



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.* Telephone: 319.895.6286



www.umcmv.com

email: alisondix@umcmv.com

March 2018

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

What a gift it is to worship together, as we dive more deeply into the season of Lent. March is the month that is centered in Lent this year, a season of reflection and preparation. We began with Ash Wednesday, remembering that we were but dust, and to dust we would return. We moved from this right into Acts 2:42-47, a passage of scripture dedicated to the discussion of the fellowship of believers, for the purpose of reflecting on our own fellowship with one another and with our God, the Almighty. I would encourage you to pay attention this month. Look for Christ in the eyes of another believer. Look for Christ in the center of all that you find. Look for Christ everywhere you turn. Pay attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sent to strengthen, lead and guide you and I.

2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This scripture focuses on the movement of worship for the early church. What stands out to you? How is it that your life reflects this movement day by day? Do you recognize the holiness in something as simple and ordinary as sharing a meal with friends? Do you recognize the holiness in sharing with one another? Do you recognize the Holiness in the Awe that comes among all believers? Worship God each and every day. Keep paying attention.

The last Sunday in March will bring us to Palm Sunday where we will celebrate with Jesus, this will take us into Holy Week, where we will have an opportunity to celebrate the Last Supper, Good Friday, and then on the First of April, the great resurrection of our Lord and Savior! You won't want to miss it. It is all glorious indeed.

Keep leaning in, my friends. We are praying for you as we grow together in faith.

Blessings, Pastor Joy Mitchell

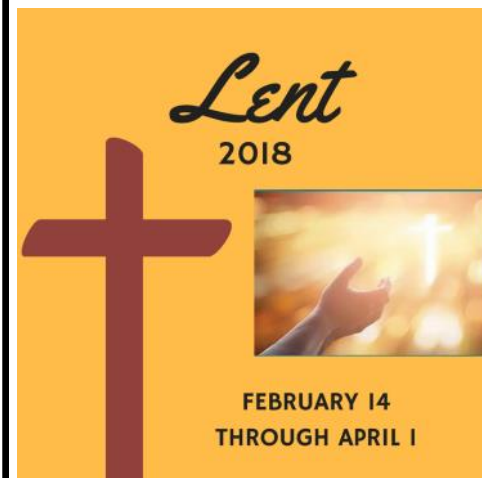
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:30 am
Praise Worship**

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am
Fellowship Time Common
Ground

**11am
Traditional Worship**





For Lent, we continue on our journey through ACTS of the APOSTLES:

Acts 2:42-27

March 4 To Have All Things in Common

March 11 The Gift of Sharing

March 18 Daily Breaking Bread Together

March 25 Praising God

April 1 Easter Sunday—Acts 2:22-33 HE IS RISEN!

ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment update Fourth quarter 2017

The church's endowment funds, most of which are managed by the Iowa United Methodist Foundation (IUMF), benefited from strong market performance in 2017, and earned a return of about 11% for the year. The assets managed by IUMF have increased by about \$70,000 since the account was instituted in 2011. Endowment funds in all accounts totaled about \$225,000 at yearend.

The Endowment Ministry Team will recommend a distribution of some of the profit on our investments to the Church Council at its next meeting. If the Council approves the distribution, they also make the final decision as to how it will be used to further the ministry of the church.

The Endowment Ministry Team gratefully accepts bequests and other legacy gifts from members and friends of the church. A gift to endowment "keeps on giving," since the principal of the endowment is never spent; only a portion of the income is distributed, so that the endowment funds can support the church in perpetuity, leaving a legacy to our children's children. Endowment is forever!

Special Offerings Updates

Neighbors in Need Fund - February special offering \$1273

March Special Offerings

UMCOR Sunday -- March 11

SE Linn Bulk Food Drive --

Sundays March 18 and March 25

"An Introduction to Islamic Faith and Culture"

University of Iowa Center for Human Rights

Speakers will be three UI law students

Tuesday March 27 @ 7 pm in the Sanctuary-- All are invited!

March 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



Terry & Susan Pisarik	03/06
Darrell & Donna Jordan	03/16
Jim Rebhuhn & Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn	03/17



Happy March Birthdays!

