# 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.

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June 2018

#### **Pastor's Letter**

"Be still, and know that I am God I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46:10-11

#### Greetings!

By the time you read this, my family and I will be knee deep in boxes and last minute preparations for our move to Council Bluffs. On behalf of Alexis, Magdalene, and Nehemiah, I want to thank the United Methodist Church of Mt Vernon for your hospitality, encouragement, and companionship for the past two years. We've made great friends and memories that will last a lifetime. We have also been blessed to be a part of the awesome ministry that is happening in this church and pray for energy and excitement going forward.

As one of your pastors, I also pray that you delight in the joy of the Lord. God is our refuge and strength. Whenever we became dismayed and discouraged, Jesus performs miracles of resurrection and new life. Whenever we are overcome with a sense of peace and comfort in our hearts, we owe all our praise, thanksgiving, and gratitude towards God. More than anything, I pray you remember your calling to be the hands of feet of Jesus in this world. In the Great Commandment, Jesus reminded us to love God and love our neighbor. "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" Matthew 22:40. May this shape all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Amen. Pastor Mark Johnson

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Sunday Summer Celebration Service

French Toast Breakfast following in Fellowship Hall

Communion Worship 5:30 pm Wednesdays



Open House at the
Parsonage
with Weston &
Pastor Joy Mitchell

June 3rd, 4 to 7 pm Come and Join us!

### Update on the Way Forward

The United Methodist Church, as a denomination, relies on the Holy Bible and the teachings and example of Jesus Christ as its foundation for worship and daily living. Our forefathers, including John Wesley, prepared for us a strong base for our moral decisions as they lead us in understanding the Holy Scriptures.

As a living and breathing church, reaching out to the people of the world, loving God and loving others, congregations often struggle to reconcile our obedience to God's living word (the Bible) with cultural challenges and diverse ways of thinking. In addition to the Bible, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has a "law book" called the Book of Discipline (BoD) which provides parameters for the operations of many aspects of church life, including doctrine and our theological understanding of the Holy Scriptures, the use and care of our funds, the preparation and functions of our pastors, the ownership of property, and our structure for making decisions. Changes and adaptations of the BoD can only be made at General Conference which meets every four years, (a worldwide gathering of United Methodists representing all parts of the world).

As United Methodists, we are in a time of challenge regarding our understanding of human sexuality, and how we interpret the Holy Scriptures, and love our neighbors as ourselves. We all agree upon and believe, as the UMC's BoD states that "all people are of sacred worth." We welcome all into our lives, worship, and participation in the local church. In addition to this, we as a church disagree with one another over the following statement from the BoD which states that "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."

Every four years at the General Conference, the number of challenges to the language of the BoD related to homosexuality has increased, and although it has been brought up at every general conference since 1972, the requests for change have never been approved at the general conference. The number of pastors who have declared themselves to be "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" has increased. The number of pastors who have officiated at marriages of gay partners has increased, along with church trials in association with the choices of these pastors. The Bishop of the Mountain Sky Area Conference whom was consecrated as Bishop in the fall of 2016 is a "self-avowed practicing homosexual". This has created deeper ripples in a church that has already been experiencing schism over this conversation for quite some time. Each situation has brought about a great swing of emotion throughout the denomination.

Consequently, at the 2016 General Conference, a decision was made to table the issue, and create a "Commission on the Way Forward" to study and make recommendations for the future of the church regarding the conflict we face. They were exceedingly careful to represent many points of view within its membership. The Commission has been meeting for many months, studying various models of denominational decision making, and seeking to offer a way forward for our conflicted denomination.

As of early May, The Way Forward recommended three different options to the Council of Bishops, who then narrowed the options down to one to present to the specially called general conference meeting in February of 2019. This one plan is called the "One Church Plan". According to a Pastoral Letter from our Bishop Laurie Haller, "The One Church Plan would allow churches to contextualize language and practice around sexuality in support of witness and mission. The current prohibitive language in the Discipline around same sex marriage and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals would be removed. Local churches could decide whether or not to host same sex weddings, and clergy could choose whether or not to officiate at same sex weddings."

In addition to this one plan, the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church has also ruled that any laity, clergy, or association of the UMC may present recommendations for the general conference to consider and vote upon. The general conference is to vote and place before us the best plan for the UMC to lead us forward. Therefore, as of late February 2019, a variety of considerations could be brought before us, following the special general conference.

I am sharing this information with you to help you understand the background of the challenges facing our denomination at this time. Our church leaders have repeatedly begged us to approach this issue with prayer, study, learning and listening to each other in love. As your pastor, I will be offering several conversations, and resources for you to participate in for the decisions ahead.

