

A Monthly Publication

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8/1 - Joyce Leak  
8/8 - Don Leak  
8/15 - Jim Paget  
8/22 - June Steen  
8/29 - Joyce Leak

Worship Leaders

8/1 - June Steen  
8/8 - Liz Miller  
8/15 - Marcie Labo  
8/22 - Nona Carter  
8/29 - Don Leak

Coming Events

8/8 - Church Picnic  
And Outdoor Wor-  
ship Service



# The Messenger

First Christian Church—Mount Vernon  
and St. Clare Chapel

*Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2021

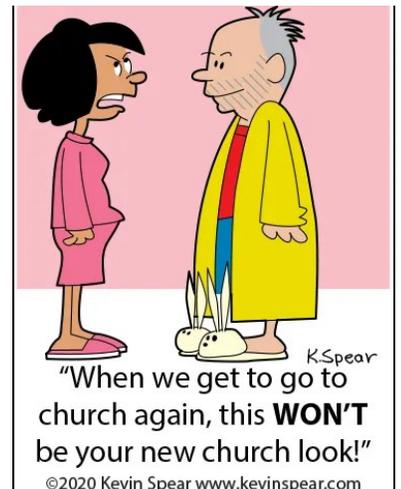
**Will Rogers** once said, "*Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.*" He is right here, we are a people of the clock who seem to disdain idleness as if it were the eleventh commandment.

Our problem is we live in a world where experts have engineered out all the breathing room. Our laborsaving appliances fail to save us from laboring, our communications technology creates barriers in communicating instead of bringing us together, and our leisure time is filled with more and more things to do. "Come away with me and rest a while," Jesus is saying to us today. This is good advice for all of us. Jesus knows that we are only human. He knows that we need to rest now and then. He doesn't expect us to work night and day. Jesus encourages us, as he did his disciples, to build some quiet space and time into our busy lives. Jesus calls us to seek out our own deserted

places where we can find self renewal. Far away from the clamor of the marketplace and the demands of our calendars and to-do lists, we need time and space to hear the voice of God speaking in the quiet of our hearts. We need to put aside our angers and fears, our egos and desire for control, in order to re-center our lives in the things of God; to re-create ourselves and our world in the compassion of Christ.

We are a people of the clock and often overwhelmed by our busy lives. Will Rogers was right, we seem to feel the necessity to be busy all the time; working diligently to save time only to find ways to fill the time we have saved with new tasks to do. "Come away with me and rest a while," Jesus is saying to us today, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will be your place of refuge. In remembering the words of the 23rd psalm, it is Jesus who brings us to the peaceful pastures of rest

and in whose presence our soul is restored. Let us find time for him in our busy lives; let us find a quiet place each day where we can hear his still small voice whispering in our hearts. Let our souls be restored. Let his love, that surpasses all understanding, embrace us and bring us peace.



**Sunday, August 8, 2021**

10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Outdoor Worship Service  
and Church Picnic



**And the Preacher said ...**

*"Ah, I have kept Him waiting when I ought not, but He has waited even then. Always waiting - so patient with my foolishness, my weakness, my fear. Our fellowship is with God, and fellowship is friendship, and friendship means that partnership which, on His part, is the accommodating of His strength to my weakness."*

G. Campbell Morgan - British evangelist, preacher and a leading Bible scholar. (1863-1945)

*“Our deepest thanks to the First Christian Church in Mount Vernon for their generous donation! It was a heartwarming reception and we are so humbled by your generosity and kindness.”*

Bill Henkel  
Executive Director

*“Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see”*

## Paying it Forward!

After the recent sale of our property and with the unanimous support of our membership, proceeds are being distributed to different organizations in the area that we have supported over the years. One such organization is Community Action of Skagit County, located here in Mount Vernon. Community Action is a private, nonprofit, serving homeless and low-income families and individuals. Their mission is to help people improve their lives through education, support, and direct assistance while advocating for just and equitable communities.



Pictured from left to right: Beverly Madlung, Nona Carter, June Steen and Bill Henkel.

## Hymn Story - “Open my Eyes ...”



Psalm 119:18 is a prayer for spiritual insight. It asks God, *“Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”* Reading that verse inspired Clara Fiske Scott to write the hymn *“Open My Eyes.”*

Clara understood, and helped

countless others to understand, that it is more blessed to give than to receive — and that we, as Christians, are called to share the good news that we have received. Clara wrote a number of other hymns, and even published a book entitled, *Truth in Song for Lovers of Truth* — but *“Open My Eyes”* is the hymn for which she is remembered today.