Brian Bothell	03/02	Melody Lineburg	03/19
Abe Tubbs		Mick Snodgrass	
Melissa Kahl	03/03	Dan Stoner	
Madison Bowling	03/05	Anna Croghan	03/20
Samantha White		Mary Jane McWilliams	
Jase Jaspers	03/06	Janet Ault	03/21
Bev Behrens	03/07	Brittany Ferguson	
Tristyn Holets		Owen Rushford	
Klayton Kahl	03/08	Lillian Hotz	03/22
Suzette Kragenbrink	03/09	Jaylee Jaspers	
Daniel Rekemeyer	03/10	Michael Briesemeister	03/23
Nolan Jackson	03/12	Anna Hoffman	
Kamryn Kahl	03/13	Josie Bothell	03/24
Jan White		John Gee	03/25
Ryley Hoffman	03/15	Michael Woods	
Kellen Johanningmeier		Dick Simmons	03/26
Emily Davis	03/17	Brett Cooper	03/27
Charlie Schaller		Samantha Zehms	03/30
		Amy Jackson	03/31
		Eleanor Kraus	

Lenten Opportunities for Worship

Communion Sunday March 4
March 11, March 18 - Standard Worship

Palm Sunday March 25

8:30 am Praise Service & 11:00 am Traditional Service

Maundy Thursday Worship March 29 @ 6:30 pm

Good Friday Worship March 30 @ 6:30 pm

Holy Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

7:00 am SONrise Service

8:30 am Praise Service

11:00 am Traditional Service

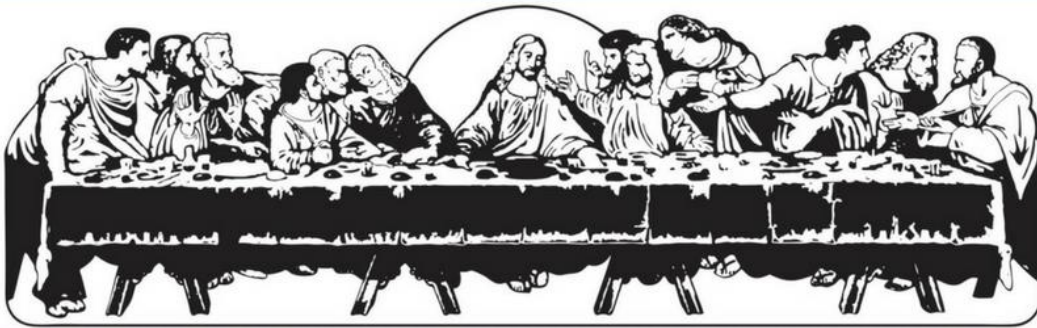


Sunday School Update

There is no Sunday school
March 11 and 18 due to spring break!

Have a great one!





**Among Friends
Performance
will be **ONE** to
SEE!**

**Among Friends:
A Dramatic Adaptation of the
Last Supper
Sunday March 25 at 7:00 pm**

**United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon
304 1st St. SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314**

Wander past our sanctuary doors any Sunday afternoon right now and you are likely to hear men debating rather loudly. It might even sound as if they are arguing. Not to worry. It is thirteen courageous men from our church family, rehearsing the play "Among Friends" written by Dennis Damon-Moore, formerly a member of our congregation. This is a dramatization of the Last Supper drawn from

materials in the four Gospel accounts. After much study of the scriptures, Damon-Moore set out to record his impression of what the conversation around the table might have been. This short play is scheduled to be performed in our sanctuary on Palm Sunday evening, March 25, at 7 p.m.

The dramatization was originally presented in our church in 2000 when Damon-Moore was then the Academic Dean of Cornell and he and his family were members of our church. It has since been repeated in 2006 and 2013. It seemed to be time again to bring it back to life. Always before, it was given on Maundy Thursday evening. In order to make it available to members of our neighboring congregations who have their own services on that night, it has been decided this year to present it on a Sunday evening as a gift to our communities.

Members of the cast are Jeremy Hotz, John McWilliams, Kraig Hunter, Eric Briesemeister, Matt Stewart, Cot Graber, Terry Pisarik, Todd Lineberg, Rik Smith, Bill Micheel, Dan Hakken, Paul Tuerler portraying the twelve disciples. John Bixler will portray Jesus. Barb Shepley is doing the costuming and Babs Moore is directing.

This presentation is guaranteed to add a profound meaning to your Holy Week and Easter. It is free and open to the public. Be sure to mark your calendars for March 25 and invite your friends and neighbors. You will be glad you did and they will thank you!!

The Great Commission; transit to Transylvania!

