 to 8 pm. The group plans to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 6 to 8 pm to spend time learning and experiencing a variety of contemplative prayer practices. Everyone welcome! Talk with Pat Papadopulos or Rebecca Holland to find out more. No meeting Thanksgiving.



Operation Christmas Child

SHOE BOXES ARE DUE BACK AT THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY,

NOVEMBER 19! THANK YOU!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR



The **Warm Beach Senior Community** is hosting a Holiday Bazaar on November 3rd and 4th from 9 am to 3 pm in the Beachwood Building ([20420 Marine Drive](#)) at Warm Beach! Proceeds benefit The Fellowship at Warm Beach Senior Community.



We have a small but dedicated group that meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 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.

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 Papadopulos if you have any questions about the Prayer Team, or just about praying in general.

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.

Women's Fellowship

Join us in November on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.!

Birthdays & Anniversaries November



- 5-Peter Brown
- 6-Martin Boer
- 7-Don Wolf
- 9-Warren Weeks
- 11-Mary Ellen Byerly
- Lee Hawney
- 13-Natalia Weeks
- 14-Bev Overby
- 19-Bob Mitchell
- 21-Stephanie Yerigan
- 23-Shirley Gilbert
- Jadelle Moyer

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact the church office at MVPC@MountVernonPres.org, or call or text 360-424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!



Volunteer Opportunity

Serve Juice & Cookies at blood drives 2-3 hour shift
Contact: Elizabeth Page,
Volunteer Services Coor.
360 671-1721

HEARING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Are you having troubles hearing during service? If so, come to the sound desk before service! We have hearing devices available that can work with your T-Coil hearing aids or independently of any other hearing assist devices.





Our Fifth
Sunday Service
on Oct 28th
included music
from our
Children's Bell
Choir, a Play,
and Poetry!





Dan Holland presenting sabbatical reflections at men's breakfast.

MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY
OCT. 27TH



Women's Bible study and crafting journals with Paula Rutledge.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Centering Prayer:	Tuesdays at 9 am in Pastor Dan's office
Intercessory Prayer Group:	Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
Contemplative Prayer:	2nd and 4th Thursdays 6-8 pm in the Great Room
Small Groups:	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
Family Night:	Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC
Creative Kids:	Sundays, 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Great Room
Youth Group:	4th 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.
Tea @ 2:	Last Thurs of the month at 2 p.m. in the Fireside room
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 5:30 p.m.
Worship Team Meeting:	1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon
Finance Committee:	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.
Mission Team Meeting:	4th Sunday at 12:30
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 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

The Bible Class

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

Creative Kids 9:30 to 10:15 am

Kids of all ages express their faith creatively in the Great Room. November: Christmas Program!

10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschoolers are introduced to Bible Stories in the Nursery.

SPROUTS SUNDAY SCHOOL

K to 2nd graders journey through the Bible. Begin in Worship.

SPROUTS SUNDAY SCHOOL

3rd to 5th graders study the New Testament. Begin in Worship.

SEEKERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

Middle School Youth seek meaning in Paul's letters. Begin in Worship.

EXPLORERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

High School Youth explore the Gospels. Begin in Worship.

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

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

