I’m struggling with prayer. I sit and say, “I don’t know what to say. I don’t know what to say,” she told the monk. The monk smiled and said, ‘‘I don’t know what to say.’ Monks pray that prayer every day!”

Join us this Lenten season as we seek to embrace the gift of prayer, praying as we can and not as we can’t.

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter. The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo–Saxon word “lencten”, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of “spring.” Lent first began as a time of preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Many people give up something for Lent. Others take on something such as prayer, fasting, study of scripture, or opportunities to serve. Just as we actively prepare for significant events in our lives such as a birthday or wedding, Lent invites us to actively prepare to remember Jesus’ life, death, and glorious resurrection.

Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesday, February 26 // 6:45 PM // Sanctuary
We begin our forty-day journey of praying, fasting, and repentance with the imposition of ashes and the words, “From dust you came, and to dust you shall return.”

Maundy Thursday Worship
Thursday, April 9 // 6:45 PM // Sanctuary
We remember Jesus and his disciples in the upper room where they shared the Last Supper and Jesus washed the feet of the disciples.

Good Friday Worship
Friday, April 10 // 6:45 PM // Sanctuary
We remember Jesus dying on a cross.

Easter Sunday Worship
Sunday, April 12 // 11:00 AM // Sanctuary
We proclaim Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

SPACE FOR GRACE MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Wednesdays during Lent, March 4 - April 1 // 6:45 – 7:30 PM // Fellowship Hall
Experience worship and reflection each Wednesday during Lent. This midweek gathering is designed to help you experience the wilderness of Lent through repetitive sung prayers in the style of Taizé and will feature Lenten devotions written by the MVP community. Space for Grace is an ideal transition from an over-scheduled day to a restful evening and does not require special skill or knowledge. You are invited to simply come and be.
OPENING DAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY
Thursday, March 26
6:45 - 8:00 PM // Fellowship Hall
Come and join the fun in the Fellowship Hall for an Opening Day Neighborhood Party. Invite all of your neighbors to come and celebrate community with us with a ballpark-themed meal, games, and more! Contact Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) to RSVP, receive more information, or get involved in the planning.

EASTER POTLUCK
Sunday, April 12
Following Worship // Fellowship Hall
It’s time for MVP’s Annual Easter Lunch potluck! This lunch provides an opportunity to welcome and feed many people. The church will provide fried chicken. You are invited to bring sides and sweets to share. If you’re able to bring extra sides, help with set up or clean up, contact Chelsea (rivascr89@gmail.com).

MINISTRY GATHERING
Monday, February 24 // 6:45 - 8:15 PM // Fellowship Hall
It’s time to get to work! As part of the new leadership structure, Ministry Gatherings bring all of MVP’s ministry teams together to fulfill the words seen on the front of the building: “Worship, Service, Justice.” MVP has set some ambitious ministry goals for 2020 and the church needs your gifts to bring them to fruition. Ministry areas include Connect, Faith Formation, Reconciling Ministries, Serve/Justice, and Worship. Please contact Patrick Rowley (cprowley@gmail.com), Lay Leader, with any questions.

LENTEN STUDIES
40 DAYS OF DOUBT LENTEN STUDY
Sundays, March 1 - April 5
9:45 -10:45 AM
Office Suite Conference Room
Do you ever wonder whether you’re really a Christian? Are you more familiar with skepticism and doubt than assurance and certainty? Do you ever feel like an outsider? Join Christine Browder on Sunday mornings for a six-week Lenten study on 40 Days of Doubt by Eric Huffman to explore how to cope with and find answers to our questions during times of doubt. Contact Christine Browder (Christine_Browder@alumni.baylor.edu) for more information. Books available for purchase on Amazon.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
Wednesday Evenings, March 4 - April 8
7:30 - 8:30 PM
Office Suite Conference Room
Looking to explore how our faith and Lenten journeys intersect with eco-justice and creation care this Lent? Join Olivia Warren for a six-week Lenten study on For the Beauty of the Earth by Leah Schade. Drawing on the beloved hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth,” this study will focus on different aspects of finding God in the splendor and our call to be stewards of creation. Contact Olivia Warren (owarren1474@gmail.com) for more information. Books available for purchase on Amazon.
CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Every Third Sunday
12:30 - 1:30 PM // 3rd Floor Music Suite

The Children’s Choir rehearses every third Sunday and sings in worship on the Fourth Sunday of every month. No musical experience is needed. All interested children are invited to attend. Please contact Timothy Nelson (timothy@mvpumc.org) or Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) to RSVP or for more information.

GIVING BACK AT EASTER EGG HUNT

April 12 // 1:00 PM // B1 Level

Children and Families are invited to participate in an indoor MVP Easter Egg Hunt (due to construction). Eggs will be filled with both candy and “Give Back at Easter Bucks.” The children will choose one of our community partners that work with children to give their “Easter Bucks.” Every “buck” given by a child will count toward $1 being given to that organization. Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets, but there will also be a limited number available. Please contact Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) for more information or if you would like to give to support one of our community partners that work with children in DC.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every other Sunday
9:45 -10:45 AM // B103A

Youth who are in 5th grade or beyond are invited to join Olivia Warren for Learning to Study the Bible on March 8, March 22, and April 5 to learn more about how to read, reflect on, and learn from the Bible. Please RSVP to Olivia (owarren1474@gmail.com) to receive more information.

Sunday School is for children ages 3 and up. Our Sunday School curriculum, Deep BLUE Kids, is designed to help children Be with God, Love God and neighbor, Understand themselves as children of God, and Explore faith and the Bible. Check in for children begins at 9:30am in the B1 Lounge. Musical kickoff starts at 9:40am. Children then move into age appropriate classes at 9:50am to discover what the Bible has to teach about being a person of faith in a community and how to share God’s love with others. Parents retrieve children from Sunday School at 10:45am following snacks and a closing send-off.

Infants and toddlers age 3 and under may be cared for in the nursery behind the Sanctuary. The nursery is available from 10:45am to the close of worship.

Children of all ages are abundantly welcome in worship in the sanctuary. The MVP Children’s Library (in the hallway behind the organ) is available with books, children’s worship packs, and other resources for children to use in worship. Following the children’s blessing, if families prefer that their children not be in worship, Faith4Me is offered for children between the ages of 4 and 10 years old in B103A. Children should be brought to Faith4Me by a member of their family and be promptly picked up following worship.

If you are interested in serving or participating in the children’s ministry, please contact Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org).
SHOWER MINISTRY

Located below our Sanctuary, the Shower Ministry provides our unhoused neighbors an opportunity to come inside for a hot shower, toiletries, undergarments, continental breakfast, coffee, and community.

5 WAYS TO SERVE

1. OPEN OR CLOSE (Thursday or Sunday Morning // Time Commitment: 1.5 - 2 hours)
   Volunteers distribute towels, make coffee, set out breakfast items, and clean showers/bathrooms.

2. RESTOCK & ORGANIZE (Flexible-Weekly // Time Commitment: 1 hour)
   Volunteers replenish socks, underwear, toiletries, and coffee supplies between shifts.

3. SORT TOILETRIES (Flexible-Occasional // Time Commitment: 1 - 2 hours)
   Volunteers sort and clean donated toiletries for distribution. This is an easy project for a group.

4. PURCHASE Reimbursable SUPPLIES (Flexible // Time Commitment: 2 - 3 hours)
   Volunteers make bulk purchases of supplies, transport, and unload at MVP. Then they make sure to submit their receipts with reimbursement form to MVP.

5. PROVIDE BOILED EGGS (Flexible-Weekly // Time Commitment: 1 - 2 hours)
   Volunteers boil 30 eggs and bring them to the fridge on B1 prior to shifts.

For more information or to sign up to serve email showerministry@gmail.com.

SERVE/JUSTICE

SERVE WITH JUBILEE JOBS

Saturday, March 21
8:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Join fellow MVPers at Jubilee Jobs in Adams Morgan where we will help with resume preparation, job applications, and mock interviews. Since 1981, Jubilee Jobs has been connecting employers across the Washington, DC region with qualified and well prepared clients, helping 26,000 people find employment. Come help Jubilee Jobs grow that number and make a meaningful difference in the life of someone who is seeking to find gainful employment. Please contact Hector Diaz (hecdiaz@gmail.com) for more information or to RSVP.