Jesus gave us the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), his last recorded instructions given to us in the Bible. It is a command, not a suggestion! Our UMC mission statement is based on these vitally important words. In essence, Jesus is telling us we have great news and we can't keep it to ourselves. Yes!

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Do you notice how this command is both relational and verb-filled? Jesus is talking to his beloved disciples (then and now) with the authority granted to Him by His Father. He is talking about the relationship of the Trinity, and God's love of all peoples; every tribe, tongue and nation. He uses verbs like "go", "make", "baptize", "teach". He closes with an assurance of his constant presence until the close of the age. Such a powerful command so full of hope and love for all people!

We get to participate in The Great Commission as we love on The Super Kids Day Center and its staff. The children attending have very limited access to the Gospel; many have not experienced true love or have ever heard of Jesus. Pastor Cristi, his wife Ligia, and social worker Kiki have heard a call to start this day center from nothing, in a city that is foreign to them. They are working against great odds and have felt isolated in their ministry with poor and abandoned children. There are six people from our congregation who will visit Romania May 14-21: Kim Ott, Natalie Ott, Allison Ott, Karen Stoll, Ray and Nancy Reasland. Our purpose is 4-fold:

1. Build a supportive and encouraging relationship between UMCMV and the staff of the Super Kids Day Center.
2. Share God's love and encouragement with the children of the Super Kids Day Center.
3. Determine how UMCMV can best support The Super Kids Day Center in their on-going mission.
4. Create a culture of goers and senders in UMCMV that will allow us to live into our mission statement in a real and tangible way.

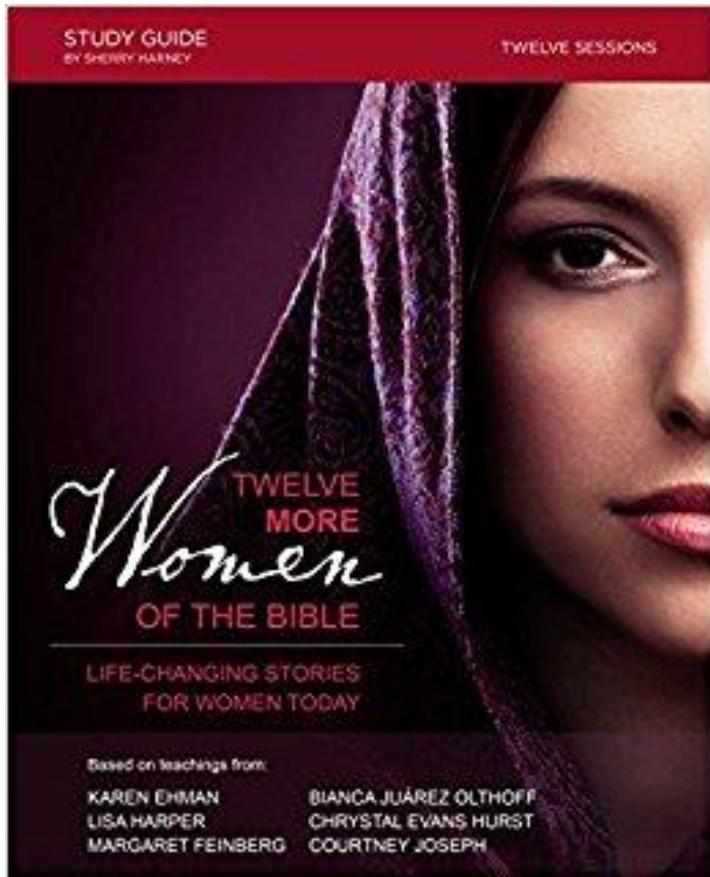


Want to participate in the excitement? We still need acts for the Talent Show on April 7th! Let Babs Moore (895-8512) or Karen Stoll (319-210-7046) know of your interest. Acts of all kinds are welcomed and encouraged! Put April 7th on your calendar for an evening of fun!

