



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 2
February 2019

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Moving Forward

It's wonderful to be part of a church that's focused on ministering in the ways God calls. At MVPC we engage our faith together in order to know God's love deeply and then set out to share that love with the broader community: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to make disciples, to reflect God's love into the world.

It's an exciting time to be part of MVPC. God has blessed us with a wonderful staff and lots of volunteers who work together to provide thriving ministry programs. We are a healthy congregation made up of people who genuinely care for one another and are eager to serve. Our capacity to minister is increasing greatly and that's reflected in how we are looking forward.

In 2017, MVPC undertook a congregational discernment process which ultimately led us to identify 7 specific invitations we heard from the Lord with regard to the mission and ministry of the congregation. Since that time the Session has been guided by those invitations in determining how best to move our congregation forward in ministry according to our gifts and God's calling.

A few of the invitations from the discernment process dealt with leadership structures in the congregation. Most of the invitations dealt with direction, purpose and vision of programs. One of the invitations, which was likely the clearest, regarded our building. It was instructive to see the broad agreement as one of the people present during the discernment process said that we really *must address the state of our building because "Neglect is not a healthy position from which to minister."*

There are, of course, many different ways to address the state of the building. Over the last year, as part of our fiduciary responsibility, Session has engaged the possibility of selling property and determined that was not a viable choice for the sustainability and edification of our ministry. So the current building and ground will be our congregational home for the foreseeable future.

Over the last couple of years, there have been some substantial efforts to address our building's needs. As a result of a few generous designated gifts, the center section of the roof over the Sanctuary has been replaced and Good Shepherd Hall received a much needed face-lift. From the church budget we've nearly finished the process of bringing the kitchen into fire-code compliance and made countless minor repairs. From reserve funds we've increased both the safety and the energy efficiency of the church by replacing lights in the parking lot and the furnace which feeds the sanctuary, upgrading all of the thermostats in the building and installing a new sidewalk along the north side of the property. On top of that, the strong pledge response in 2018 has allowed us to more-than-double our budgeted allocation for maintenance and repairs.

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Volunteers Needed for the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt!

Check out the article following to see how you can help.

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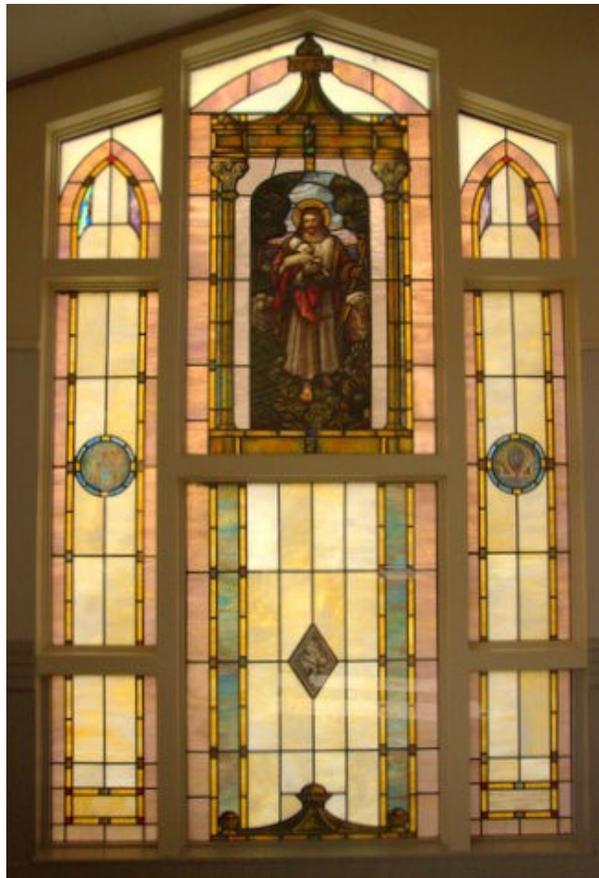
All of these are steps in the right direction toward long term sustainability of our building and grounds so that the ministry of MVPC can continue to flourish long into the future. The list is long due to many years of deferred maintenance and the following items still need to be addressed:

- * Redesigning and repairing the flat roof over most of our facility (narthex, offices, classrooms and fellowship space) and repairing the remaining section of roof over our Sanctuary.
- Repairing areas of dry rot throughout our facility.
- Replacing windows where seals and caulking have failed.
- Retrofitting our Sanctuary for earthquake safety.
- Enhancing our Sanctuary with new carpeting and an updated audio/visual system..
- Increasing fire detection, installing fire sprinklers, and improving our security system.
- Creating funds for improving our parking lot

After much discussion and prayer around the Session table as well as gathering of information from contractors, engineers and other consultants, Session is recommending a Capital Campaign to fund the proposed projects and has contracted with The Enrichment Group (www.enrichmentministries.com) to lead a Feasibility Study to help us to prepare. Your voice, participation and support are important as we move forward. There is no church without you. So please, plan to participate in the Feasibility Study in the coming months when you are invited to do so and help to envision the future of MVPC moving forward!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dan

This Window in Good Shepherd Hall came from the old Church in downtown Mount Vernon. Some of you remember that it was stored in a member's barn until this church had an addition built.





Discovering Your Path In Life

Recognizing God's Will for Us

March 9th 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!"

Per Capita: What do you get for your money?

Per capita pays for the operating overhead of the church at all levels beyond the congregation. The churches together provide services for congregations and spiritual leaders. Presbytery, funded by per capita, engages, equips and encourages congregations and their leaders. It provides support for a democratic, constitutional system of Christian governance. Highlights are:

- Network of people, expertise, and resources.
- Presbytery staff.
- Mission-100% of your mission contributions go to the recipient. Operations are paid by per capita.
- Help churches find, develop, and support leadership.
- Help for ministry effectiveness, congregational development and during difficulty.
- Corporate affairs, records and history
- Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly meetings and agencies



Godly Play
And
Kid's choir
Potluck Meal



Notes from January Session meeting

- Authorized the youth ministry to fundraise to cover camp costs for all affiliated with youth ministry who would like to go.
- Transferred money back to the Sidewalk Project Fund from the parking lot reserve because the city completed this project.
- Received report on church's 11 furnaces. The committee will get bids and present specific proposal net meeting.
- Approved contracting with Enrichment Ministries for Feasibility Study moving toward a capital campaign.

Biography for Elder Chris Hoke

I never thought I'd be an elder in a Presbyterian church. When I moved up to Washington State fourteen years ago, from California, to be read the scriptures in the Skagit County jail, becoming a sort of gang pastor, I thought I was running as far I could from my somewhat over-churched childhood. This work--pastoring, shepherding the often-"unwanted" lives of the community--has brought me back into working with churches, more churches than I attended in my childhood!

I've found myself embraced by Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church especially, over the last decade. In 2017, the Northwest Coast Presbytery came around our launch of Underground Ministries, supporting our work that seeks to open more relationship between prisoners and the communities to which they return. I am currently in process of becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor within the Presbytery, and I'm honored to be the newest "elder" at MVPC. I am tasked with Discipleship, alongside Bob Rauch, and I hope to help use my experience in local missions and prison chaplaincy to help imagine how this church can make strong followers of Jesus in Skagit County. I'm so grateful to have my office now within MVPC, back in the Conference Room, where I get to welcome those we serve into MVPC's doors each week.

I live close by, near Hillcrest Park, with my wife Rachel and our small son Abram. Please come up and say hi when you see me!



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!

Women's Fellowship Purse Project

We are always collecting:

- * Gently used purses
- * Manicure kits
- * Travel size hygiene items (toothpaste,
- * Sewing kits, toothbrushes, mouth wash, shampoos, small bottles of perfume, conditioners, shower gel, bar soap-hotel giveaway sizes are perfect)
- * Playing cards, puzzle books
- * Brushes and combs
- * Scarves, gloves, socks, shoelaces
- * Small notebooks, pens & pencils
- * Paperback books

Anything to make a woman going through a hard time feel good about herself.

Beyond Immediate Self Interest

Starts Thursday February 14th at 6:30 pm

This will be the subject of three informal gatherings in the Fireside Room at MVPC beginning Thursday February 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm. It will be followed on the 21st and 28th of February at the same time. We will search for creative lifestyle choices that reflect our wholehearted love for God and each other as neighbors. See Matt 22: 37-40, (The Divine Tweet').

