



The Circuit Rider

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

304 1st Street SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

www.umcmv.com

email: umcmv@mchsi.com

January 2017



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I pray God's grace and peace for you. January is often a month we think of as a time to start fresh. As we consider this fresh start this year, we will begin a year-long sermon series through the book of Acts. So often we jump through scripture so quickly that we miss interesting nuggets and points that we could ruminate on for the purpose of transformation. In this sermon series we will look at the early church. We will wander through the pages of Acts, and the 28 chapters asking questions of it. We will read about real people who had real experiences, and experienced real miracles. We will read about the faith of the early church, and how they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. We will read about what Jesus Christ taught the church, and their experiences with Jesus Christ. We will see how they went back to the Old Testament for encouragement, hope, understanding, prophecy, and knowledge. We will look at the struggles of the people, and see how God calls them to stay true to the Lord. We will see how they are empowered by the Holy Spirit that works within them. We will experience transformation if we are willing to surrender ourselves to this word. We will learn from it, pray through it, and be transformed by it. This is key to our discipleship journey.

As another key part of our discipleship journey we launched Life Groups a year ago. We currently have five active Life Groups. These are wonderful places to share your life and grow in your faith with others. The key question is asked: "how is it with your soul?" We desire to launch another 1-2 groups this January and February. If you are interested in getting connected with a group, please let me know. I'll be thrilled to get you connected. Friends, we often try to do life alone, but it is hard, and it doesn't work well. That is not how God created us. We were created to journey in community. We inspire, encourage, support, and strengthen one another. We need to talk about our faith, and this is a wonderful way to do so.

Last year was a key year in growing in our Mission field. Now, in addition to our wonderful partnerships with local missions such as Women at the Well, South East Linn Community Center, and Mission of Hope. We have new-found friends in Romania at Super Kids Day Center. Please keep praying for them, as children are selected to begin attending the Day Center, and many lives are transformed through the loving acts of an after school program, Bible Studies, family care, and a meal and clothing as there is need. Discipleship is also defined by our acts of service, and our generosity. Thank you for your great love and support for this ministry.

There are many things that distract us from our walk of discipleship with our Lord. One of these distractions is found in the challenges currently brewing in the world-wide United Methodist Church. In February of 2019 there will be a special general conference held to discuss and make decisions on the best way forward for the UMC. This link will lead you to an article that will describe the challenges facing the UMC today. (<https://wesleyancovenant.org/2017/12/07/unity-and-division/>.) There are many resources available to us to help us have conversations about who we are as the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. Not unlike other churches, we have a variety of opinions and theologies within this conversation. We will spend some time in 2018 having conversations about our future. I do pray that in the midst of the conversations we will offer love and grace for one another, and that together we can discuss and study with the purpose of understanding who God is, and what God is calling us to.

In the midst of the struggle of the church, and the struggle of our understanding of God through his word, it is absolutely vital that we do not lose our focus. Let's stay on track on this discipleship journey. We are to keep our eyes fixed on the author and perfecter of our faith. The one who came to earth as an infant, Jesus Christ, Immanuel. Let us not lose our focus on our Savior, our Redeemer, our Everlasting Father, and our Great Counselor! I hope and pray that January will be a time of rejuvenation for you, as you find your routine once again.

Please join me in reading through the 28 chapters of Acts in 2018. I believe God's word to be living and active. I believe it to be the authoritative word of God. I believe that this word will come alive to you as we study, and learn. I believe we will learn more about our own story, as we come to know the story of the Church, our people, and the story of our God. Let's not lose our focus, but let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us lean into the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within you and me.