March 2018 @ United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 AM Set up -- Mission of Hope Lunch, Cedar Rapids - Serving Noon to 1 pm	2	3 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fel- lowship Hall
4 Pastor Joy message 8:30 AM Praise Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School - Class- rooms & Kitchen 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Com- mon Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 3:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room	5 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	6 2:00 PM UMW Reading Group 6:00 PM Adult Bells, Balcony 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Com- mon Ground and Main Floor Classrooms 6:30 PM Financial Peace Class, Balcony Classroom 8:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanc- tuary	7 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	8	9	10 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fel- lowship Hall
11 Pastor Mark Message UMCOR Sunday Special Offering (Previously One Great Hour of Sharing) 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Com- mon Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room	12 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	13 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Com- mon Ground and Main Floor Classrooms 7:00 PM Trustees meeting, Chapel Room 8:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanc- tuary	14 9:30 AM UMW Boarding Meeting, Chapel Meet- ing Room 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	15	16	17 10:00 AM UMW District Spiritu- al Growth Day, Springville UMC 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fel- lowship Hall
18 SE Linn Bulk Food Special Offering 8:30 AM Praise Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Com- mon Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 3:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM College Dinners @ the Parsonage 6:00 PM Confirmation Class, Youth Group Room	19 6:30 PM Church Committee Night - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	20 6:00 PM Adult Bells, Balcony 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Com- mon Ground and Main Floor Classrooms 7:00 PM Church Coun- cil, Balcony Classroom 7:00 PM Stephen Min- istry- Balcony Class- room 8:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanc- tuary	21 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Class- room 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	22 4:00 PM Fish Fund Discussion Meet- ing, Common Ground Meeting room	23	24 3:00 PM Among Friends practice, Sanc- tuary 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fel- lowship Hall
25 Palm Sunday SE Linn Bulk Food Special Offering 8:30 AM Praise Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School - Class- rooms & Kitchen 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Com- mon Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 7:00 PM Among Friends - A Play about the Last Supper, Sanctuary	26 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Balcony Classroom	27 6:00 PM Adult Bells, Balcony 6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall, Com- mon Ground and Main Floor Classrooms 7:00 PM "An Introduc- tion to Islamic Faith & Culture" - Sanctuary	28 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Class- room 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	29 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday worship	30 6:30 PM Good Fri- day worship	31 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fel- lowship Hall

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



New Bible Study
starting
Wednesday,
March 21st
9:30-11:00am
Balcony Classroom
12 More Women of
the Bible

No Women's Bible Study
Feb. 28, March 7, March 14

Scrip Update

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! So far in 2018 we have raised over \$285 for the general operating expenses of the church! Please put your order form/check in the collection plate or drop them off in the church office.



Save the Date for
Vacation Bible School
2018
June 24 to June 28





What Is Scrip?

Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue for our organization.

How scrip generates revenue for UCMCV

The Great Lakes Scrip Center acts on behalf of churches, schools and other non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from grocery stores, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. Our church buys the scrip from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount (and also from local participating businesses), and re-sells the certificates to families like yours for full face value. The discount - from two to fifteen percent or more - is UCMCV's revenue.

Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"

Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to sell anything. Organization members produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with scrip.

Find Out More

The order form to the right is a sample of retailers that participate in the Scrip program. There is a complete list of all retailers (over 500) available from the church office. Please feel free to write in other participating retailers not on the form. Return completed orders to the church office, or drop them in the collection plate. Checks should be made out to UMC of MV-Scrip. Orders will be placed on the 1st and 15th of each month. Gift Cards should be received in the church office 5-7 days from the order date. Those who order will be notified when the Gift Cards are received.

Jackie Morrical
Scrip Coordinator
895-6135

morrical@mchsi.com

Leave your order/check in the collection plate or the church office. Checks can be made out to UMC MV Scrip.

Name			
Check #		Order Date	
Product		QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25			\$
Amazon.com \$25/\$100			\$
Applebee's \$25			\$
Arby's \$10			\$
Barnes & Noble \$10/\$25/\$100			\$
Bath & Body Works \$10/\$25			\$
BP Gas Stations \$50/\$250			\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$10/\$25			\$
			\$
Casey's General Store \$10/\$25/\$50			
MV Dairy Queen \$5			\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25/\$100			\$
Gary's \$25/\$50/\$100/\$200			\$
Gwen's \$25/\$50/\$100			\$
Home Depot \$25			\$
iTunes \$15/\$25			\$
Kmart \$25			\$
Kohl's \$25/\$100			\$
Lands' End \$25			\$
Menards \$25/\$100			\$
Old Navy \$25			\$
Panera Bread \$10/\$25			\$
Papa Murphy's \$10			\$
Pizza Hut \$10			\$
Staples \$25			\$
Starbuck's \$10/\$25			\$
Subway \$10/\$50			\$
Target GiftCard \$10/\$25/\$100			\$
Walmart/Sam's Club \$25/\$100/\$250			\$
VISA \$50/\$100/\$250			\$
			\$
			\$
Orders due the 1st and 15th of each month.			