There is a study called Firm Foundation that I will be leading with a small group of our leaders this Summer. An opportunity to read through this text with a group of individuals will be offered to you in the Fall to help us have this difficult conversation. There are other books and studies available that I continue to read and research.

In addition to this, the details of the "One Church Plan" should be broken down into all of its details and parameters and made available to all in July. After this and other details of petitions that will go to general conference are released, we will hold a Q&A time to help us sort through what will be asked of us, and decisions we will need to make as a church. I'm always open to having one on one or small group conversations if you would like to have a conversation.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Joy

### **2018 One Mission Change Challenge**

The Finance Committee has teamed up with One Mission Fundraising to offer a Change Challenge for 2018. One Mission offers fragrant candles in 15 different scents and they are packaged in a container with a slot on the top that allows them to become a change bank! Please use this container to collect your change and return it to the church to help eliminate the General Fund Deficit. Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> was the first coin collection date and we raised over \$535 in change!



We have designated **Sunday**, **June 24** as the next official coin collection date, but we would be happy to accept the contents of your Change Bank at any time!



Check out our booth on Saturday June 2 with tons of homemade chocolate goodies! 10 am to 4 pm out front of the church!

Thanks to all the chocolate makers and our volunteers!

You truly make this event what it is.

Any questions, contact Pastor Joy Mitchell or Angie Watson

### June 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

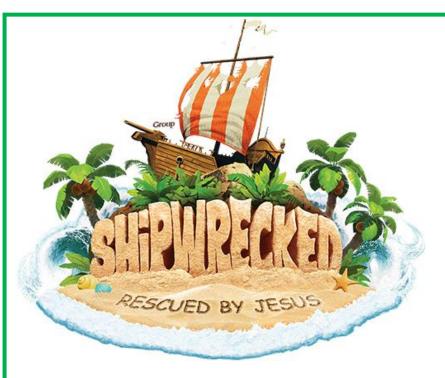
Loren & Renne Nydegger	06/01
Emily & Shea Stamp	
Ron & Stephanie Frantz	06/03
William & Ruth Deskin	06/05
Mick & Jeanne Snodgress	06/06
Stacey & Brock Barber	06/07
Bill & Marilyn Meyer	06/12
Vern & Arlene Sand	06/14
Bill & Courtney Micheel	06/15
Bill & Doris Bacher	06/16
Dan & Lynda Hakken	
Mike & Suzette Kragenbrink	
Andrew & Reagan Morf	
Dick & Nancy Thomas	
Nyla & Dean Mccall	06/17
Samantha & John Zehms	06/19
Jeff & Donna Walters	06/26
Jeremy & Lindsey Hotz	06/28



### Happy June Birthdays!

Kennedy Hunter	06/01
Lincoln Traynor	
Alison Dix	06/04
Dixie Raiber	
Keaton Wenz	
Alexa Roos	06/05
Lane Stewart	
Tena Pratt	06/06
Lance Lineburg	06/07
Benjamin Moss	06/08
Kristin Stewart	
Gavin Reinken	06/09
Sarena Vizcarra	
Ray Reasland	06/10
Everett Kubik	06/11
Cassidy Reinken	06/13
Ann Booth	06/14
Becky Woodward	

Travis Cooper	06/15
Preston Ellis Johnson	
Madelyn Goebel	06/17
Andrew Morf	
Jim Rebhuhn	
Zoey Jones	06/18
Linda Peters	06/19
Nathan Stewart	06/20
Jacob Leopold	06/21
Maya Davis	06/24
Mitchell Kragenbrink	
Miguel Matamoros Clute	
Payton Schwiebert	
Doug Shannon	06/25
Christopher Stoner	
Joseph Timm	06/26
Warren Havill	06/27
Elsa Lafollette	
Lindsey Hotz	06/29
Adam Zehms	06/30
Erik Zehms	



# SHIP-WRECKED

Vacation Bible School \*\*RESCUED BY JESUS\*\*

Have you signed up for VBS yet? You don't want to miss out on all the fun that we've got planned this summer!!

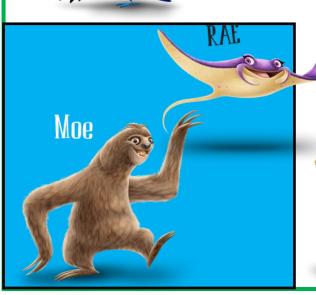
https://www.vbspro.events/p/events/mtvernonlisbonvbs18

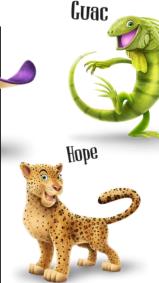
# June 24 to June 28

6:00 PM - 8:35 PM



https://www.facebook.com/groups/MVLVBS/





If you can't make it every night—STILL SIGN UP! We know summers are busy but please consider signing up participants AND volunteers even if you are unavailable some of the nights. We can work around volunteer schedules if they can't help all 5 nights.

