



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

February 2019



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Grace and Peace to you during this cold winter season. What a wonderful privilege it is to worship the Lord, and serve our God together. It is indeed a blessing to have a community so loving and caring to learn and grow with.

As January comes to a close and February opens up for us, let us focus on the Love of God. Our God is good, my friends, and in the midst of the cold, the cabin fever, and the struggles that are faced from day to day, I celebrate knowing that we have a Lord to hold onto, who offers us great hope and joy.

God has been teaching me every day as I pay attention to the Faithfulness around me. You have blessed me in numerous ways as I've watched how you are the Faithful People in Christ Jesus. Thank you for that. Thank you for loving the Lord our God with all that you are.

The Lord gave me the word Faithfulness to pay attention to this year. We often assume our definition of faithfulness and put it on others. What does it truly mean to be faithful to Christ Jesus? Every day I'm asking specific questions at the end of the day, sometimes in the middle of the day. 1. Where have I seen God's faithfulness today? 2. Where have I seen other people's faithfulness today? 3. How have I been faithful today? 4. Where is God calling me into deeper faithfulness? 5. Where do I see faithfulness show up in scripture?

When one starts asking these questions, there are so many examples that it's hard to right them down. I also am challenged by question four. Every day it's something different, sometimes what I would guess, and other times something brand new.

If you haven't considered a word of the year, you might want to consider joining me for this exercise. If not for the whole year, do it for a few weeks, and see what God has to say to you. The Lord is most certainly faithful, offering many great examples in scripture, and we are surrounded by people of faithfulness.

Be blessed my friends, as you lean into the Lord's love and grace for you as we move into February.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Joy Mitchell

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:30 am Praise
Worship

9:45 am Sunday
School

11:00 am
Traditional
Worship



**Here's to
warm hearts
and
hopefully
warmer days!**

Help us save lives—sign up to give! Call the Church office or talk to Alison soon!

BLOOD DRIVE

Mt. Vernon Community Blood Drive

Sponsored by the United Methodist Church of Mt. Vernon

Thursday, February 28th

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

United Methodist Church – Fellowship Hall

(304 1st Street)

Sign up online at www.bloodcenterimpact.org.

Questions? Contact Terese Pisarik at

hiya33@sbcglobal.net or 319-895-9010 or Alison Dix at

alisondix@umcmv.com

NEW!



All presenting donors will receive a voucher featuring these new items on sale for a limited time in the IMPACT store!

Limit 1 per donor; see store for more gift options.



GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES

www.bloodcenter.org



“Cabinfever” FEST

Rescheduled due to weather

To

February 10, 2019

5:30 – 8:00pm, in Fellowship Hall.

Come enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship for all ages, during this inter-generational celebration!

We will have a soup (chili and chicken noodle) potluck, games and desserts.

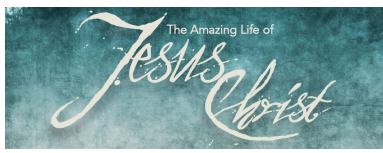
We would love to have you attend– please sign up if this new date works for you on Welcome Sheet Sunday, or by calling the Church office!

UMCMV Hospitality Committee

SAVE THE DATE...

Redeemed Ministries DRAMA coming to UMCMV — Sunday April 7 @ 7 pm

RPM's production portrays God's story all the way from the beginning, in Genesis with creation, to Jesus in His life, death, and resurrection focusing on the redeeming grace of His love for us. God's story of deliverance and restoration laid out visually in this way can be a life-changing experience for our audience. All ages are welcome.



Woman's Bible Study

Part 2 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

February Birthdays

Svetlana Fisher	02/02
Ron Frantz	02/05
Everett Thompson	
Calvin Weber	02/06
Julie Baty	02/09
Mike Kragenbrink	02/11
Jennifer Hoffman	02/13
Kit Currie	02/14
Emara Perreault	02/15
Hannah Bradbury	02/16
Dan Hakken	02/17
Emily Fawcett	02/19
Svetlana Fisher	
Tim Legore	
Jake Stanerson	
Maxine Havill	02/20
Mel Steen	02/21
Karen Stoll	



Jo Ennis	02/22
Colter Lafollette	
Heather Niec	
Natalie Ott	
Jared Booth	02/24
Deedrie Lafollette	
Jeanne Snodgress	02/26
Allison Traynor	02/27

FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

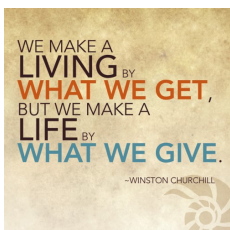
Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,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

Fred & Marion Lehman— Happy Anniversary on February 1!!!

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Pastor Cristian Istrate, representing the children of the SuperKids Academy in Sibiu, Romania sent a message of thanks last week for the Christmas cards we sent in early November. It took nearly 2 1/2 months for the cards to arrive, but he stated, "Thank you so much. The cards and letters made us feel very loved."

February Giving Schedule



2/3/2019 Blanket Ministry Special Offering

2/17/2019 Camp Scholarships Special Offering

2/24/2019 Lee Schott Visiting Special Offering for Women at the Well



JOIN THE
CONVERSATION.

POINT OF VIEW (POV) DISCUSSIONS BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

You are invited...each of you...all of you to a new experience called Point of View. This is a revolutionary discussion format that is uncommon and counter-

cultural. It is a safe space for engaging the difficult conversation surrounding Way Forward and the upcoming General Conference vote taking place the week of February 25th in St. Louis. Were you involved in the Q&A session hosted several months ago? Have you heard rumors or been part of quick conversations about changes in the Methodist Church? Are you passionate for a position regarding the LGBTQ community and the framework of the Methodist Church? Any of these or none of these may describe you and yet, they likely affect you.

Point Of View is a gathering that will take place on Sunday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on February 17th and 24th as well as March 3rd. This is the week before the General Conference, the week during and the week immediately following the General Conference activities. These gatherings will welcome all to a setting where empathy, context and mission will be discussed and together we will evolve a setting in this church that is better equipped to embrace our future.

In this polarizing world, Jesus calls us to love one another, love our enemies and both of these after loving God our Father. POV will drive us closer as we listen, share, reflect and engage our differences and plan our future. For more information on Point Of View, contact Jim Baty, UMCMV Church Council Chair and POV Leader for this effort at pga12b@batys5.com or catch him on Sunday mornings leading up to the first evening. You don't need to commit to being there for all of it, you only need to take a step into the first evening and let God guide your heart through the rest.

If you are interested in seeing more about the General Conference coming up this month, check out this website: www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session



Circuit Rider Deadline for **March 2019** will be February 26, 2019—please email any information you want included to: alisondix@umcmv.com

Thanks!



Altar Flowers are welcomed to be shared in memory or honor of your loved ones or a special occasion. Please notify the church office if you are bringing these by Thursday AM prior to the Sunday you wish to share them.

Scrip Update – 2018 Results

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! In 2018 the Scrip Program has raised \$1,940 for the general operating expenses of the church! There have been orders from 40 different families – many repeat customers!

Top Retailers for 2018

1	Gary's	\$17,600
2	Casey's	\$8,900
3	Target	\$2,725
4	Amazon	\$1,550
5	Kohl's	\$1,325
6	Gwen's	\$1,250
7	Best Buy	\$1,150
8	Buffalo Wild Wings	\$630
9	Subway	\$620
10	Barnes & Noble	\$395

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the Generosity Ministry Team, I am pleased to report that 2019's Generosity Campaign has concluded and was very successful thanks to your support. We

finished with 89 pledges (up 2 from a year ago) and total amount pledged was \$357,722 (up from \$353,985). 84% of our budget will be met through these gifts. Additional pledges for 2019 are still welcomed and appreciated.



2 Corinthians: 9:6-8. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

I believe our church has sown generously and will continue to reap generously so as to advance the work of the Lord and the Kingdom of God.

Blessings, Andrew Morf, Generosity Committee Chair



ASH
WEDNESDAY
Service
Wednesday,
March 6
6:30 pm



Lee Schott Visiting February 24

Did you know the church is in prison? Women at the Well is our sister congregation, a United Methodist congregation within the walls of the women's correctional institution in Mitchellville, Iowa. The pastor of this ministry, Rev. Lee Schott, will be with us on Sunday, **February 24, 2019**, to share with us about the ten years of weekly worship, supportive community, faith nurture groups, and after-care we have offered to the women there. Maybe you'll find your own place in prison—in ministry with these women, our sisters in Christ.

Janitorial Volunteers - Rosa Love

Rosa Moss, our long time custodian, is out on medical leave, and likely having surgery soon. Her recuperation will be extended. We are planning for 6 weeks of volunteers and will assess after that what to do next. 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. Any questions contact Jeff Schmatt (319-895-8776 or jeff@rubicon-photo.com) as the point person during this time. He also has special one time projects if you don't find a weekly project you want to help out with. The dates listed are weekly dates starting each Sunday. Feel free to come at your convenience. Supplies are available or feel free to bring your own if you are more comfortable with that. Sign up can be as a family or individual for each task. Thanks for all the support!

<https://www.umcmv.com/volunteer-opportunities/>

ALPHA?

continues—

a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome.