Prayer List

The following family and friends are in need of PRAYERS:

Prayers for Healing:

- Baby Knapp (baby due in June, parents are Andy and Nicole Knapp, prayers for the baby's heart health, as she is expected to have issues with her pulmonary artery and a hole in her heart)
- Amanda Meeker (cancer) - Candice Jeffrey
- Maxine Havill (that heart issues can be managed and she can keep going)
- Susan Pisarik (continued prayers during recovery from knee surgery)
- Jim Whigham (stroke victim - Al and Barb Shepley's nephew)
- Stella Pata - Marion Lehman (for stronger bones)
- Beth Johnson - Tiffany Snodgrass
- Marsha Light - Mike Duroe

Prayers for Loss:

- The family of of Audrey Dix (Alison Dix's grandmother, mother to Minor Dix)
- The family of Dick Peters (wife-Linda, daughters-Marcia and Laura)
- The family of Ricky Starr (Heather Niec's father)

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For Esteban Coronel (friend of Sydney Pratt's)
- For people who are dealing with self doubt and worry
- For all who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Safety and God's Guidance:

- Guidance for Jeff Schmatt as he makes career decisions
- Staff Sergeant Thayer Studt and his unit, serving overseas in the US Army

Prayers for Transition:

- 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 children in Sibiu, Romania being served at The Super Kids Day Center
- Agape Ministry in Cedar Rapids (leader Abraham Boniface)
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and care receivers - UMCMV Life Group ministry
- UMCMV pastors, staff, lay leader, and committee members
- Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids, volunteers and attendees
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church, Pastor Lee Schott, & the women

Prayers for our World:

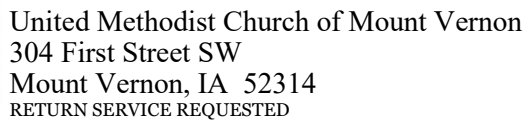
- Strength and love for those who are hurting
- For the victims (and their families) of recent school shootings
- The United Methodist Church - Unity among all humanity

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- Maxine Havill will celebrated her 90th birthday on February 20th
- Fred and Marion Lehman celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on February 1st
- A meaningful Ash Wednesday service
- Gratitude for my church and all who dwell in it
- The hope we have in Jesus Christ and life everlasting

March 2018 Worship Assistants

March 4th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		March 4th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Amy Jackson	Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Cot Graber
West Door Greeters:	Ron Jackson	West Door Greeters:	Kay Graber
Worship Assistants:	Tyler & Taya Roos Family	Worship Assistants:	Mike Stewart & <i>TBD</i>
Coffee Host:	Denae Steine	Lector:	Kristi Keast
Communion	Lauren Swartzendruber & Anna Hoffman	Communion	Lily Booth & Ali Ott
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace
March 11th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		March 11th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Gabi Guardado	Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Mike Stewart
West Door Greeters:	Amy Guardado	West Door Greeters:	Jim Wallace
Worship Assistants:	Stephanie Frantz & TBD	Worship Assistants:	Hunter Family
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert	Lector:	Judy Stine
		Nursery:	Rosa Moss
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Slide Presenter:	Cot Graber
		Coffee Host:	MJ McWilliams
March 18th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		March 18th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Darrell & Donna Jordan	Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Suzette Kragenbrink
West Door Greeters:	Eric Briesemeister	West Door Greeters:	Mike Kragenbrink
Worship Assistants:	Stephanie Hotz Family	Worship Assistants:	Shepleys & McWilliams
		Lector:	Dan Hakken
Nursery:	Emily Davis	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
		Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacob
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host:	Mike & Karen Stewart
March 25th 9:30am (Praise Service)		March 25th 9:00pm (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Babs Moore	Parking Lot SW Door Greeters:	Al Shepley
West Door Greeters:	Walt & Sharon Krambeck	West Door Greeters:	Nancy Reasland
Worship Assistants:	Eric & LeAnn Briesemeister Family	Worship Assistants:	LaFollette Family & <i>TBD</i>
		Lector	Karen Stewart
Nursery:	Emily Davis	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host	Sherryl Osborn
		Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace



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



EASTER WORSHIP

7:00 AM SONRISE SERVICE
8:30 AM PRAISE WORSHIP
11 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