“A fool speaks all his mind and a wise man saves some for later” Enough is...enough?

Series served by Graham Kerr

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	Melissa	Johnson	2021
Bill	DeHon	2019	Mission/Service	Ruth	Neal	2021
Bob	Higbee	2020	Ministry Support	Ron	Vanderstoep	2021
Bruce	Lavers	2021	Ministry Support	Danya	Wolf	2021

February 2019 Children and Family Ministries



Godly Play

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

2/3 - Parable of the Sower

2/10 - Parable of the Leaven

2/17 - Parable of the Mustard Seed

2/24 - Parable of Parables

Church Nursery

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



2/3 - Sermon on the Mount p. 228

2/10 - Valentine's Day Craft

2/17 - Jesus Calms the Storm p. 236

2/24 - Jesus Feeds 5,000 p. 244

MVPC Kid's Choir



Kid's Choir is kicking off again!

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

5:30 to 6ish - Singing!

6ish to 6:30 - Potluck Dinner

Talk with Rebecca to sign up!

Secret Valentines!

Check your Valentine Bag after worship on 1/27 and 2/3 for a surprise and then come to the Secret Valentine's Party on Sunday, February 10th at 9:30 am in Good Shepherd Hall to find out who your Secret Valentine is, get to know them, and have fun frosting Valentine's cookies for after church.

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



Talk with Rebecca if your family is interested in joining this

Save the Date:

-Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th at 10 am at MVPC!
-Intergenerational Spring Tea on Sunday, May 19th at 2 pm at MVPC!

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

Youth & Family Ministries

February 2019



Tall Timber is a Christian camp near Leavenworth. We register and fund raise as a group. Parents of youth interested in attending camp this year, please see Jodie!

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

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

A **planning meeting** for parents and campers will be held **Sunday, February 17** after worship (11:45am) in the Great Room. We will discuss registering as a group and fund raising. Come with your ideas!



Fun Fridays!

Please RSVP by the Sunday before.

Movies chosen at youth group.

Feb 22 (Friday) 6:30-8:30pm	Movie Night!
Mar 22 (Friday) 6:30—8:30 pm	Game Night!
Apr 26 (Friday) 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night!

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. Feb. 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. Feb. 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.

Youth Opportunities

There are lots of ways that youth and their families can get involved at MVPC. If you are looking to live out your faith, get to know others in the church, and have a good time, these are great ways!

- Sing in the Choir! Choir practices are Wednesdays, 6:15—7:30pm.
- Become part of the Nursery Volunteer team
- Light the candle that starts worship.
- Join the family small group.
- Help with the Easter Egg Hunt event.
- Attend the Tall Timber Work Weekend, May 24-27.
- Join the new bell choir! Practices are Mondays, 7:00-8:00pm.

Talk to Jodie for more information!

Men's Breakfast meets the fourth Saturday February 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 February 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.

