



I WILL FULFILL TO YOU MY PROMISE  
AND BRING YOU BACK TO THIS PLACE.  
FOR SURELY I KNOW THE PLANS I  
HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS GOD. PLANS FOR  
YOUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR HARM,  
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE.  
JEREMIAH 29: 10-11

Dear Mount Vernon Family,

If it's good to be together, it must be bad to be apart.

And yet: the truth is that life has always been a rhythm of separation and togetherness, exile and return. We may prefer the "return" bit, the "bring you back to this place" bit, but that doesn't mean separation isn't part of the story.

Experiences of separation are at least as old as the ancient stories of the Garden of Eden, the Israelites' exile in Babylon, and the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus and his followers were separated by betrayal and death, and then reunited by forgiveness and newness of life. Even on our most "normal" days, our lives are a rhythm of gathering and dispersing, coming together and going apart, calls to worship and benedictions.

This past year has been another profound experience of this ancient pattern, and as challenging as it's been, we can take solace in the knowledge that our ancestors, too, experienced seasons of exile. And here's the point: thanks to this history, over time our faith — and our church — has been built to help us live through such seasons with grace and hope.

At our core, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church is a community of reunion, homecoming, and return. Now more than ever, in a world full of exile, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, welcome, and radical hospitality.

With all of this in mind, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all the resources — spiritual, theological, physical, and financial — that support this indispensable work. We invite you to pray with us over the coming weeks, and to bring the pledge card, which you will receive by U.S. mail, to in-person worship on November 13 or to mail it to the church. Together, we'll celebrate God's beautiful gift of "a future with hope."

Blessings,

Your Stewardship Campaign Team

October 23 | Kickoff Sunday

November 13 | Commitment Sunday

## Our Visioning Process

The steering committee for a new vision/plan for Mount Vernon UMC resumes deliberations this month. The work ahead of us is to examine all the data we have on hand about the challenges and opportunities that confront Mount Vernon, and the talents and gifts and interests you bring to God's work in Danville and beyond.

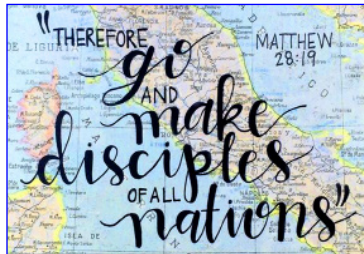
If you have not yet completed the membership questionnaire, we invite you to do so. It is available at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/P5UwMdSzxSxYE5fpF6>

Printed copies are also available at church. **Please complete and submit your responses by Friday, October 21.**

We thank you for your continued prayers as we discern the next steps for Mount Vernon ministries.

Paul Baker, Retired Pastor



## The 2022 Danville CROP Hunger Walk

On Sunday, October 2, despite the rain, many hardy walkers made the 15th annual trek along West Main Street. We are still counting this year's donations, but we know that Mount Vernon Church people have already contributed **more than \$6,000 toward our team goal of \$8,000.**



## Charge Conference: November 5

The Charge Conference is scheduled on Saturday, November 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Heritage UMC in Lynchburg. If you are interested in attending the conference, please let me know. I will submit the attendance sheet to the District office on October 25.

– Jae Cho

## A Farewell ... and a Welcome

Terri McKee has resigned, and Jessica Saunders joined the staff on October 3 as office administrator. The church office hours will continue to be Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–noon.

Best wishes to Terri! And welcome to Jessica! Watch for an introduction to Jessica in the November newsletter.

– Sonny Morton, Staff Parrish Relations Committee

## Evangelism Committee News

Our **church picnic** was a big success, despite moving indoors because of a rain forecast! About 70 people attended. It was good to reconnect with friends we haven't seen in a while. **See photos on the back page.** We were blessed to have Steven and Suzanne Boerrigter and their daughter, Lydia, with us. Lydia attends Children's House. Thank you to Eddie Blachura for providing the food and to each volunteer who helped to make our picnic a success!

**Wednesday Dinners** are off to a good start! Thank you to Pat Maurakis for sharing her trivia game at the September 21 dinner. Phone a friend and invite them to join us on Wednesday nights.



Thank you to Ladies Circle #2 for setting up, serving, and cleaning up for our dinner on September 28. Sue Davis was unable to prepare her meatloaf because she injured her foot, but Mary's Diner came through with roast beef dinners. Please keep Sue in your prayers.

The **October 5 dinner** will be "covered dish." Come and enjoy lots of good food—and bring a dish to share.



Rev. Jennifer Coffey will continue leading the **First Corinthians Bible study**. On September 28 she gave us some background for understanding the study of this letter from the apostle Paul.

Men of our church will be in charge of setting up, serving, and cleaning up for the **October 12 dinner**. This meal will be baked chicken. The **First Corinthians Bible study** will continue.

Dust off your Halloween costume for the **Halloween dinner (pizza) and party on October 26!**



Please note that **a nursery is provided** for preschool children for all dinners and programs on Wednesdays, 5:30–7:15 p.m.

Blessings to you and your family!

– Joyce Underwood, Committee Chair



## Welcome to the Pageturners!

*A book club for those who share a common interest in reading and socializing in Danville, Virginia*

Our hope is to encourage a multi-generational, diverse, community group to come together and share our love of reading with one another. The group is open to all in the community, not just Mount Vernon UMC members, so please invite your friends and family to come along. Ages 16 and up.

