



# 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](http://www.umcmv.com)

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January 2017

## Pastor Mark Letter

Happy New Year! I am praying for blessed 2017 as our church continues to live into our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In my experience, one of the greatest opportunities for transformation and growth is within small group ministry. Small groups are a personal passion of mine, and through participation in a small group, I was able to develop both my head and heart faith. I also was able to create and strengthen foundational relationships with God and other people. For me, small groups illustrated that my life struggles were not unique and we all need the support of one another. Finally, a small group allowed me to articulate my faith in a comfortable setting until I was ready to unapologetically share my love for God. They are the best place to nurture a small seed of faith into lifelong and transformative relationships and Christian action.

Sound interesting? A group consisting of myself, Jim Baty, Ray Reasland, and Pastor Joy have been in conversation and planning about starting this ministry at the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. We are pleased to announce that **Life Groups: From Sermon to Life** will begin on January 22. Each **Life Group** will consist of 6-8 people, a leader, and a host. The designated leader will be provided with a one page sheet that consists of an opening prayer, the weekly Scripture reading, and 3-5 questions regarding Sunday's sermon. The hope is to keep the people within a **Life Group** consistent to develop deep and meaningful relationships.

Miss a Sunday service and sermon? That's OK! The questions are meant to be a broad conversation starter rather than in depth or analytical. The goal is to get people talking and verbally process life, Scripture, and how they fit together. There is absolutely no pressure to bring brilliant insight or wisdom to your group. The only thing required is a willingness to grow in your faith, and to "be real" and authentic with those within your **Life Group**.

Our leadership team has been diligently working to create a diverse set of groups that will meet at various times and places. The majority of **Life Groups** will take place at a host's home, but there may also be opportunities at the church. Ray Reasland and Jim Baty have been hard at work at contacting folks who may have interest in being leaders or hosts, and putting together the initial set of **Life Groups**. We hope this program will continue to grow after the initial launch and develop into a meaningful and indispensable part of our life together as a church.

Throughout January, we will provide opportunities to sign up for a **Life Group** during worship. Please prayerfully consider taking a part in this new and exciting ministry.

Acts 2:46-47 (NRSV) -- 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.

Questions about **Life Groups**? Please see Pastor Mark, Pastor Joy, Ray Reasland, or Jim Baty.

In peace and love, Pastor Mark Johnson

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**New Year's Day**  
**Sunday**  
**January 1**  
**10 am Worship**

**Starting Sunday**  
**January 8**

**8:30 am Praise Service**

9:45 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship Time  
Common Ground

**11 am Traditional Worship**

Check out our website--

[www.umcmv.com](http://www.umcmv.com)



## Adult Sunday School Update

Jim Baty's Adult Sunday School Class, which meets in the classroom in Fellowship Hall Hallway

(previously the Library) will be starting a new study of the book, The Shack by Wm. Paul Young.

The class will be reading and studying The Shack and then is planning to attend the movie in March. Join in this study starting Sunday, January 8th. Any questions, email Jim Baty @ [pga12b@batys5.com](mailto:pga12b@batys5.com)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

**YOUTH GROUP  
TALENT SHOW**

**JANUARY 29 AT 7 PM**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT HEIFER  
INTERNATIONAL**

**THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION IS  
INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**



On Sunday December 11, 2016, our Sunday School students participated in a Children's Christmas Pageant for all to be inspired by. Costumes were adorned, animals were readied and the story of Jesus's birth was told through the eyes and songs of children.



Here are just a few glimpses into that evening:



## Sunday school and Youth Group schedule

**No Sunday School on January 1 -  
We will resume with a new unit on Sunday, January 8.**

**Youth Group resumes on January 4**

## Kitchen Remodeling? *Why So Soon?!*

Have you been hearing about plans to remodel the church kitchen? Are you asking why? When was the last time it was totally remodeled? Well, would you believe 1947-48!

At that time, it was decided the kitchen needed to be larger which necessitated excavating the dirt to the north of the former kitchen. Windows were repaired, cupboards removed and falling plaster found behind them. The new woodwork was painted a cream color, the woodwork was “trimmed with gay wallpaper cutouts”, and Bruce Mullen made scalloped trim for the cupboards. A new stove and other appliances were added, and the WSCS authorized the committee to purchase a utility cart!

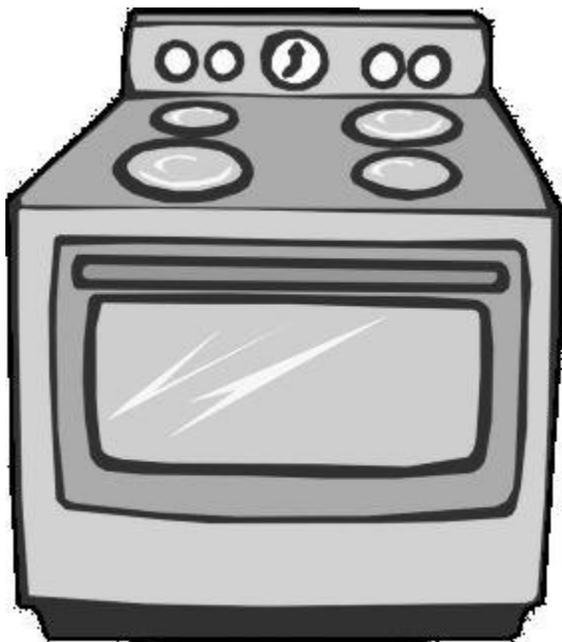
The WSCS (forerunner of the United Methodist Women) hoped to receive enough additional funding to install a double sink. All the countertops were stone. Among the names of the Kitchen Committee was Mrs. Rex Dean (Marilyn Schnittjer’s mother).

Through the ensuing fifty years, new stoves and refrigerators were purchased as well as microwaves, large coffee pots, and several large roasters. Sinks were retrofitted. A freezer was donated. But the basic design of the kitchen, flooring, drains, ventilation, serving area and its cupboard space has remained the same for the past 60 years. Traffic flow was never a consideration; ventilation and electrical updates weren’t updated. Healthy practices, sanitation and efficiencies weren’t a concern. 21<sup>st</sup> century uses weren’t considered.

NOW is the time for us to design, build and fund a newly remodeled kitchen! We have a wonderful committee that has stepped forward to lead this project. Committee members are Barb Shepley, Jackie Morrival, Renee Nydegger, Ben Miller, Kraig Hunter, Truman Jordan and Kay Graber. Work on shelving has already begun, thanks to John McWilliams, Al Shepley and Terry Pizarik. Lynn Woodley is serving as construction consultant and manager of the renovation.

Every family needs a kitchen, even our church family. Not only that, we need a kitchen that is healthy, efficient, sanitary, and can accommodate many people working together and not running into each other. We need a kitchen that fits our Youth Group, a kitchen that supports our Church School program and Preschool. We need a kitchen that supports community events as well as our church events.

Watch for opportunities for kitchen tours and a description of the new design. Plan for ways you can volunteer to help and funding you can provide to make this long-overdue renovation happen!



## Reading...the Most Precious Gift to a Child

Remember what it was like to read to a child or grandchild, or to have them read to you?

Now you can have that opportunity all over again. The Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has recognized that being able to read is one of the greatest gifts that can be given to children. They have adopted an initiative called "Change a Child's Story" which would involve Methodist volunteers who would read to children or listen to children read to them in classrooms across the state.

Our church has talked with Mount Vernon Elementary Principal, Kate Stanton, and the five first grade teachers about the possibilities, and they are thrilled with the opportunity. They have a time from 8:30-8:50 Tues.-Thurs. called Mustang Minutes that would lend it itself to volunteer reading opportunities.

For 15-20 minutes, volunteers from our church would be welcome to come read to a selected first grader, one on one, or to listen to him/her read and then discuss the book a bit. We would like to start the program in February, and are encouraging persons from our church that are available to volunteer for this program or who would like more information to contact Kristi Keast at [kkkeast@aol.com](mailto:kkkeast@aol.com) or (319)310-0682, Kay Graber at [kgraber12@gmail.com](mailto:kgraber12@gmail.com), or Jeanne Snodgress at (319) 721-7455. Those wishing to volunteer may also call the church office.

This is an opportunity that will change and grow as people experience it. We welcome your questions and suggestions.



### **Our Neighbors in Need Fund was able to be a blessing to the community!**

- 1) Family needing gas to move to southern Iowa - we were able to help them with \$100 in gas and gas cards
- 2) A Single man in need of food, we were able to help with a gift basket of food on Christmas eve and a Gary's gift card for use after the holidays
- 3) A Family through SE Linn Community who was not included in the Angel tree, we were able to help with gifts for the 3 kids and gift cards for the parents

Other ways we were able to help community -

Angel Tree - Gifts for families through SE Linn Community Center and Coats to Families at Mission of Hope.

SE Linn Bulk Food Drive - we will made delivery of their entire request and a sizable donation to the operating fund was also given.

Christmas Eve Special Offering - we split our special offering between the 2 school districts, Mount Vernon and Lisbon and send the funds to be used for children in need of assistance due to special circumstances that the schools are sometimes the only ones to see.

### Youth Director Position Update

As many of you may have heard, our youth director, Mackenzie Kraus has accepted a full time position as a Child Life Specialist at the University of Iowa hospital. This is her dream job, and we want to send her off with the warmest well wishes one could ever ask for. Her last day of employment will be the 31st of this month. A great big thank you to Kenzie for being an important part of ministry to our youth. She has played a huge role in the lives of many youth in the last year as our youth director. Her energy and enthusiasm for life, and her love for youth has radiated out of her onto the youth. Her desire to share her love of God has been a beautiful gift. She has also bridged the gap in the midst of a huge pastoral transition here in the church. Kenzie, thank you for caring for the youth ministries of the church this past year. We have been so blessed to have you! Congratulations to you! Please be sure to extend a great big congratulations, and love onto Kenzie. On that note, if you know of anyone that would be a perfect fit for our youth ministry, send them our way!

# YOUTH GROUP

Blessings, Pastor Joy

### Youth Ministry Director Needed

The United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon is looking for a part time Youth Director. The hours for this position will average 15 hours per week, but will vary on the time of year. This position will lead and organize effective youth programs implementing fellowship, Worship, biblical teaching, discipleship, and evangelism, as well as Ministry and mission opportunities for the Youth Ministry of UMCMV which includes 6th through 12th grade students. The Youth Director position organizes and leads Wednesday evening Youth Group and the various ministries and activities that develop out of and around it.

We are looking for someone who has the following: a sense of calling to youth ministry; excellent verbal and written skills; ability to plan, organize, lead, and guide complex projects and spontaneous activities related to youth ministries; basic mentoring and listening skills appropriate for youth ministry; willingness to work cooperatively with others, to maintain a positive outlook and disposition, and to be flexible in solving problems; demonstrated ability to plan, develop, coordinate, manage and implement a youth ministry within the parameters of the United Methodist Church.

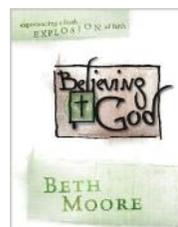
The mission of UMCMV is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please send resumes to [mschnittjer@gmail.com](mailto:mschnittjer@gmail.com) by January 2, 2017.



### DRUMMER NEEDED

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon's Praise Team is looking for a drummer to be a part of the group. God is really moving in this group and this is a great opportunity to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

If you are interested please contact Ben Klaus at: [bklaus88@gmail.com](mailto:bklaus88@gmail.com)



Women's Bible  
Study  
Wednesdays,  
9:30 - 11:00  
In the Balcony  
Classroom



We are a  
Stephen  
Ministry  
Congregation.

Please pray for  
our current and  
future Stephen  
Ministers.

## ***Scrip Update – 2016 Results***

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! In 2016 the Scrip Program has raised \$2,328 for the general operating expenses of the church! Please help spread the word on Scrip in 2017!

Circuit Rider Deadline for February will be January 27, 2017. Please let the church office know of what information you would like included in the Circuit Rider and feel free to email us at **adix@mediacombb.net** - Thanks!



Check out our church calendar for upcoming events!

[ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR](#)

<http://bit.ly/1LRPzWI>



We have hearing assistance receivers available starting this Sunday! Check in with the Sound Booth to pick one up!