Bless you, dear ones, Joy Mitchell

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:30 am
Praise
Worship**

**9:45 am Sunday
School**

**10:30 am
Fellowship Time
Common Ground**

**11am
Traditional
Worship**



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

9 Week Training

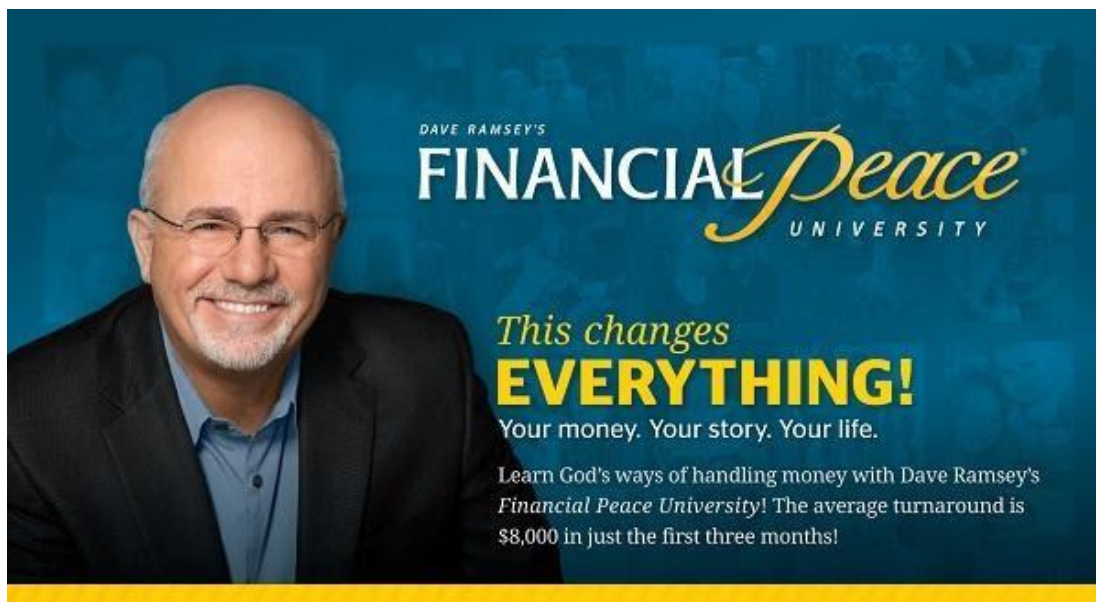
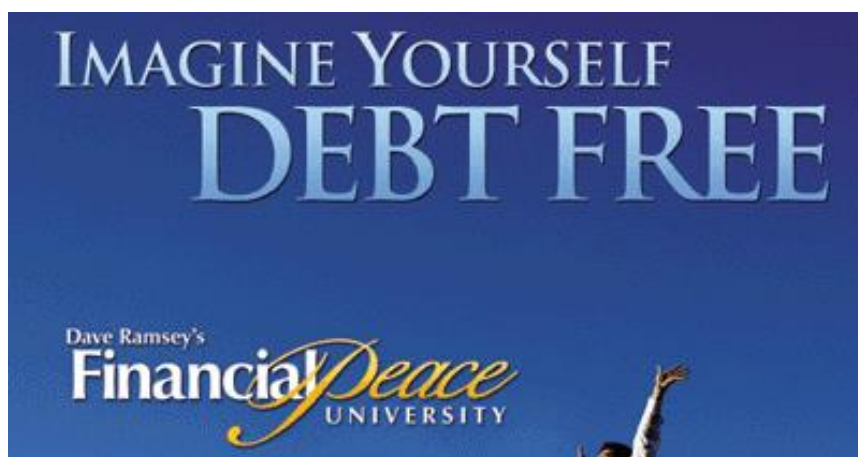
Starting January 9, 2018 Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Class to be held in the Balcony Classroom

Childcare will be provided - GET SIGNED UP TODAY!

Led by Angie Watson

When you purchase a *Financial Peace University* (FPU) membership, you receive all the class materials and access to the FPU online resources you need to succeed. Your membership means that you can attend the FPU class as often as you like. Spouses and engaged couples can attend together with a single membership, and teens living at home are welcome to attend with their parents. Classes are held once per week for nine weeks.



Classes are 1 1/2- 2 hours long. First half of class Dave Ramsey teaches on the DVD. During the second half, class members come together for a small-group discussion and hands-on activities. Group members support and encourage each other as they work to change their financial futures.

Sign up for this class by going to: <https://fpu.com/1052842>

This gets you signed up for our class and you get a \$20 discount off the regular price. If you're interested in learning more about the class, contact Angie Watson (angie-watson@hotmail.com or 319-430-3519).



Curious about ringing a bell?

