

# VISION

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 8



## HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* COMMUNION AT HOME
- \* PSALMS JOURNAL
- \* MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE
- \* SMALL GROUP STUDIES
- \* ENTER THE WORLD OF THE BIBLE
- \* UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS
- \* DAY TO SERVE
- \* EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER
- \* MISSION OPPORTUNITIES
- \* CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PAGE

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METHODIST CHURCH**

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YING PEI,  
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MUSIC MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
MONDAY - THURSDAY  
8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Mount Vernon Vision is published monthly by the staff of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, who is solely responsible for its contents. It attempts to inform, inspire and communicate with both membership and friends about the program of the United Methodist Church, The Virginia Annual Conference, The Alexandria District, and the program offerings of Mount Vernon as a connectional member of the United Methodist Church.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

David Aikin, a former member of MVUMC, recently residing in Lansing, Michigan passed away August 3, 2022 in his home surrounded by loving family. Please keep his wife Linda, daughter Jessica Marie Kunz (Matthew Kunz), grandsons Simon and Jonah in your prayers.

A Memorial Service was held at University United Methodist Church, East Lansing on August 10.

Dear Mount Vernon UMC,

I am so grateful for the gift of such a beautiful stole to celebrate my ordination in the United Methodist Church!

I have already worn it to preach in this busy and ministry filled season. I am so glad Mount Vernon welcomed me to preach and help with worship and communion in the provisional process.

Thank you for being a place of shared ministry for Jay and I.

In deep gratitude,  
Rev. Katie Monfortte



**Mark Your Calendars.....**

**Charge Conference  
Sunday, October 30  
Following Our Worship Service**

Charge Conference this year will be on Sunday, October 30 following worship. It will be very brief and be incorporated into the regularly scheduled monthly church council meeting. Full charge conference reports will be available for all persons interested in receiving one.



In the life cycle of the church I have always found September to be a season of new beginnings, new ministry, and new focuses. As summer comes to an end and school starts back up, September offers the chance for new opportunities for a new year of discipleship, ministry and witness to our community. The summer is always a time of hopeful anticipation for me as I plan, pray and dream for the new year together beginning in September. As we are now entering that new season I am hopeful for new opportunities that exist for us.

We have opportunities to care for our community this year as we continue our partnership with Belle View Elementary School, as we host the Empty Bowls Fundraiser for Rising Hope's hunger ministries, as we collect supplies for UMCOR flood buckets to help people in the aftermath of natural disasters, as we join again with the Virginia Interfaith Center in advocating for just policies for the most vulnerable in our commonwealth. We also hope these opportunities are just the beginning and that new opportunities and partnerships will emerge within our congregation as we hear the needs of our neighbors and respond with love and compassion.

We have opportunities for learning and growth through two weekly small groups, one on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and one on Sunday mornings at 8:15 am. These groups will provide space for conversation, engagement and reflection around engaging scripture, living our faith, the spiritual life, and how to see and think theologically. We will cover many topics that will invite us into God's life together. I truly hope you can join one of these groups to grow in our faith and to build deeper community with one another. We also look forward to having our third annual prayer beads making worship in the spring. We are also offering each person in the church a copy of a Psalms journal in the fall, and a guide for reading the Gospel of Matthew with commentary from one of the worlds' most respected NT scholars in the season of Lent. Please make sure to get your copies as we study and reflect on our sacred texts together.

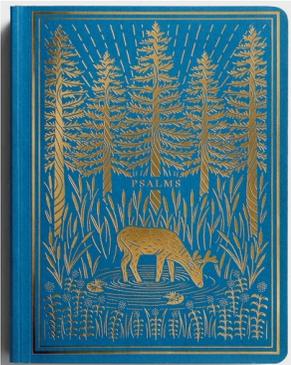
In worship we will be reflecting over the Psalms, the voice of the prophets, the work of God, the way of peace, preparing for Lent and unpacking what we mean by the phrase "the word of the Lord" when speaking of scripture.

My hope is that these opportunities and focuses will simply be the beginning, a foundation for a year of much more to build upon. I pray that dreams emerge within all of us in our congregation to find new ways to connect with our neighbors, to be in ministry to our neighborhood, to deepen our faith and practice in the ways of Jesus. May the beginning of a new year in the church fill us with hope and possibility for God's newness that is to come. May we dream God sized dreams for ministry in the community God has placed us in. Let us learn together, pray together, love and serve together.

*Pastor Jay*



If you have not been able to join worship in person and would like to receive communion, please reach out to Nancy or Jay and we can schedule a time for communion to be brought to your home.