Mondays 6:30 to 8 pm

**Common Ground Meeting Room @
UMCMV**

February 2019 United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
3 8:30 AM Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship	4 6:30 PM Alpha? Desserts & Conversation, Common Ground meeting room, Sanctuary, Balcony rooms, Chapel Room 6:30 PM Evening Book Club, Danforth Classroom (Off 5th Floor Elevator) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	5 5:30 PM Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall & classrooms	6 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice, Sanctuary 7:15 PM HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room	7 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	8	9 8:00 AM Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
10 Blanket Ministry Special Offering 8:30 AM Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 3:30 PM Setup - Cabin Fever Fest, Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM CABINFEVER Fest, Fellowship Hall	11 6:30 PM Alpha? Desserts & Conversation, Common Ground meeting room, Sanctuary, Balcony rooms, Chapel Room 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	12 11:30 AM Staff Meeting, Chapel Room 5:30 PM Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall & classrooms	13 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice, Sanctuary 7:15 PM HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room	14 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	15	16 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
17 Camp Scholarship Special Offering 8:30 AM Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 3:30 PM Girl Scout Leaders, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Point of View Discussions, Fellowship Hall	18 6:30 PM All Committee Meetings-Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Alpha? Desserts & Conversation, Common Ground meeting room, Balcony classrooms, Chapel Room 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Education Classroom 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	19 5:30 PM Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall & classrooms	20 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice, Sanctuary 7:15 PM HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room	21 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting, Balcony Classroom	22	23 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
24 Pastor Lee from Women at the Well Preaching 8:30 AM Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School, Classrooms 10:30 AM Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 6:30 PM Point of View Discussions, Fellowship Hall	25 6:30 PM Alpha? Desserts & Conversation, Common Ground meeting room, Balcony classrooms, Chapel Room 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Balcony Classroom	26 5:30 PM Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall & classrooms	27 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 6:00 PM Adult Bell Choir Practice, Sanctuary 6:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room 7:00 PM Choir practice, Sanctuary 7:15 PM HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall & Youth Room	28 1:00 PM Blood drive, Fellowship Hall 6:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	1	2

Sunday School News...

Here are a few things to get to know me better. I have been a member of this church for about 8-9 years. As a lot of you know, I am a Cardiac Nurse and often am on call a lot for my job. My husband, Paul and I have been married for a total of 10 years and have 5 grown children who are all out of the house. We are happy to say that we are empty nesters!

As I am starting my new role, I often find myself in a whirlwind of excitement of thoughts and responsibilities that God has led me to take on. I will admit that I often start out by thinking "What have I gotten my self into now!!" After my announcement on Sunday was made that I had accepted this gift, I felt peace come over me. For I know that God would not lead me somewhere and just let me be there alone.

After my announcement, I was reminded at how grateful that I am for all of you. We have such a wonderful family here and I am reminded that all of this is" very easy if we work as a team!" Several teachers/volunteers gave me great advice or maybe it was God talking to me. The advice was to remember that I have been given wonderful people to work with and that I wasn't doing this by myself. It won't be an easy task but with everyone's help we can use our educational resources and make our church grow in strength and numbers.

So I want to reach out to all of you and let you know how much I appreciate all that you do to make our Sunday School the best that it can be. As the saying goes my door is always open. Please reach out to me and let me know, "What I can do for you."

Peace and blessings, Dee Downey-Pata Christian Education Director



Prayers for Healing:

- Rosa Moss (who is at the University of Iowa Hospital dealing with a heart tumor -prayers for a successful treatment plan)
- Gordon Reed (Angie Watson's father) currently hospitalized in Dubuque in ICU
- Larry Grekoff (friend of Matt and Allison Traynor) recently diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma. Prayers for Larry and his family as they cope with this diagnosis
- For Dave Aron (friend of Morgan Stine). Dave had a severe stroke and needs prayers for healing, including return of speech and movement
- Continued prayers of healing for Adam Cain as he has been discharged home
- For Jan O'Neil (Ann Booth's friend) who is in aggressive treatment for her brain tumor
- Brian (Robbin Rekemeyer's cousin) recently diagnosed with cancer
- Barb Hunter (Kraig Hunter's mother) continued prayers for healing, following a successful pacemaker implant.
- Kenneth Hunter (Kraig Hunter's father) for successful treatments for cancer and strength to endure them
- Maxine Havill
- John Havill (prayers for his continued progress in walking again - prayers for strength, endurance and healing)
- Marty (Fred and Marion Lehman's son-in-law), who continues his recovery in a skilled nursing care facility in Cedar Rapids. Prayers that he can eventually return home.
- Jo Harman (for complete healing of her eye and for good vision)
- Amanda Meeker
- Tiffany Snodgress

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For Rosa, Emily, Hannah and Ben Moss, also Becky Woodward and family, that they may all feel God's presence and comfort during this fearful time of unknowns
- Prayers of peace and comfort for Kraig and Pam Hunter as they support Kraig's parents through health issues and treatments
- For the family, co-workers and friends of Eric Hosette (a Clinton firefighter who was killed in an explosion)
- 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 not mentioned by name who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Safety and God's Guidance:

- Prayers for the Alpha program that started on the 21st and will meet each Monday evening. Prayers that anyone who is interested or curious will take a leap of faith and try Alpha. Prayers for God's guidance and presence in this Alpha session, that persons will renew their faith or be called to begin their faith journey.
- Safety and guidance for all college students
- Safety for all during these frigid temperatures and wintry precipitation

Prayers for Transition:

 For those in the midst of changing seasons of life.