## **Servant Sunday Planning Meeting**

In the spring of 2015 our church reached out to our community by closing our doors on a Sunday morning and becoming the hands and feet of Christ. We washed windows, weeded gardens, trimmed shrubs, painted, visited residents of Hallmark, tied blankets and so much more. By popular demand we will have another Servant Sunday in April! We need a group of folks who would like to plan this event. Interested in getting more involved in the church? Want to make this event even bigger and better? We need you!

SERVANT SUNDAY PLANNING MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24th at 7:00 in THE COMMON GROUND

You are invited and needed. Please come!

## **RALLY FOR ROSA!**

Rosa Moss, our faithful janitress for 17 years, had surgery in early December and is recovering. Her recuperation will likely take about two months.

While she is recuperating, we need VOLUNTEERS to keep our church clean and ready for worship and the many groups and classes that gather here.

**Here are some ways YOU, your FAMILY, or a GROUP OF FRIENDS can help:**

- Don't leave papers or objects lying around wherever you have been
- (including the Sanctuary!); erase whiteboards, empty wastebaskets, and
- return chairs, tables, etc. to their original place.
- Sign up to clean an identified area for a specific time. ([Sign up here](#) or Sunday in the Narthex). <http://bit.ly/2fQT8nN>
- Last but not least...

**Keep Rosa in your prayers!**

## Celebrating JANUARY birthdays!



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

Bill Bacher	01/20
Terry Pisarik	
Teresa Stewart	
Ben Alger	01/21
Shellie Kamaus	
Brenda Vanvalen	01/22
Harrison Voigt	
Rosa Moss	01/23
Judy Stine	
Nick Bock	01/25
Breanna Niec	
Hagen Waters	
Alexander Davis	01/26
Fred Lehman	
Lily Booth	01/27
Kaden Caspers	
Ruth Deskin	01/28
Randy Harman	01/31
Elizabeth Mcwilliams	
Emma Meester	

## January 2017 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	01/05
Ray & Nancy Reasland	01/26

### The following family and friends are in need of prayer:

Prayers for Pastor Joy as she completes paperwork for ordination in January.  
 Prayers for Ruth Deskin as she deals with pain following a recent fall.  
 Prayers for Lynda Hakken's sister, Mary, as she deals with health concerns.  
 Prayers for Dan and Lynda Hakken as they mourn the death of Dan's father.  
 Prayers for Pam Hunter's nephew, Dustin Clapp, who has been incarcerated for 2 years due to a probation violation.  
 Prayers for the Schideler Family (friends of the Briesemeisters). They lost Justin (age 27) to a sudden illness.  
 Prayers for the Longerbeam family (friends of Rainy Brown and Jody Stewart) as they mourn the loss of their son, Kyle Longerbeam, who died in a recent chartered plane crash.  
 Prayers for Mike G (friend of LaVonne Meyer) for continued recovery from brain cancer.  
 Continued prayers for Emily Davis as she recovers from surgery last week.  
 Continued prayers for strength, comfort and peace for Steve & Ruth Miller and family, as they mourn the passing of Steve's mother, Alice Miller Noshish.  
 Continued prayers for strength, healing, and recovery for Rosa Moss, following her hip replacement surgery.  
 Continued prayers for strength and healing for Sandy Sill as she recovers from recent surgery.  
 Continued prayers for strength and healing for Beth Johnson.  
 Continued prayers for strength and healing for Marsha Light.  
 Continued prayers for healing and recovery for Donna Walters.  
 Continued prayers for strength and a return of energy for Pat Sorgenfrey.  
 Continued prayers for the Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids; its volunteers and attendees.  
 Continued prayers for our partner church; Women at the Well United Methodist Church, their leader, Pastor Lee Schott, and the women of Iowa Correctional Institute for Women. *Prayers for all those who are separated from family and friends this holiday season.*

### Joys:

Praise for another step forward in the healing process for Ruth Miller, following the eye surgery she had earlier this year.  
 The beauty of our sanctuary during this Christmas season. Thank you to all who donated beautiful poinsettias.  
 Joy and gratefulness for our wonderful Christmas Eve Services.  
 Gratitude from Sandy Sill for all the prayers for her healing. She's doing great!!!