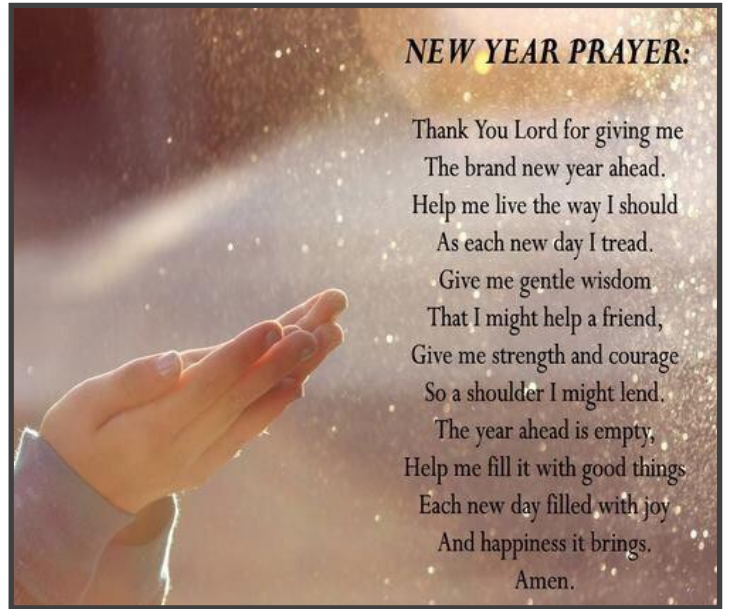
Our bell choir has 2 openings looking for a person wanting to explore the bells. Each ringer covers 2 bells.

Reading music is helpful, but we can work around it too!

We have men and women ringers.

Contact the office if interested!

On behalf of the pastors and staff, a huge and heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for all that you do, and to the entire congregation for your support. We wish you a joyous, healthy and happy New Year!



January 2018 Anniversaries

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-13



Walt & Sharon Krambeck	01/05
Ray & Nancy Reasland	01/26



Happy January Birthdays!

Clint Stanerson	01/01
Tessa Baty	01/02
Myrt Bowers	
Roselyn Krapfl	
Julie Nosek	01/03
Paige Roos	01/04
Lauren Adams	01/05
Kerry Kahl	01/07
Richard Peters	
Janet Griffith	01/08
Ed Fordyce	01/12
Barb Shepley	01/13
Karlyn Connolly	01/15
Lara Cooper	01/16
Camden Meyer	01/19
Robbin Rekemeyer	
Angie Swartzendruber	

Bill Bacher	01/20
Terry Pisarik	
Teresa Stewart	
Ben Alger	01/21
Shellie Kamaus	
Harrison Voigt	01/22
Rosa Moss	01/23
Judy Stine	
Breanna Niec	01/25
Hagen Waters	
Alexander Davis	01/26
Fred Lehman	
Lily Booth	01/27
Kaden Caspers	
Ruth Deskin	01/28
Gentry Barber	01/29
Emily Stamp	
Kolsie Bixler	01/31
Randy Harman	
Elizabeth Mcwilliams	

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Mission Trip Update:

Cheyenne was an little girl from the church who was diagnosed with cancer and had just returned from initial treatments at St. Judes with no hair and weakened body. She was still smiling, however, and a sweet little girl. I had her in one of the children's groups I worked with. UPDATE: She is doing great. Goes for regular checkups, cancer free. Thank you all so much for your prayers for her, she has felt them for sure. Merry Christmas!!

-- Karen Stewart



TO: Our
Sunday
School &
Youth Group

Carolers on December 20th

From Lisbon Rehabilitation
Center--

They did a great job last
night! Thank you for the
blankets! They are
beautiful!

Thank you to all those who donated gifts to SE Linn Families through our Angel Tree! What a great outpouring of love to our neighbors!

As our thanks to all and to wish you
a very merry Christmas, we have
songs of joy for you this holiday
season!

[Click Here!](https://youtu.be/5rNrI--RAyY)

<https://youtu.be/5rNrI--RAyY>

Thank you to Ben Klaus who has been leading our Praise Team for the last several years! He has a great new opportunity with his work, which will require more of his time and energy, therefore, he will be stepping down from his role as Praise Team Director effective December 24th. He has done a wonderful job of encouraging our praise team, and offering vocal expertise. Thank you, Ben!

Pastor Mark Johnson will be stepping in to help support the Praise Team temporarily. If you know of anyone looking for a part time worship leader, please send them to the church office, to Pastor Joy, or to the SPRC chair, Steve Miller. Andy Knapp will continue to lead the youth group when Pastor Mark's is unavailable due to Praise Team Rehearsal.

January 2018 @ United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	1 New Year's Day- Offices Closed	2 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Common Ground and Main Floor Classrooms	3 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Youth Group- middle school & high school, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room	4	5	6 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
7 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 1:30 PM Girl Scouts Cookie Training, Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting- Fellowship Hall	8 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	9 11:30 AM Staff Meeting - Chapel Room 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Common Ground and Main Floor Classrooms	10 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Youth Group- middle school & high school, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room	11	12	13 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
14 UMCOR Human Relations Offering 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room	15 6:00 PM Church Committees - Night of Meetings, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Classrooms or Common Ground Meeting Room	16 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Common Ground and Main Floor Classrooms	17 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Youth Group- middle school & high school, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room	18	19	20 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
21 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room	22 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Balcony Classroom	23 11:30 AM Staff Meeting - Chapel Room 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Common Ground and Main Floor Classrooms	24 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Youth Group- middle school & high school, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room	25	26 7:00 PM St. Paul CR Confirmation Retreat - Tentative	27 7:00 PM St. Paul CR Confirmation Retreat - Tentative 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
28 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM St. Paul CR Confirmation Retreat - Tentative	29 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	30 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Common Ground and Main Floor Classrooms	31 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Youth Group- middle school & high school, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room	1	2	3 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall

Online Calendar [Link](https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/73972454) <https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/73972454>

Special Offerings Updates

Special Giving in December

SE Linn Food Offering \$3,800

Women at the Well
(Benefit Praise Concert) \$ 1,050

Thank You!

January Special Offerings

January 14 Human Relations Sunday

What is “Human Relations” Sunday?

Human Relations Sunday is one of the six Sundays of giving requested by the world-wide Methodist Church. The request comes from UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

This year’s offering will focus on supporting community workers in areas of the United States and Puerto Rico for Youth Offender Rehabilitation and working with issues of oppression and justice.

Special envelopes will be in your bulletin.



Church Offices will be closed Friday December 29 and January 1st for the New Years Holiday.

Thanks!

Christian Education

Our Sunday school classes did tons of



*celebrating!
What cutie little
angels filled our*

*preschool class this
December!*

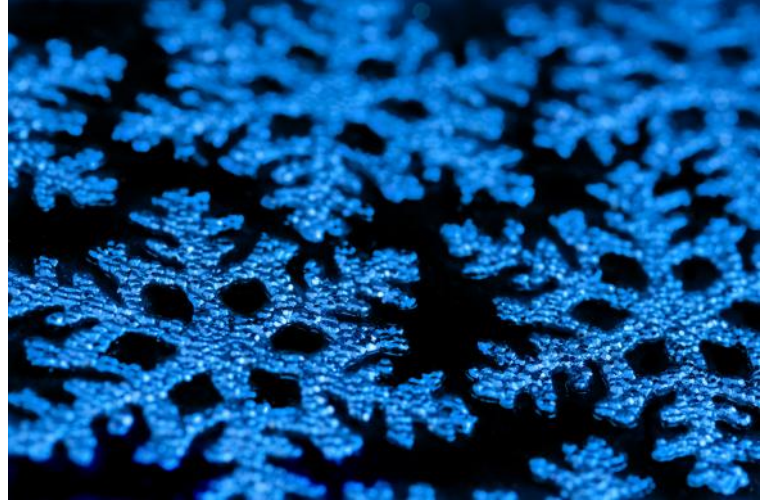


Prayer List

The following family and friends are in need of PRAYERS:

Prayers for Healing:

- Walt Krambeck
- Mike Hines
- Ruth Reckling
- Tom Traynor
- Stella Pata
- Dale Martin
- Dick Peters
- Marion Lehman
- Beth Johnson
- Tiffany Snodgrass
- Rohn Shepley
- Marsha Light
- Mike Duroe



Prayers for Loss:

- The family of Lorna Knapp (mother of UMCMV youth director - Andy Knapp)
- The family of Jeff Butterbaugh (wife - Kristine, sons - Cam and Rylan)

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For people who are dealing with self doubt and worry
- For those who are struggling this Holiday Season
- For all who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend
- Brooklyn and the Wattleworth/Myers/Whitley family

Prayers for Safety and God's Guidance:

- Hannah Moss, currently participating in basic training at Great Lakes.
- Staff Sergeant Thayer Studt and his unit, serving overseas in the US Army
- For all students (preschool through college)

Prayers for Transition:

- For all who are mourning the loss of a loved one as we enter this holiday season.
- For those in the midst of changing seasons of life.

Dustin Clapp (home from incarceration - please pray for him as he transitions back into mainstream life. Also prayers of strength and comfort for his family members as they support him.)

Prayers for Sustenance:

- For the people of Sibiu (Romania) who are struggling to clothe and feed their children
- Agape Ministry in Cedar Rapids (leader Abraham Boniface)
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and care receivers
- UMCMV pastors, staff, lay leader, and committee members
- UMCMV Life Group ministry
- Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids, volunteers and attendees

Women at the Well United Methodist Church, Pastor Lee Schott, and the women of Iowa Correctional Institute for Women

Prayers for our World:

- For victims of violence
- For all who have been traumatized by the hurricanes, wildfires and earthquakes.
- The United Methodist Church

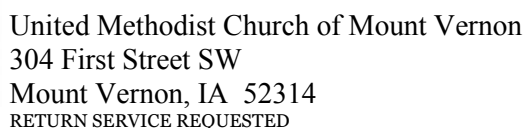
Unity among all humanity

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- For beautiful Christmas music (and each amazing musician) that fills our church during this Holiday Season.
- For all the blessings God provides us throughout our day, both seen and unseen
- Jesus Christ was born in a manger - thank you God!

January 2018 Worship Assistants

January 7th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 7th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Ron & Ann Coe	Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Jim Wallace
West Door Greeters:	Sydney Pratt	West Door Greeters:	Dan Hakken
Worship Assistants:	Guardado Family (4)	Worship Assistants:	Johnson Family (3)
Coffee Host:	Sherryl Osborn	Lector:	Kristi Keast
Communion Assis-	Lauren Swartzendruber &	Communion Assistants	TBD
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert	Nursery:	Rosa Moss
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacobs
January 14th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 14th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Matt & Teresa Stewart	Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Jan White
West Door Greeters:	Eric & LeAnn Briesemeister	West Door Greeters:	Kay Graber
Worship Assistants:	Krapfl Family (5)	Worship Assistants:	Hunter Family and Steve & Ruth
		Lector:	Babs Moore
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Coffee Host:	Vern & Arlene Sand
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace
January 21st at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 21st at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Nancy Reasland	Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Mike Kragenbrink
West Door Greeters:	Dan & Cathy Stoner	West Door Greeters:	Suzette Kragenbrink
Worship Assistants:	Hoffman Family (5)	Worship Assistants:	Nydegger Family
		Lector:	Dan Hakken
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
		Slide Presenter:	Jackie Morrical
Slide Presenter:	Bonnie Moore	Coffee Host:	Cindy Strong
January 28th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 28th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	TBD	Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Jan White
West Door Greeters:	Alison Dix	West Door Greeters:	Bonnie Keith
Worship Assistants:	Traynors, Ed Timm & Kevin	Worship Assistants:	John & Mary Jane McWilliams &
		Lector:	Karen Stewart
Nursery:	Emily Davis	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Slide Presenter:	Trude Elliott
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host:	Ann Booth



Senior Pastor	Joy Mitchell
Associate Pastor/Christian	
Education Director	Mark Johnson
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter	Alison Dix
Admin. Asst./ Membership	Jo Harman
Nursery Care.	Melissa Oxley
Praise Team Director	
Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .	Kristi Keast
Organist/Pianist	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Joleen Woods
Custodian	Rosa Moss
Maintenance & Repair Director . . .	Trustees
Wedding Coordinator	Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries	Richard Jacob, & Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	Mike Kragenbrink Alison Dix



Join us for Sunday Worship each week as we explore the Book of Acts of the Apostles.

*Learn from our brothers and sisters who
started the church on how to be a witness
to Jesus Christ!*