Prayers for Sustenance:

- Cornell FCA (meets Thursdays 7:00 a.m to 8:00 a.m.) Pray for God's love to grow on campus and spread across the nation.
- 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 of Iowa Correctional Institute for Women

Prayers for our World:

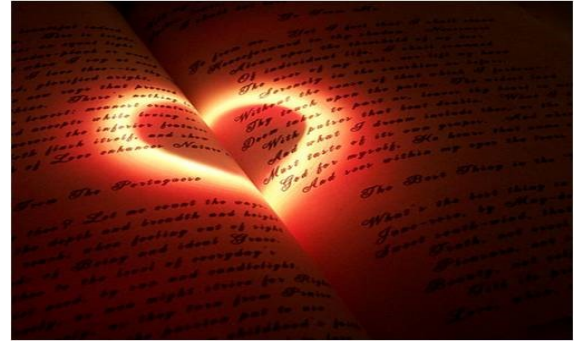
- Praying for peace and for mankind to work together
- For love, peace and dignity among all
- Prayers for unconditional love; loving one another even amongst disagreements
- Prayers for Alaska as they recover and rebuild following the recent earthquake
- For everyone who has experienced the trauma of the California fires
- For everyone on the East coast who have been affected by hurricanes

The United Methodist Church

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- Thanksgiving for all of our Sunday School teachers and Shepherds
- Thankfulness for all our blessings
- Hannah Moss was able to fly home to be with Rosa and her siblings
- Thanksgiving for our church family that pulls together to love and support each other

PRAYER LIST



February 2019 Worship Assistants

February 3rd at 8:30am (Praise Service)		February 3rd at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Eric Briesemeister	Parking Lot Door	TBD
West Door Greeters:	Angie Watson	West Door Greeters:	Kay Graber
Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Asher Eichhorn & Nolan Jackson	Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Kennedy Hunter & Gwen Steine
		Lector:	Karen Stewart
Nursery:	Ryley Hoffman	Nursery:	TBD
Soundboard Tech:	Preston Johnson	Slide Presenter:	Cot Graber
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Coffee Host:	Tim & Diane Legore
		Soundboard Tech:	Ben Johnson
Communion Assistants:	Asher Eichhorn & Nolan Jackson	Communion Assistants:	Kennedy Hunter & Gwen Steine
February 10th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		February 10th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door Greeter:	Matt Stewart	Parking Lot Door Greeter:	Jim Wallace
Red Door Greeter:	Babs Moore	Red Door Greeter:	Jackie Wallace
Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Asher Eichhorn & Family	Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Kennedy Hunter & Family
		Lector:	Babs Moore
Nursery:	Becca Conrad	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Sound Tech:	Payton Schwiebert	Sound Tech:	Ben Nydegger
		Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacob
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Coffee Host:	Cindy Strong
February 17th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		February 17th @ 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Micheel Family	Parking Lot Door	Amy & Vince Geis
West Door Greeters:	Tena & Jacob Pratt	West Door Greeters:	Dan Hakken
Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Asher Eichhorn & Family	Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Kennedy Hunter & Family
		Lector:	Cot Graber
Nursery:	Anna Hoffman	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
Sound Tech:	Kevin Woods	Coffee Host:	Cot & Kay Graber
		Sound Tech:	Matt Morrical
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Slide Presenter:	Kraig Hunter
February 24th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		February 24th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
Parking Lot Door	Jeff & Marci Schmatt	Parking Lot Door	Bonnie Keith
West Door Greeters:	Nancy Reasland	West Door Greeters:	Jan White
Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Asher Eichhorn & Family	Worship Assistants/Ushers:	Kennedy Hunter & Family
		Lector:	Janet Ault
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert	Nursery:	TBD
Sound Tech:	Preston Johnson	Coffee Host:	Sherryl Osborn
		Sound Tech:	Jake Hunter
Slide Presenter:	TBD	Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace



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	Joy Mitchell
Director of Youth and Worship...	Dillon Fawcett
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	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



***Our Sermon Series on
Holy Habits continues Sunday
February 3 through March 3rd.***