Clara published *“Open My Eyes”* in 1895. Two years later, as she was riding in a carriage, her horse was spooked and began running crazily through the streets. Clara was thrown from the carriage and killed. Reflecting on that, one of her biographers commented that she never knew how popular her hymn, *“Open My Eyes”* had become, or just how many people have

been blessed by the hymn that she wrote so late in her life.

Lectonary.org - 2007,  
Richard Niell Donovan

### Did You Know

August has two birthstones: peridot and sardonyx. Peridot is among the oldest known gemstones and is green in color. Sardonyx, which is lesser-known, is a white- and brown-banded gemstone once believed to have mystical powers. The official flower for August is the gladiolus.

# Women in Christian History: Anna the Prophetess ...



**Anna the Prophetess**  
A painting by Faith Cotter

The Gospel of Luke (2: 36-38) depicts Anna's meeting near the Temple with the Holy Family. Clearly, she is a woman deserving the honor bestowed on the elderly in the ancient Mediterranean world of Jesus' time. The title *prophetess* heads her description, and in this she outranks Simeon, a man praised as being righteous and devout. Anna is the New Testament's only named female prophetess. Unlike Simeon, Anna's speech is narrated, but no less powerful. While Simeon speaks of the larger context of the child's outreach, Anna evangelizes immediately; to those "*looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*" As a prophetess, Anna receives insight into things that normally remain hidden to ordinary people; she recognizes who this child is and tells of his significance to the people in Jerusalem. Her actions affirm the prophet Amos who wrote (3:7): "*Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets.*"

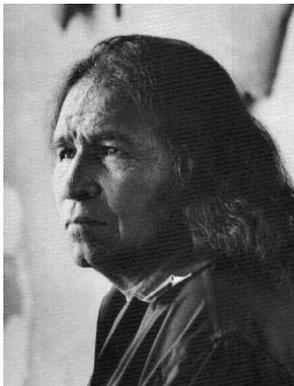
Luke dwells on Anna's advanced age, as do many scholars. Let's simply agree with the text: she is well advanced in years; perhaps more than 100 years old.



## Financial Report:

Income (June):	\$2,926.04
Expenses (June):	\$3,605.87
Rental Account:	\$5,227.08 (as of June 30th)
General Fund Balance:	\$667,216.07 (as of June 30th)*
Fidelity Balance:	\$34,318.51 (as of April 30th)
Reserve Balance:	\$10,221.93 (as of April 30th)

\*In April 2021 the sale of the brick building was completed. Thereafter, the Trustees met several times to develop a plan for the proper disbursement of the proceeds of that sale which total \$650,000.00. They were assisted by Monica Myers Greenberg from the Christian Church Foundation (CCF). A document was provided to the congregation describing the proposal that was crafted and submitted to the MVFCC General Board. The Board agreed with this plan and recommended approval during the Congregational Meeting of June 13, 2021. The vote by the congregation was unanimous in favor of the proposal. The April letter is available upon request and provides details of the distribution of the proceeds.



## *Native American Wisdom:*

"I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, But rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and all humankind."

Sun Bear, Chippewa Medicine Man (1929-1992)

# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Zoom 10:30am	2	3	4	5	6	7 Disciples Virtual Gathering
8 <b>Outdoor Worship &amp; Picnic 10:30am</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Zoom 10:30am	16	17 Men's Breakfast	18	19	20	21
22 Zoom 10:30am	23	24	25 Gal's Luncheon	26	27	28
29 Zoom 10:30am	30	31				

## July Events, Birthdays & Anniversaries

### August Birthdays

- } 8/3- Eddie Hankins
- } 8/8 - Larry Labo
- } 8/15 - June Steen
- } 8/21 - Jack Hutcheson
- } 8/25 - Laura Schmidt
- } 8/29 - Quentin Salinas
- } 8/30 - Krista Madlung
- }

### August Anniversaries

- } 8/3 - Ryan & Valerie Thornburg
  - } 8/17 - Art & Susan Neumarkel
  - } 8/21 - Jack & Rita Hutcheson
  - } 8/28 - Paul & Ardys Adams
- ### August Events
- } 8/7 - Disciples Virtual Gathering
  - } 8/17 - Men's Breakfast
  - } 8/25 - Gal's Luncheon

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



**First Christian Church - Mount Vernon  
and St. Clare Chapel**

*Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith*

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



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**TO:**