

A Monthly Publication
Editor: Rev. Liz Miller



The Messenger

First Christian Church—Mount Vernon
and St. Clare Chapel

Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith

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Elder Schedule

6/6 - Jim Paget
6/13 - June Steen
6/20 - Art Neumarkel
6/27 - Joyce Leak

Worship Leaders

6/6 - June Steen
6/13 - Nona Carter
6/20 - Joyce Leak
6/27 - Marcie Labo

Coming Events

6/20 - Father's Day
7/4 - 4th of July
8/8 - Church Picnic
9/6 - Labor Day

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Do you remember your first dance with that special someone? I remember that first dance with Liz but I'm sure it is the same for everyone. You take your partner by the hand, you hold each other close, you look into each other's eyes, and you dance. The music and steps are all secondary.

Love is an active relationship. It cannot survive the pressures of life if there is not a commitment to make it work. The dance continues, and grows, and changes. Different steps, different rhythms, different settings, and before you know it, the whirl of courtship becomes the shuffle of old age. But the choreography is the same: you take your partner by the hand, you hold each other close, you look into each other's eyes, and you dance to the music that is the love of God; the Lord of the Dance.

Scriptures warn us that we cannot be passive in our relationship



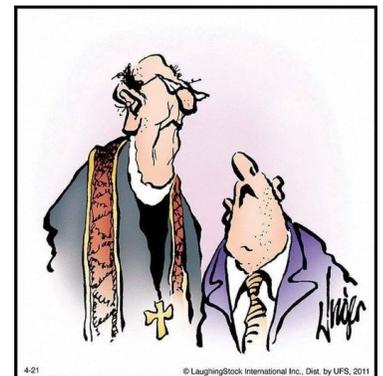
with God either. We cannot sit on the sidelines and watch as life passes us by. We must find the dance floor made especially for us and dance the dance of life with full assurance that the Lord of the Dance will show us the steps, and guide us gently through life's dips and twirls. God continues to plant in our midst opportunities to start over, to try again, to rework things, to move beyond our hurt and pain to make things right. As God's mercy and compassion continue to play out before us, we are able to continue in a life of purpose and happiness; and the dance continues.

Our challenge is to let God fill our hearts with trust and love. Let God open our eyes to see a world full of need. Let us reach out and take God by the hand; feel God's warm and surrounding embrace, and then ... let us dance! Amen? Amen!

... Rev. Jack

Did you know that June 7th is national chocolate ice cream day? What a great opportunity to go out and enjoy some delicious chocolate ice cream!

**Mark Your Calendars!
Sunday, August 8, 2021
Outdoor Worship Service
and Church Picnic.**



"Sorry I left during your sermon. I was sleepwalking."



And the Preacher said ...

"Your reputation is what people say about you. Your character is what God and your wife know about you."

(Billy Sunday, Evangelist 1862-1935)

Father's Day ...



"In the United States alone there are more than 75 million fathers."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday. The next year, a Spokane, Washington woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shop-

keepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on July 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon

signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.



Hymn Story - "Holy, Holy, Holy"



Reginald Heber (1783-1826) was a Bishop in the Church of England. He wrote the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* in 1826 for Trinity Sunday* celebration.

After Heber's unexpected death at age 43, his wife found the song amongst some of his writings, and passed it on to noted musician John B. Dykes (1823-1876), who composed and arranged the hymn for publication.

Heber wrote the lyrics for 57 hymns. During his lifetime his most famous hymn was "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," which exhorted missionary efforts to be made in the more difficult and remote cultures and climates. The hymn that has stood the test of time on earth, and whose words echo the ongoing worship of heaven, is the beautiful *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*.

Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity; the three in one personage of God: the Father, the Son (God incarnate in Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit. It is scheduled on the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and on the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity.

(www.sharefaith.com)



Father, Son and Holy Spirit
A painting by Jill Iversen

June 16th is fresh veggies day. Time to pay for all that chocolate ice cream you ate on June 7th!

Women in Scripture: Mary, the mother of John Mark ...

Mary, the mother of John Mark, has but a single reference in the New Testament. It appears in Acts 12:12 where a number of the early followers in Jerusalem had gathered together at her house for a prayer vigil on Peter's behalf. Imprisoned by Herod Agrippa, Peter was awaiting trial and his probable execution. Evidently Peter was well-known in Mary's household as he goes directly to her house after his release from prison (Acts 12:14) even though it is late at night.

Mary appears to be a woman of means and probably a widow. There is evidence that her house was a meeting place for Jesus' followers inside the city walls of Jerusalem. It apparently was a convenient location, an entrance-way separating

the main house from the street, and a room large enough for many people to assemble. These factors favor its later evolution into a house-church and a center of life for the early church at Jerusalem. Mary's household included a young domestic servant bearing the Greek name Rhoda.

Some traditions believe that the house of Mary was not only used by early Christians as a meeting place, but quite possibly served as the location of the Last Supper, as well as the place where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the event known as Pentecost. Although these legends persist even to this day, there is no historical evidence that either of the "upper room" events took

place at Mary's house. Most scholars believe both meetings were held on the Temple Mount in one of the rooms available for public meetings.



What is Juneteenth? How is it celebrated?



On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Union Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African-Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

The original celebration became an annual one, and it grew in popularity over the years with the addition of descendants, according to Juneteenth.com, which tracks celebrations. The day was celebrated by praying and bringing families together. In some celebrations on this day, men and women who had been enslaved, and their descendants, made an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston. Celebrations reached new heights in 1872, when a group of African-American ministers and businessmen in Houston purchased 10 acres of land and created Emancipation Park. The space was intended to hold the city's annual Juneteenth celebration. By 2019, 47 states and the District of Columbia recognized Juneteenth, although only one state (Texas) has adopted it as a paid holiday for state employees.



Native American Wisdom:

"Upon suffering beyond suffering: the Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world. A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations. A world longing for light again. I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again. In that day, there will be those among the Lakota who will

carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom. I salute the light within your eyes where the whole Universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be one."

Chief Crazy Horse, Oglala Sioux

JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Zoom 10:30am	7	8	9	10	11	12 2nd Saturday Regional Class—Zoom
13 Zoom 10:30am	14	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth
20 Zoom 10:30am Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Zoom 10:30am	28	29	30	31		

June Events, Birthdays & Anniversaries

} June Birthdays

- } 6/18 - Chris Smith
- } 6/24 - Conrad Rodney
- } 6/25 - Vivian Thornburg
- } 6/28 - Ryan Morgan

} June Anniversaries

- } 6/5 - Larry & Marcie Labo
- }
- }

} June Holidays

- } 6/19 - Juneteenth
- } 6/20 - Father's Day

} June Events

- } 6/12 - 2nd Saturday Regional Class on Zoom—Walking Our Way into Prayer:: Labyrinth Practice as a pathway for Engaging Spirit.

10:30 AM Worship is held each Sunday on Zoom with a Virtual Fellowship to Follow.



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Rev. Liz Miller and Rev. Dr. Jack Miller - Pastors



Mailing Address:

**308 Barry Loop
Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

(360) 510-9081— Rev. Liz

(360) 318-6068—Rev. Jack

Website: www.mvfcc.org

Email: disciples.mvfcc@gmail.com

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TO: