

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

December 2018

Sunday

Worship

Schedule:

8:30 am Praise

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

"I thank you Lord, for you are good." This is a prayer line that a friend of mine and I prayed recently in some prayer time together. As we move from Thanksgiving to Advent, there are so many things to be thankful for. At the same time, there are so many sorrows, challenges and struggles that can come our way. When we remember God's goodness, and give thanks to him for this, something lifts, there is a depth of joy and peace as we rejoice in him.

Psalm 27:13-14 (Amplified Bible) says this:

I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

Wait for and confidently expect the LORD;

Be strong and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for and confidently expect the LORD.

Will you pray with me today?

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, you bring the Sun up every morning to shine upon us. I thank you Lord, for you are Good, you loved us before we were even a glimmer in our parent's eyes.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, and you desire the best for each and every one of your children.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, you carry us when our strength fails us.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, your salvation renews us every morning.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, praise of you lightens the load.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, when the world is still and silent you offer birds to chirp, and crickets to sing, and the song of the Lord to remind us of the beauty you created. I thank you Lord, for you are Good, and you care more about our families, our friends, and our Loved ones than we possibly can, for you created them.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, and when we read the back of the book, we see and know that you win the war, against the devil and all evil.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, a warrior fighting for those I hold most dear.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, and you provide all that we need.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, and I put my whole hope and trust in you.

I thank you Lord, for you are Good, _____

In the most powerful name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen

As we journey into Advent this season, we will see God with us, in numerous different forms. Don't go far, let's journey together and remember God's goodness as we prepare for the end of the story.

God's Grace and Peace be upon you, Pastor Joy Mitchell



Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight service with communion Monday December 24th 5:30 or 9 PM



Advent 2018 God With Us

Join us for our Advent worship series, God With Us. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. In our worship for the first week in Advent we will remember that God is with us as our Potter, who shapes us according to his will.

Week #1—Sunday Dec 2 - Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes according to his will.

Week #2—Sunday December 9 Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.

Week #3 - Sunday December 16 Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.

Week #4—Sunday December 23 Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3): God is with us as our Guide, who leads us according to his Word.

Christmas Eve- Monday, December 24 5:30 or 9 pm Our Great Light

The prophet Isaiah foretold, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great

light" (Isaiah 9:2). Join us for Christmas Eve to celebrate the great Light that has come into our world to dispel the darkness of sin forever. Candlelight, carols, Scripture, a homily and prayers reveal the Good News that our Great Light has dawned: Jesus Christ is born; let us rejoice!



Evensong

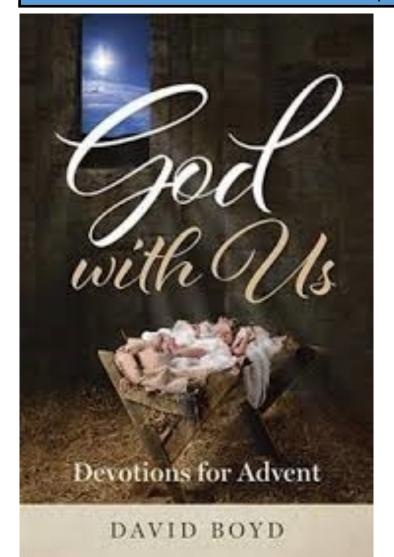
Thursday December 6, 13 and 20



In the busyness of our lives, especially during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the one thing we fail to do the most is to take a moment to breathe, to rest, to reflect. That is what Evensong is about. Come light a candle, sit quietly and meditate as light music falls around you.

Thursday December 6th begins this special Advent offering for our community from 6 to 6:30 pm, continuing weekly on Thursdays, December 13 and 20.

We invite you to come, slow down, if only for a moment, and listen to the Holy Spirit.



Daily Devotionals to follow along with our theme

"GOD WITH US"

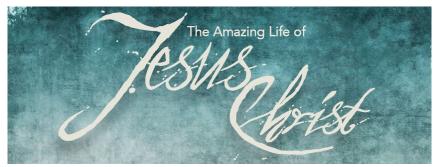
here to pick up in the Narthex starting this Sunday.

Also, feel free to join in the conversation about Advent by joining the email group

UMCMV Conversations God With Us – Advent 2018

Email <u>Conversations304@gmail.com</u> to join in the conversation about Advent! By joining in the conversation, you can listen, respond if you like or send a question or a lament and affirm that you aren't alone.

Woman's Bible Study



Part 2 starting January 9th

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 am

Balcony Classroom @ UMCMV "The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ"

"Whether you are just meeting Jesus for the first time or if you have known Him for years, the Scripture and in-depth, thoughtful questions in this 12 week DVD study, *The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ,* will help you apply His truth to your life." **To Register Text or Call - Cathy #319-551-6666**



December Giving Schedule

Tag Tree – see page 8

December 2 and 9th-

SE Linn Bulk Food Offering

Monday December 24th– Christmas Eve Offering

<u>Romania 2019</u>

EXTENDED DEADLINE!

Are you interested in going to Romania and helping children who are struggling in another part of our world? We would love to have you join in the work and fun of this amazing experience of a lifetime.

For June 2019- We are still taking people who are interested in going to Romania– please let Pastor Joy Know!

Scrip Shop Open on Sunday, December 19h

Bring your cash/check to church on Sunday, December 19th and purchase Scrip inventory. There will be a table set up in the narthex between services.





Circuit Rider Deadline for

January 2019

will be December 19, 2018—please email any information you want included

to: alisondix@umcmv.com

Thanks!



EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING STARTING SEPT 5TH

MIDDLE SCHOOL 6:00-7:30

HIGH SCHOOL 7:15-8:45

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 304 IST ST MOUNT VERNON, IA 52314

(DINNER PROVIDED FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY)

Please email dillonfawcetteumcmv.com with any questions



Trustees Update:

The Cross located at the west end of the Narthex is the Trustees Project Cross. There will be cards attached with church projects that can be done as Family projects, Youth projects, These are not technical projects. There is so much of the Church that is not seen on Sunday that need to be addressed. Cleaning, some touch up paint, etc. If you would please pick a Project, attempt to complete within ten days then email the church office so it can be marked complete.

Holiday Tea and Cookies



You are invited to join the United Methodist Women on Wednesday December 12 at 10:00am in the Common Ground. Come enjoy some holiday tea or coffee and treats, music and reflection. We will also prepare some "goodie plates" to be delivered to members of our church family who may need a bit of holiday cheer. Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies, candy or a favorite holiday treat for the goodie

plates. Participants will also be able to take home an assortment of goodies. This is a great event to get you into the holiday spirit. Everyone welcome. If you can't make the event but could help deliver the "goodies" and share a little time with some folks, please let us know. It would be a great opportunity for a family holiday project. Any guestions please call Barb Shepley at 895–6566.

ENDOWMENT — CAN YOU MAKE A QCD OUT OF YOUR RMD?

If you are $70\frac{1}{2}$ years old or greater, you know you have to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement accounts each year. RMDs are required from all Individual Retirement Account (IRA) types except Roth IRAs, in the year in which you turn $70\frac{1}{2}$ and each subsequent year. Additionally, RMDs may be required from qualified retirement plans such as 401(k)s and 403(b)s.

Legislation passed by Congress at the end of 2015 made permanent the tax treatment of retirement-plan distributions donated to charity. To receive this favorable treatment, the account owner must be 70½ or older, and the donation must be made directly from the IRA to a qualifying charity. That makes it a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) under IRS rules, and the distributed amount is not taxable to the IRA owner, whether or not you itemize deductions on your tax return.

Tax law changes that took effect in 2018 limit some taxpayers' ability to deduct charitable contributions, making a QCD even more valuable as a tax planning tool for those who qualify.

You can donate all or a portion of your RMD. The United Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon is a qualifying charity to receive QCDs. Contact the custodian of your IRA or retirement plan to learn how you can donate your RMD, help the church, and save some taxes!

Birthday <u>s</u> In December				
Samantha Back	12/01		40/40	
Gregg Glenn		Denae Mcgrath	12/16	
Matthew Morrical	12/03	Tyler Roos	12/20	
Cody Connolly	12/05			
Claire Light		Floyd Rekemeyer 12/23		
Bill Meyer		Kim Schwiebert		
Weston Mitchell		Trevor Baty	12/26	
Mackenzie Kraus	12/07	Denise Havill		
Justin Light		Stephanie Boggs	12/27	
Becker Reinken	12/10	Brogan Meyer	12/28	
Trude Elliott	12/11	Donna Walters	12/29	
Alaina Pospisil		Teresa Bothell	12/30	
Vern Sand	12/12	Russell Yeater		
Carew Kamaus	12/14	Ethan Wenz	12/31	
Joyce Loomis	12/15			

ANNIVERSARIES IN DE-CEMBER

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

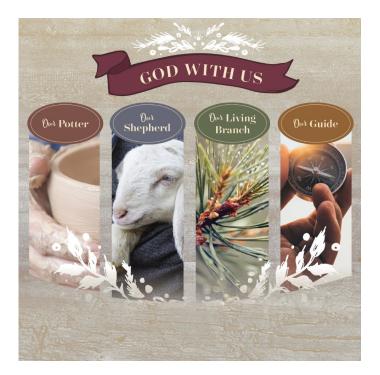
Roger & Marilyn Schnittjer	12/21
Sherryl & Harry Osborn	12/23
Kraig & Pam Hunter	12/28
Beth & Preston Johnson	
AI & Barb Shepley	



Angel Tree

We have tags for gifts for families adopted by SELCC. Tags available Sunday November 25 through Sunday, December 2. Gifts to be returned to the church by December 9th.

> United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon www.umcmv.com



Scrip Update

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! So far we have raised over \$1,520 for the general operating expenses of the church! Orders are due on the 1st and 15th of each month. Put the order form/check in the collection plate or drop them off in the church office.

2018 ANGEL TREE

Thank you for helping us with the 2018 Angel Tree this year! These tags will help gather coats for Mission of Hope and gifts for those in need through SE Linn Community Center.

How it works:

Take a tag off the tree

Write your name and contact information on first tag, and place in the fish bowl.

<u>Attach the second tag (AND gift receipt for</u> <u>SELCC gifts)</u> to the gift when returned.

Do not wrap your gift. A donation of a gift bag or wrapping paper is appreciated.

<u>Return to Angel Tree by</u> Sunday, December 9th.

Contact the Hoffman family (Jen, Loren, Ryley, Anna, Emma) at 319-895-8240 with any questions.

Hebrew 13:16: And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Use Scrip for Christmas Gifts!

Ordering scrip is an easy fundraiser for the church. Consider giving gift cards as holiday thank you gifts, teacher gifts and stocking stuffers! Ordering Scrip is convenient as the gift cards are delivered directly to you!

December 2018- United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 PM AA Meet- ing Fellowship Hall
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 AM Praise Wor- ship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	Fellowship Hall	Breakfast, Skil- let Cafe 2:00 PM UMW Reading Group 5:30 PM Cub Scouts, Fellow- ship Hall & classrooms 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Prac-	5:30 PM Meal Prep for Youth Group, Kitchen 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice,	6:00 PM EvenSong, Quiet Ser- vice for Ad- vent, Sanc- tuary 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary		9:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehears- al, Sanctuary 8:00 PM AA Meet- ing Fellowship Hall
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 AM Praise Wor- ship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 5:30 PM Parsonage Din- ner & Games for Cornell Students, with Pastor Joy & Weston, Parson- age House (312 1st St. SW, Mt. Vernon) 6:30 PM Sunday School Christmas Pageant,	Fellowship Hall	Scouts, Fellow- ship Hall & classrooms 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Prac- tice, Sanctuary	10:00 AM UMW Holiday Sharing, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:30 PM Meal Prep for Youth Group, Kitchen 6:00 PM Middle School	6:00 PM EvenSong, Quiet Ser- vice for Ad- vent, Sanc- tuary 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:30 PM PEO Christmas Gathering, Common Ground and Organ Music, Sanctuary		8:00 PM AA Meet- ing Fellowship Hall
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Night - Fellow- ship Hall 7:00 PM Boy	Scouts, Fellow- ship Hall & classrooms	Study, Balcony Classroom 5:30 PM Meal Prep for Youth Group, Kitchen 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice, Sanctuary	6:00 PM EvenSong,		8:00 PM AA Meet- ing Fellowship Hall
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Holi- day, Offices Closed 5:30 PM Christ- mas Eve Wor- ship, Sanctuary 9:00 PM Christ- mas Eve Wor- ship, Sanctuary	Christmas Holi- day, Offices Closed				8:00 PM AA Meet- ing Fellowship Hall
30	31	1				
	New Year's Eve - Offices Closed	New Year's Day- Offices Closed				

Sunday School News...



Sunday School kids were busy this month making their very own Prayer Boxes.

"Stop and Pray"...and ... "I have

faith" are just a few of the inspiring words children added to their boxes. We started filling the boxes with items we can use to pray...a candle, a cross, the Lord's prayer, and legos! As we go through the year, we will continue to add new fun ways to pray.









Prayer Boxes & Pageant Practice



Christmas Pageant Practice has begun!

Sunday school kids are raising their joy-filled voices and singing the songs of Christmas. What a joy it is to sing about the birth of Jesus!





YOU ARE INVITED to the UMCMV

Christmas Pageant Sunday evening, December 9.

What: A traditional Christmas Pageant with music and costumes.

Who: All Sunday school children (P-4th). Middle school students have various roles/jobs as assigned by Sunday school teachers.

Where: Sanctuary

When: (Pageant) Sunday, December 9, 6:30 pm.

Questions?: contact Brittany Booth via email <u>boothjb@q.com</u> cell 319-533-1358

Sunday school Parents...



REMINDER ! Christmas Pageant PRACTICE

Saturday, December 8 9:30 am-11:00 am

During this practice, we will assign costumes

and run through the Christmas pageant.

Prayer list

Prayers for Healing:

• Wrenlie Bixler (John Bixler's daughter) who is a very sick little girl and at the PICU in Iowa City. Prayers for the medical team that they will soon be able to determine the cause of illness and that daily, one thing can get better for Wrenlie.

- Mary Jane McWilliams (as she recovers at home after a recent hospitalization)
- Pat Sorgenfrey (for full rehabilitation after breaking her collar bone, she'll be continuing her recovery at the Lisbon rehabilitation facility.
- Leo (Rosa Moss' brother) as he recovers from a recent fall
- Terry Sill (as he continues recovery from radiation and chemo treatments)
- Kitty Chadbourne (cousin to Karen Stoll) recently diagnosed with ALS
- Kierstan Nemmers (Karen Stoll's daughter) for swift recovery following surgery
- Mark Wolrab (injured hand from a skid loader accident- facing future surgeries)
- Marsha Hansen (Marci Schmatt's mother) as she recovers from surgery at a long term care facility. Prayers for Marci's father during this time as well.
- Maxine Havill
- Gavin Hayes (nephew of Roger and Marilyn Schnittjer) diagnosed with lymphoma
- Tate Little (an Anamosa sophomore who was involved in a serious car accident)
- Marty (Fred and Marion Lehman's son-in-law), who took a bad fall and is now in skilled nursing care in Cedar Rapids. Prayers for continued recovery so he can eventually return home.
- Jennifer Mann (friend of Matt and Allison Traynor) battling stage 4 non-Hodgkins lymphoma
- Jo Harman (for complete healing of her eye)
- Amanda Meeker
- Tiffany Snodgress

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- The family of Chris Ellis (brother-in-law of Heather Niec) as they grieve and mourn his sudden death
- The family of Claudia Feuss (Jo Harman's aunt) as they mourn her death
- For the family and friends of Marsha Light, as they grieve the loss of Marsha
- Denise White (Director of Mt Vernon Community Preschool) and her family as they mourn the death of Denise's mother
- The Goodale and Bennet family as they mourn the death of Rich Goodale
- For family and friends dealing with mental illness
- For persons trying to manage depression
- 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 Emily Fawcett while job searching and seeking the right fit
- For a smooth process as Mundo takes steps towards becoming a resident of the US and prayers for those assisting him.

Prayers for Transition:

- Sandy Sill's parents as they adjust to their new home in assisted living at Western Home in Cedar Falls
- For our youth attending Sunday School and Youth Group this Fall, that they will feel loved and welcomed here
- For those in the midst of changing seasons of life.