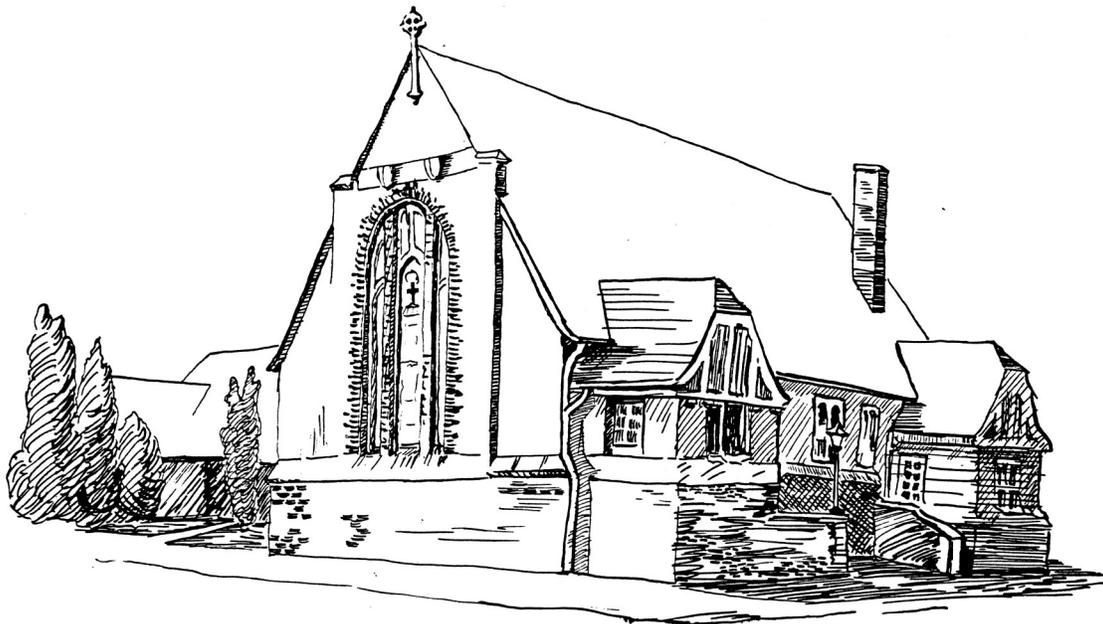
MVPC CHURCH HISTORY

This Celtic Cross was part of the original United Presbyterian Church building at 3rd and Kincaid Street, Mount Vernon, Washington. Built in 1922, the building was used until 1970 and demolished in 1980.

The Celtic Cross has been associated with American Presbyterianism for over 300 years.

Surrounding the central portion of the Cross and linking all its parts is the circle, a symbol of eternity. Its location on the Cross signifies both the eternal effect of the redemption secured on the Cross by our Lord's death, as well as the eternal oneness of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

The sketch below was drawn by Eric Ervine.



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Rita Vander Stoep

2-Lindsay Hall

4-Oliver Rogers

6- Danya Wolf

7- Katie Worley

9-Mackenzie Anderson

Irene Johnson

11-Bill Stuurmans

13-Ruth Christofferson

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

Hailee Fox

21-Kyle Brown

Bill Ream

Clara Swanson

23-Laurel Coalwell

26-Dan & Rebecca
Holland

27-Steve Hansen

Needs for Friendship House

- ◆ Warm winter coats, men's women's, children's
- ◆ Socks, Socks, Socks—warm and all sizes
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Hats
- ◆ Gloves
- ◆ Scarves

Friendship House

360-336-2135

360-336-2418

1008 S 3rd St

Mount Vernon, WA

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!

THANK YOU CORNER

- * Thanks to Gail LaFleur for organizing bell paraphernalia; to Patti Allen for creating more bell pad coverings and to those beginning to ring.
- * Thanks to Lou Cheney and Patti Allen for beginning the 'spring cleaning' of the Liturgical Arts closet.
- * More thanks to Bruce Lavers and Bob Higbee for the many hours getting the kitchen project closer to completion.
- * Thanks to Shirley Gilbert for straightening the sanctuary each week.
- * For the sidewalk snow shovelers, Nathan Curtis and Bill DeHon

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





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.

Do you like to research history?



Volunteers are welcomed to help search, organize and sort, reminisce and file as they explore the old church records for interesting 'nuggets' of our history. The following skills would be helpful:

- * Interest and knowledge of this church
- * Ability to glean and file

The rewards are friendship, reminiscing and maybe a 'spot' of tea. The goal is to meet in February this year. See Pat Papadopoulos.

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.



Skagit Bank becomes Banner Bank

Starting February 11, 2019 reimbursement checks from the church 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:

Centering Prayer:	Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Dan's office
Intercessory Prayer Group:	Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library
Small Groups:	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
Friendship House:	First Thursday and second Tuesday @ Friendship House
Family Small Group:	Second and fourth Sundays 5:00-6:00; food, fellowship, fun
Youth Group:	2nd & 4th Sundays, Noon-1:30 in the Great Room
Chancel Choir:	Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm
Kids Choir:	1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 5:30—6:30
Glorify!:	Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Bell Choir practice:	Mondays , 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Tea @ 2:	Last Thurs at 2 p.m. in Fireside Room (March through Sept)
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 6:30 p.m.
Personnel Committee:	3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
Session Meeting:	3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
Worship Team Meeting:	1st Wednesday at noon
Finance Committee:	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in library
Mission Team Meeting:	4th Sunday (Stay tuned for meeting time)
CF Discernment Team:	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.**