# January 2017 Worship Assistants

<b>January 1st at 10:00am (COMBINED SERVICE)</b>			
<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	TBD		
<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Babs Moore		
<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Shepleys & McWilliams		
<b>Coffee Host:</b>	Sherryl Osborn		
<b>Nursery:</b>	Brittany Booth		
<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Diane Legore		
<b>January 8th at 8:30am (Praise Service)</b>		<b>January 8th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)</b>	
<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Brian Bothell	<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Al Shepley
<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Nancy Reasland	<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Barb Shepley
<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Allison & Matt Traynor & Donna & Darrell Jordan	<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	LaFollette Family, Pisarik Family
		<b>Lector:</b>	Babs Moore
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Paige Roos & Madi Cranston	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Sydney Jones & Aiden Nosek
<b>Nursery:</b>	Marissa Cranston	<b>Nursery:</b>	Cindy Strong
		<b>Coffee Host:</b>	Ann Booth
<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Diane Legore	<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Jackie Wallace
<b>January 15th at 8:30am (Praise Service)</b>		<b>January 15th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)</b>	
<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Todd Norton	<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	John McWilliams
<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Jennifer Back	<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Mike Kragenbrink
<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Karmin & Shawn Voit & Stephanie Hotz Family	<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Jodi Stewart Family
		<b>Lector:</b>	Karen Stewart
<b>Nursery:</b>	Kim Schwiebert	<b>Nursery:</b>	Brittany Booth
		<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Jackie Morrical
<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Bonnie Moore	<b>Coffee Host:</b>	Vernon & Arlene Sand
<b>January 22nd at 8:30am (Praise Service)</b>		<b>January 22nd at 11:00am (Traditional Service)</b>	
<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Todd White	<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Jan White
<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Babs Moore	<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Bonnie Keith
<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Eric & LeAnn Briesemeister family & Mary Ann Brindley	<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Morrical Family
		<b>Lector:</b>	Mike Gradwell
<b>Nursery:</b>	Emily Davis	<b>Nursery:</b>	Brittany Booth
		<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Trude Elliott
<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Diane Legore	<b>Coffee Host:</b>	Marty St. Clair & Cindy Strong
<b>January 29th at 8:30am (Praise Service)</b>		<b>January 29th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)</b>	
<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Matt Stewart	<b>Parking Lot Door Greeters:</b>	Mike Stewart
<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Shellie & Lance Kamaus	<b>West Door Greeters:</b>	Dixie & Roger Raiber
<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Amy & Gabi Guardado Family	<b>Worship Assistants:</b>	Cooper Family, Steve & Ruth Miller
<b>Nursery:</b>	Marissa Cranston	<b>Lector:</b>	Judy Stine
		<b>Nursery:</b>	Brittany Booth
		<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Cot Graber
<b>Slide Presenter:</b>	Diane Legore	<b>Coffee Host:</b>	Cot & Kay Graber

***United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon  
 Staff***

Senior Pastor . . . . . Joy Mitchell  
 Associate Pastor/Christian  
 Education Director . . . . . Mark Johnson  
 Congregational Care Coordinator Julie Baty  
 Office Manager/Newsletter . . . . . Alison Dix  
 Admin. Asst./ Membership . . . . . Jo Harman  
 Youth Ministry Director . . . . . Mackenzie Glenn  
 Nursery Care . . . . . Melissa Oxley  
 Praise Team Director /Metholarks  
 Choir Director . . . . . Ben Klaus  
 Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . . . . Kristi Keast  
 Organist/Pianist . . . . . Dr. Lynda Hakken  
 Chancel Choir Director Joleen Woods  
 Custodian . . . . . Rosa Moss  
 Maintenance & Repair Director . . . Trustees  
 Web Master . . . . . Dan Hakken  
 Wedding Coordinator . . . . . Barb Shepley  
 Financial Secretaries . . . . . Richard Jacob,  
 & Jackie Morrical  
 Treasurers . . . . . Mike Kragenbrink/ Alison Dix



***Happy New Year!***

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD..." JEREMIAH 29:11-14