### Pick Up Your Free Psalms Journal

For the month of September in Sunday worship we will be focusing on the Psalms and the full range of human life and faith they invite us to. We are providing a Psalms Journal for each person in the church to help you spend time reading, praying, reflecting and journaling over all 150 Psalms. You can pick up a copy in the back of the sanctuary or if you would like a copy mailed to you, or to pick up at the church office, please let Nancy or Jay know.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 21 in worship we joined together in the blessing of the backpacks as we prayed over all of our students and sent them out in love as they begin a new school year.

## Monthly Discipleship Resources

### September Theme - Being the Church in the World

#### **Innovating for Love**

Kenda Creasy Dean

Our vocation always involves becoming more profoundly human, becoming more like Jesus, divinely wired and earthly-born, made from mud but bound for heaven, one with God and one with all the world. We are not called to build better churches. We are called to be better humans who reflect God's love. This book argues Christians must enact a distinctive approach to social innovation. In short, we are called to participate in God's dream, rather than invoke God's blessing for our own. The task of Christian social innovators is the task Christ offers to every believer: to unbind one another as we stumble out of our tombs toward the new life Christ offers. We are not called to build a better church. We are called to go and tell about Who is doing a "new thing." God becomes human, death becomes life - it doesn't get any more innovative than that. The Bible both begins and ends with stories of God innovating, and records God delight in it.

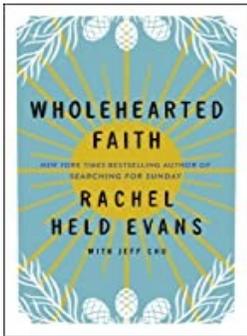
#### **Seven Creative Models for Community Ministry**

Joy F. Skjogstad

A practical guide for churches seeking to engage with the community, offering step-by-step instructions on 7 ways to structure transformational community ministry. Skjogstad first outlines processes for learning about the neighborhood, assessing gifts and passions within the church, and finding a good fit between congregation and community. The 7 Creative Models are: Donating Goods or Money, Mobilizing Volunteers, Partnering with Another Organization, Advocating around Public Policy, Engaging in Community Organizing, Developing a Ministry Program, Creating a Church-based Nonprofit. Each of the Model chapters features examples of churches that have implemented the model, with advice on strategies that worked and pitfalls to avoid.

Please visit our website at <https://www.mountvernonumc.org/>  
for online worship and discipleship resources

**Upcoming Small Group Studies**  
**All studies will be on Tuesdays at 10:00 am**

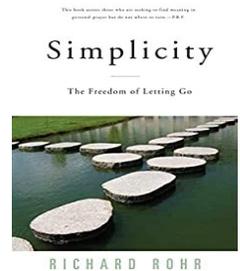


**AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 13**  
**“Wholehearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans**

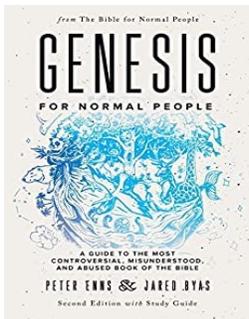
This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. An unforgettable, moving, and intimate book.

**SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 4**  
**“Simplicity” by Richard Rohr**

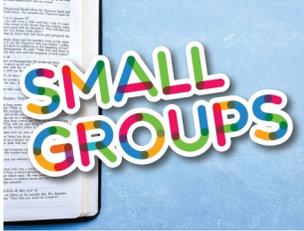
"Simplify! Simplify! Simplify!" We hear Thoreau's famous words everywhere today as we struggle to find order, meaning, and peace in our busy world. In this gem of a book, first published in 1992, Richard Rohr introduces us to the vision of the Franciscan way of living, where joy, not dry theology, helps us build relationships and find peace in ourselves.



**OCTOBER 11-25**  
**“Genesis for Normal People” by Enns and Byas**



Genesis for Normal People illuminates the characters that fill the book of Genesis, causing us to resonate with their choices and struggles even as we marvel at their distant world. And that's what you'll find here-not scientific proof texts or simple moral tales, but a distant world made available, and a story that is often strange, sometimes dangerous, and always filled with rich possibilities.



## Enter the World of the Bible

### Beginning September 4

### Sunday Mornings 8:15-9:00 am

Join us on Sunday mornings from 8:15-9:00am starting September 4. We will be joining together in several 6 week studies exploring the richness of biblical stories and texts. Each week will explore one chapter and includes a 10 minute video with teaching from the book's author. Bring your questions, curiosity and openness to learning about scripture in new ways.

#### September 4 - October 9

#### 1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God

#### by Jaime Clark-Soles

This book explores one of the most gripping books of the Bible, where Paul, the complicated, layered apostle, writes to the people trying a wild new social experiment known as a Christian community. Not unlike the church today, this community dealt with factions, sexual immorality, gender issues, money issues, theological questions, lawsuits, problems in worship, and problems in leadership. This book explores these topics and the awe inspiring, breathtaking world of the first-century church. Examining the teachings of Paul, she addresses church history, the logic of the cross, spiritual gifts, death, afterlife and the resurrection, human sexuality, and the joys and challenges of living in community.

#### October 16 - November 13

#### The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings

#### by Amy-Jill Levine

Sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44). This books shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

#### November 20 - January 15 (no meetings on Dec 25 or Jan 1)

#### The Stories Jesus: How To Read a Parable

#### by Greg Carey

We love stories. That's why we go to movies, read books, and listen to friends recount an experience. That's also why teachers use the technique of storytelling to make a difficult concept easier for us to process. Jesus told stories, or parables, for that very reason—and to help us understand how God wants us to live life. Sometimes, however, stories like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son can be interpreted in more than one way. Even Bible scholars are divided on their meanings. In *Stories Jesus Told*, you'll explore six of Jesus' parables to learn how to read, interpret, and live them in your daily life.

# EMPTY Bowls



**Empty Bowls Rising Hope Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, October 1**  
**5:00 pm**

Join together with Rising Hope and members of our community Saturday, October 1 at 5pm in the fellowship hall, to talk about food insecurity, support the Rising Hope community and their food ministries, and enjoy a delicious bowl of soup in a handcrafted ceramic bowl. You can find out more and register here: <https://www.risinghopeumc.org/emptybowls>



## **Teddy Bear Brigade**

The Teddy Bear Brigade is getting ready to march once again! Since 2001, Gleaning for the World (GFTW) has ministered to hurting children around the world through the gift of a stuffed animal in the program called the Teddy Bear Brigade. Rev. Tom Davidson started the program to give individuals working with struggling children a tool to help the children feel God's love in their hands.

Burke UMC is coordinating the program in the Northern Virginia District and is counting on our help once again. From now through the end of October they are collecting new or gently used stuffed animals (no battery operated, oversized or very small stuffed toys please). Please put them in sealed plastic bags. Donations can be dropped off at Burke UMC (6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke) any time from September 25 through October 31 in the bin located in the front circle of their church. Please include \$1 per bear to cover shipping costs when the bears make their journey to grateful children. Please make checks payable to GFTW. For more information contact Katie Glick at [katieglick@burkeumc.org](mailto:katieglick@burkeumc.org) or 703-250-6100.



## Save the Date

**Saturday, September 24th**

Each year, neighborhood congregations and organizations in the Mount Vernon Community join together to prepare meal packets in support of Food for Others, an organization that provides for children in Fairfax County Schools in the Mount Vernon area.

The need for food in our area is greater than ever! The Ventures in Community Mount Vernon goal this year is to collect enough items for 800 (or more) Power Packs.

Each Power Pack will include enough weekend food for one child:

- 2 breakfast items:** Oatmeal: individual instance packs or microwaveable cups  
Cereal: individual serving size containers of cereal
- 2 lunch items:** Individual Mac and Cheese cups (Velveeta, Kraft, etc.)  
Lunch-to-Go Chicken or Tuna Salad Kits with Crackers (Starkist)
- 2 dinner items:** Individual serving microwaveable chili cups (Hormel)  
Individual serving microwaveable cups Beefaroni, Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Chicken & Rice, etc.  
Compleats Meals (Hormel) or similar microwaveable meals
- 2 snack items:** Applesauce (and other fruits) Squeeze Packets (all flavors)  
Individual fruit cups (no foil lids, please)  
Cheese and cracker packets  
Peanut-free granola bars (nature Valley, NutriGrain, etc.)  
Goldfish Crackers - individual snack bags
- 2 beverages (one juice and one milk):** 100% fruit juice boxes or Capri Sun juice packets  
Shelf stable milk (Horizon, YooHoo)

Try to collect a balanced number of food items in each category to help avoid having too many “left overs” at the end of the day. All leftover items will be donated to United Community.

**Donations can be placed on the designated table at the back of the sanctuary.**

**Doors will open at 8:00am for donations. Packet assembly will take place on Saturday, September 24 beginning at 9:00 am at the Mount Vernon Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2000 George Washington Memorial Parkway (turn on Lucia Lane).**



Our district office has shared with us that UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has reached out to our conference to partner in helping with their flood buckets cleaning kits. They have shared they are almost completely empty in their warehouses of these kits which are used in immediate response to natural disasters.

Each church in our district is being invited to help provide these kits for UMCOR. We have created a sign up sheet that includes each item that is needed. Our first goal is to collect enough supplies for 5 of these kits. **If you would like to help provide the supplies please make sure to sign up on the sign up link below so that we can make sure we get the correct amount of each item needed.**

**Each item listed needs five sign ups. You are welcome to sign up for as many items as you wish**

[SIGN UP HERE FOR UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS](#)

You can find out more information about the UMCOR kits here <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/>

Please bring all supplies to the church by Sunday September 25. And do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.