We will meet on the last Thursday of most months at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church for an informal discussion of books that we, as a group, have selected to read. Please feel free to bring snacks to share (not required).

Usually, we conduct a poll with suggested titles every year. Criterion for suggested books: you must have read the book yourself. We try to select books from a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction, biography, science fiction, and classics, not only to maintain interest but to encourage ourselves to read books that we, as individuals, may not choose on our own.

Leaders are Nikki Parrish, Barbara Meder, and Michaela Kotlaba. We can communicate via a private group on

Facebook (open to discussion). Details to follow at our first meeting.

**Our first meeting will be on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.**

**Our first book will be *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak:**

When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Nikki Parrish, via text message, 434.489.4629. Hope to see you in October!



*The hidden gutters that wrap around the back part of the original church structure were repaired last month. When the roof over that part of the church was replaced in 2019, the gutters looked OK, but when leaks in the exterior walls continued (damaging ceilings and interior walls), we realized the gutters had to be repaired. Our roofing contractor tried several minor repairs without success, so we had to do a complete repair, covering the gutters with a roofing membrane.*

*– Property Committee*



## Halloween Party Wednesday, October 26

Pizza dinner  
at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone  
is invited to  
wear a costume

Games for kids  
after dinner!



## A Salute to Veterans

**Sunday, November 6, at 4 p.m.**

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

The Danville Area Choral Arts Society (DACAS) presents *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, a concert of beautiful sacred music, some secular pieces, *American Anthem*, *I Dream a World*, and Randall Thompson's *The Testament of Freedom* as part of DACAS's recognition of all veterans in attendance. Admission is free.



**Church Picnic**





The Fifteenth Annual Danville CROP Hunger Walk





## Help Us Solve the Mystery of the Missing Forks

When we started setting the tables for our first Wednesday night dinner this season, we discovered that about half of our new regular-size forks are missing.

If you borrowed them or know anything about them, please let us know.

Contact Joyce Underwood, 434.548.1444, or call the church office, 434.793.6824.

### October Birthdays

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Patrick Clifton         | Art McMillan                  |
| Rob Coleman               | 20 Nick Longerbeam            |
| Nell Fredericksen         | Meredith Ray                  |
| Jason Payne               | Carolyn Smith                 |
| 3 Jimmy Anglea            | 21 Julia Gibson               |
| Scott Pearce              | Erica Thomson                 |
| 4 Juliet Cho              | 26 Peggy Handy                |
| Julian Gould              | Caden Payne                   |
| 5 Eric Keck               | 27 Richard Clark              |
| Katherine Milam           | 28 Charles Shepherd Turner    |
| 6 Alana Mitchell          | 29 Diane Wall                 |
| 7 Ali Stephens-Pickeral   | 30 Abby deAristizabal Via     |
| 8 Melissa Charles         | Helen Jones                   |
| Bobbie Ray Womack         |                               |
| 10 Wyatt Scott            | <b>– November Birthdays –</b> |
| 11 Catherine Rickmond     | 2 Kelly Brande                |
| 12 Betty Ann Smith        | Mark Turbiville               |
| Zachary Smith             | Steve Weber                   |
| 13 Stuart Coleman         | 3 Joyce Lewis                 |
| Bailey Jones              | 4 Bill Hardy                  |
| 14 Greyson Bennett        | 6 Tommy Hodges                |
| Lyndsey Long              | 7 Elizabeth Leggett           |
| Susie Mitchell            | Olivia Wilkes                 |
| Ben Parrish               | Margaret Wooding              |
| Emily Potts               | 8 Ian Cho                     |
| Piper Potts               | 9 Anne Stephens               |
| 15 Scott Garrett          | 10 Steve Daniels              |
| 17 Ben Caldwell           | J. G. Hurt                    |
| Jesse Mayhew              | 11 Spencer Harris             |
| 8 Kristin Fuquay          | Elizabeth Jefferies           |
| Lesley Harden             | Nicholas White                |
| 19 Jennifer Ashby DeSanto | 12 Helen Cheyney              |
| Hayward Majors            | Jay Spainhour                 |



*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Philip Blackmon, Pat Giles, Bill Hardy, Dorothy Stephens, The Rev. Joyce Johnson, Peggy Handy, Mary Ellen Dean, Betty Yates

*Gifts in memory of*  
**Robert Wooding**

*have been received from*

*The Boomers Class, the Aldersgate Choir, the Aldersgate Ringers, Dan & Tammy Waters, Teresa Edwards, Kate Wickers Wilson, Guy & Leah Cooter, Nancy W. Turner, Ann & J.G. Hurt, Jim & Susan Daniel, Barry Cutright DDS, Nancy P. Farley, Carol & Lewis Williamson, Catherine Bendall, Margaret Wooding, Gary & Lin Benefield, Jan Sutherland, Margaret Harding, Marie Lumpkins, and Martha Jo & Tommy Hodges.*

*Gifts in memory of*  
**Jim Cheyney**

*have been received from*

*Ann & Darrell Williamson, Nancy P. Farley, Terry Deane Ley Harris, Helen Cheyney, Budge & Carolyn Kent, Jan Sutherland, and Howard & Jan Lester.*

*A gift in memory of*  
**Shirley Duncan**

*has been received from Jan Sutherland.*

*A gift in memory of*  
**Eleanor Cuthrell**

*has been received from Kate Wickers Wilson.*

### PASTOR AND STAFF

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2022



You may pick up a copy of our bishop's suggested scripture readings for each day in October, outside the church office.