Nurturing A Vocation of Justice: Anti-Racism Training

Sunday, March 8 // 12:30 - 3:30 PM

Have you been inspired to do something meaningful by MVP’s February sermon series “The Power of a Prophet?” Are you interested in becoming a better ally, learning more about how to be a part of liberation, or building up the courage to stand in radical solidarity with people of color? You are invited to join the Spiritual Growth and Development Team and the Racial Justice Reading Group for a seminar training led by Michelle Ledder, Director of Equity and Anti-Racism for the General Commission on Religion and Race. RSVPs are required, and a light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) or Kelsey Gheen (kgheen1990@gmail.com) to RSVP or for more information.
The Chancel Choir leads our congregation in song each Sunday, offers special music, and provides a place for community and prayer through music. The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall and provides a flexible format for those who also participate in a class and need to step out at 9:45pm. Our choir is based on heart, and no musical experience is necessary. For questions or more information, or just to have a coffee, contact Timothy Nelson (timothy@mvpumc.org). Please also reach out to Timothy if you have a gift you want to share—instrumental, vocal, dance, drama, or art. There is a space for you!

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES AND SMALL GROUPS**

**WIRED WORD SMALL GROUP**

**Sunday Mornings // 9:45 -10:45 AM // B1 Lounge**

The Wired Word group gathers in the B1 Lounge on Sundays at 9:45am. Discussions focus on the intersection of current events and scripture passages, and their relationship to our daily lives. Please contact Shawn Edwards (shawnedwardsindc@gmail.com) for additional information.

**PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN SMALL GROUP**

**Sunday Mornings // March 1, 15, & 29 // 9:45 – 10:45 AM // B103A**

Parents, please join us in B103A for an open discussion-based group to explore together the challenges and joys of being parents and share a time of fellowship and support. Please contact Charles (dc.charles@gmail.com) and Caroline Anderson-Gray (caroline.canderso@gmail.com) for more information. (Special Note: Nursery Sunday School available the weeks the group meets.)

**SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**

**Sunday Mornings // 9:45 - 10:40 AM // Don Graham Community Room**

Adults of all ages gather to engage in rich, sometimes challenging, and always interesting faith conversations with one another using Bible study as our springboard. The current study sequence focuses on the theme of life: suffering, salvation, and grace. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be a part of the conversation, including parents who might be bringing children to Sunday School. Please know you are welcome! Contact William Matson (WJMinDC@gmail.com) for more information.
GROW IN FAITH

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES AND SMALL GROUPS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
Monday Evenings // 6:45 - 8:15 PM // Office Suite Conference Room
This Bible-based study group is open to anyone who is interested in deepening their faith through the intentional study of the Bible. Join us as we explore a biblical vision of economic justice using Covenant Economics: A Biblical Vision of Justice for All by Richard Horsley. Please contact Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) if you are interested in joining or would like more information.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP
Wednesday Mornings // 7:30 - 8:30 AM // Office Suite Conference Room
The Wednesday Morning Small Group is facilitated by Pastor Donna and gathers to study the scriptures that will be read in worship that week, talk about their meanings for our life, share in prayer, and hold each other accountable. All are welcome! Please contact Pastor Donna (donna@mvpumc.org) for more information.

WELL WOMEN SMALL GROUP
First & Third Wednesdays // 6:45 - 8:00 PM // B1 Lounge
What are you thirsting for? Relationships? Acceptance? Community? Forgiveness? Healing? Boldness? Economic security? More balance? Vocational clarity? The Well Women Small Group is for women who want to be filled with good news when they are struggling with the pressures of life. In the Bible, women not only collected water from the well, but developed community, too. All women are invited to come as we seek to transform our lives and make our spirit whole. Please contact Kristin Schol (krschol@gmail.com) for more information.

YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUP
Thursday Evenings // 6:45 - 8:30 PM // B1 Lounge
The Young Adult Small Group is a discussion-based group that focuses on creating authentic community, meaningful relationship building, and practicing a variety of spiritual disciplines. This group meets bi-weekly for study and meets for a social activity or service project on the weeks when they do not meet for study. Please contact Thomas Bryan (thomas.craig.bryan@gmail.com) or Lee Schriber (lee@mvpumc.org) for a complete schedule or more information.

Just as Jesus Christ invited everyone, we seek to faithfully extend Christ’s life-giving welcome to all people. Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church recognizes that diversity is one of the greatest expressions of God’s creativity, presence, and grace. As a congregation, we are grateful for the many differences apparent in our community and in our experiences of God. We welcome all people into the life of this church, and celebrate and give thanks for our diversity of race, ethnicity, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical and mental ability, faith background, economic status, appearance, marital condition, political persuasion, education, and life experience. We hope you will join us as we continue to discover how we can most faithfully include, learn from, and grow with all people in our community. Gracious God, help us to see what you are doing in your kingdom, and enable us to be a part of it. Amen.