Prayers for Sustenance:

- For the children in Sibiu, Romania being served at The Super Kids Day Center and the staff who are ministering to them. Specifically, prayers for Pastor Cristi and Ligia.
- Agape Ministry in Cedar Rapids (leader Abraham Boniface)
- UMCMV pastor, staff, lay leader, and committee members
- UMCMV Life Group ministry
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and Care Ministers
- Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids, volunteers and attendees
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church, Pastor Lee Schott, and the women

Prayers for our World:

- For love, peace and dignity among all
- Prayers for unconditional love; loving one another even amongst disagreements
- For everyone who is experiencing the trauma of the California fires prayers for safety of residents and that the fires will stop burning
- For everyone on the East coast who have been effected by hurricanes
- The United Methodist Church

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- Nine families recently graduated Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class that was offered at UMCMV. These families each made positive changes in their finances by decreasing debt and increasing savings.
- For the gift of vacations and our community to return to. "It's good to go, but it's great to come back"!
- Praise for Clive Cook's recovery
- Thanksgiving for our church family who pulls together to love and support each other
- Thanksgiving for friends and family
- Thankfulness for our steadfast God

December 2018 Worship Assistants

December 2nd at	8:30am (Praise Service)	December 2nd at	11:00am (Traditional Service)
Parking Lot Door	Amy Jackson	Parking Lot Door	Cot Graber
West Door Greeters:	Ron Jackson	West Door Greeters:	Kay Graber
Worship Assistants/		Worship Assistants/	Jody Stewart, Rainey Brown and
Ushers:	Nolan Jackson & Family	Ushers:	Terry & Sue Pisarik
Communion Assistants:	Nolan Jackson & Cohen Kamaus	Lector:	Karen Stewart
Nursery:	Becca Conrad	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Coffee Host:	Mike & Karen Stewart	Slide Presenter:	Trude Elliott
Slide Presenter:	ТВО		Benjamin Merlak & Kennedy Hunte
	8:30am (Praise Service)	December 9th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
		Parking Lot Door Greet-	
Parking Lot Door Greeter:	Gabi Guardado	er:	Mike Stewart
Red Door Greeter:	Amy Guardado	Red Door Greeter:	Jim Wallace
Worship Assistants/	,	Worship Assistants/	Jody Stewart, Rainey Brown and Al
Ushers:	Nolan Jackson & Family	Ushers:	& Barb Shepley
		Lector:	Babs Moore
Nursery:	Anna Hoffman	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Slide Presenter:	Cot Graber
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Coffee Host:	Vern & Arlene Sand
December 16th a	t 8:30am (Praise Service)	December 16th @	11:00am (Traditional Service)
Parking Lot Door	Donna & Darrell Jordan	Parking Lot Door	Suzette Kragenbrink
West Door Greeters:	Eric Briesemeister	West Door Greeters:	Mike Kragenbrink
Worship Assistants/		Worship Assistants/	Jody Stewart, Rainey Brown and
Ushers:	Nolan Jackson & Family	Ushers:	Terry & Sue Pisarik
		Lector:	Cot Graber
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
		Coffee Host:	Ann Booth
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacob
December 23rd a	t 8:30am (Praise Service)	December 23rd at	11:00am (Traditional Service)
Parking Lot Door	Babs Moore	Parking Lot Door	Al Shepley
West Door Greeters:	Walt & Sharon Krambeck	West Door Greeters:	Terry Pisarik
Worship Assistants/		Worship Assistants/	Jody Stewart, Rainey Brown and Al
Ushers:	Nolan Jackson & Family	Ushers:	& Barb Shepley
		Lector:	Janet Ault
Nursery:	Brittany Booth	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Coffee Host:	Susan Pisarik
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace
December 24th at 5:30p	om (Christmas Eve Service) TBD	December 24th at 9:0	0pm (Christmas Eve Service) TBD
December 30th at	10:00am (Hymn Sing) TBD		
Parking Lot Door			
West Door Greeters:			
Worship Assistants/			
Ushers:		4	
Coffee Host:			
Nursery:		-	
Lector:		-	
Slide Presenter:			



United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon 304 First Street SW Mount Vernon, IA 52314 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Staff

Senior Pastor Director of Youth and Worship	. Joy Mitchell Dillon Fawcett
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	
Office Manager/Newsletter	
Admin. Asst./ Membership	
Nursery Care.	
Praise Team Director	
Director, Adult Handbell Choir .	Kristi Keast
Organist	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Joleen Woods
Custodian	. Rosa Moss
Maintenance & Repair Director	
Wedding Coordinator	Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries	Richard Iacob
	. Itionala succes,
	& Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	& Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	& Jackie Morrical



Christmas Eve



Candlelight Worship with Communion

Monday December 24

5:30 & 9 pm