## Support Rising Hope UMMC

We are grateful to be a ministry partner with Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church and the essential work they do to care for the marginalized in our community. We are collecting food donations to help keep their food pantry stocked and meet the needs of our neighbors.

*Donations can be left in the brown bins at the elevator entrance.*

# Children's Activity Page



## A Full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

*Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.*

R	E	C	R	O	H	N	S	L	I	A	W	D	R
▼	↘	↙	☿	☿	▲	↘	↙	▼	↘	↙	⋮	▼	☿
0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70						

Like \_\_\_\_\_  
           56     21     71     28     60     42

in the hands of a warrior are

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_  
 14        33        52        47        65        2        9        39

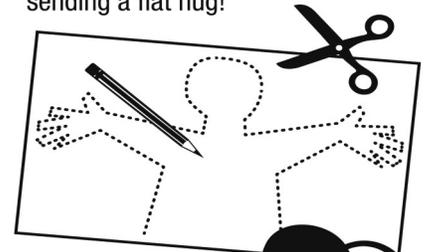
born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answers: arrows, children

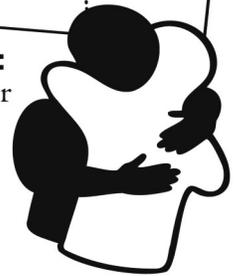
## Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



### What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



### What you do:

1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Susana Baidoo	September 3
Ethan Lyon	September 15
Rebecca Amonick	September 27
Cal Dixon	September 29
Dawn Fortin	September 29

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Nancy & Bill Convery	September 10
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*If your birthday and/or anniversary has not appeared on the birthday/ anniversary list during the year, then your birthday and/or anniversary is not in our church records. To get your birthday and those of your family included in the church records call or email the church office.*



**Who Does What When**

**September 2022**

**September 4, 2022**

Counters -	Gregg Robinson & Dot Keough
Liturgist -	Barry Colvert
Fellowship Time -	tbd
Responsible for Closing -	Henry Georgevich

**September 18, 2022**

Counters -	Gregg Robinson & Dot Keough
Liturgist -	Carol Parker
Fellowship Time -	tbd
Responsible for Closing -	Henry Georgevich

**September 11, 2022**

Counters -	Tom Kays & tbd
Liturgist -	Kathy Ripley
Fellowship Time -	tbd
Responsible for Closing -	Henry Georgevich

**September 25, 2022**

Counters -	Tom Kays & tbd
Liturgist -	Chip Ripley
Fellowship Time -	tbd
Responsible for Closing -	Henry Georgevich

# September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>	2 AA 8:30 pm (211)	3 AA 8:00 am (FH) AA 9:30 am (211) Girl Scouts 11am (SS)
4 <i>Entering the World of the Bible</i> 8:15a (214) <b>Worship Service (S)</b> 9:30 am	5  <b>LABOR DAY</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 Book Study (216) "Wholehearted Faith" 10:00 am	7 <i>Prayer Group</i> 9:15 am (at home)	8 <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>  VHBC Preschool Back to School Night 6:30p (FH)	9 AA 8:30 pm (211)	10 AA 8:00 am (FH) AA 9:30 am (211) Girl Scouts 11am (SS)  <b>Pot Luck &amp; Games (FH)</b> 4:00 pm
11 <i>Entering the World of the Bible</i> 8:15a (214) <b>Worship Service (S)</b> 9:30 am	12	13 Book Study (216) "Wholehearted Faith" 10:00 am	14 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <i>Prayer Group</i> 9:15 am (at home)	15 <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>	16 AA 8:30 pm (211)	17 AA 8:00 am (FH) AA 9:30 am (211) Girl Scouts 11am (SS)
18 <i>Entering the World of the Bible</i> 8:15a (214) <b>Worship Service (S)</b> 9:30 am	19	20 Book Study (216) "Simplicity," 10:00 am	21 <i>Prayer Group</i> 9:15 am (at home)	22 <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>	23 AA 8:30 pm (211)	24 AA 8:00 am (FH) AA 9:30 am (211) Girl Scouts 11am (SS)
25 <i>Entering the World of the Bible</i> 8:15a (214) <b>Worship Service (S)</b> 9:30 am  <b>Church Leadership Council</b> 10:30a (216)	26	27 Book Study (216) "Simplicity," 10:00 am	28 <i>Prayer Group</i> 9:15 am (at home)	29 <i>Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm</i>	30 AA 8:30 pm (211)	