### June 2018 @ United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Hope Lunch, Mis- sion of Hope Cedar Rapids 7:00 PM Chocolate Stroll Prep, Kitch- en/ Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM Chocolate Stroll- Food Booth Out Front of Church, 10 am to 4 pm / Also use Kitchen 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
3 Pastor Mark Final Sunday 9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 4:00 PM Parsonage Open House	Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	7:00 AM Council Breakfast, Skillet Cafe Mount Vernon 11:30 AM Staff Meeting, Barb's House 2:00 PM UMW Reading Group		7		9 lowa UMC Annual Conference - Des Moines 7:00 AM Revelation Wellness, Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
10 Iowa UMC Annual Conference - Des Moines Message - Ray Reasland 9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	11 Iowa UMC Annual Conference - Des Moines 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	12	en's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 5:30 PM Wednesday	14 5:30 PM Ice Cream Social, Hallmark Care Center 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting - Fellowship Hall		16 7:00 AM Revelation Wellness, Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
17 Care Ministry Special Offering/ Father's Day Care Ministry Sunday 9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	Committee Night - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	el room	en's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 5:30 PM Wednesday night Commun- ion Worship 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary	<b>21 7:00 PM</b> Council Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	·	Vacation Bible School Set up 7:00 AM Revelation Wellness, Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM Vacation Bi- ble School - final set up 6:00 PM VBS Sanctuary & Classrooms		26 6:00 PM VBS Sanctuary & Classrooms	en's Bible	28 6:00 PM VBS Sanctuary & Classrooms		30 7:00 AM Revelation Wellness, Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall

Online Calendar Link https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/73972454

### SPRC Update—New Job Positions

Dear Church,

In April, our church held the special Charge Conference you were invited to attend. The result of this gathering was a unanimous vote to support this church becoming a single-pastor appointment with the re-appointment of Pastor Mark to Council Bluffs. This action coincides with the diligent work SPRC and I have been about to move us forward in vision and mission. This work has identified areas and responsibilities that will need strong support leading to some necessary restructuring and the creation of some staff position openings. During the most recent All-Committee Night this past Mondayevening, SPRC came to the following decision:

- 1. Replace the current part-time Youth Director position with a full-time Director of Youth and Worship. This is a new position that will work closely with me in implementing the confirmation program as well as continuing to grow our vital youth and worship programming.
- 2. Create a 10-hour position for Christian Education Director.

These positions have grown from the responsibilities formerly carried by Pastor Mark, along with his pastoral duties. They will move us forward in mission and vision and with their addition, we can also offer additional support for our current staff. Through this work, SPRC has also fulfilled its challenge by the Finance Committee to realize a savings to the 2019 budget without the elimination of positions or sacrificing our programs and services.

Seeking the strongest candidates in the areas listed above, we will do our diligence to hire someone who is pastoral at heart, and feels a call to this type of ministry, to move us forward in mission and vision.

Job descriptions are being posted this week, and I would welcome you to share these with anyone you might think would be interested in the positions.

Thank you for your support and grace as we move forward for the sake of Christ.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Joy

### JULIAN JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

College students who are entering either their junior or senior year at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2018 -19 academic year and who are members of the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church are eligible for the Julian Johnston Scholarship award administered by the church's memorial committee.

Julian Johnston, a former Mt. Vernon businessman, provided for this scholarship in his will as appreciation for money he received from this church to enable him to finish his education at Cornell. Dividends from his Chevron stock given to the church provide the funding for this scholarship. Awards may be \$500 or \$1000 depending on the number of applications and the actual funds available. Last year's recipients were: Trevor Baty, Everett Thompson, Sydney Pratt, and Keenan Shannon.

Applicants need to 1) fill out a form, 2) write a one-page letter describing the financial need and their career goals, and 3) provide a letter of recommendation in order to be considered by the evaluation committee. Application forms were mailed to our church members who were high school graduates in 2015 or 2016. In case anyone is missed an application form may be obtained from the church office. There is no age limit. Applications must be received at the church office by Friday June 8, 2018. Awards will be announced within the next 30 days.

-- Cot Graber

### **Current Job Openings:**

#### Director of Youth and Worship:

We are in search of a passionate follower of Jesus who takes delight in worshiping the Lord, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with Youth and Adults alike. In this position we need someone who can effectively inspire, lead, and equip saints for ministry through the youth ministries within the church and community. We desire someone who can work effectively with volunteers and parents in both youth ministry and worship ministries. We are looking for someone with musical giftings who can lead our praise band during worship into the heart of worship in response to our God. Organizational skills, and an ability to think through the processes of each ministry will be key. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please submit your resume and cover letter no later than June 15, 2018 to Pastor Joy Mitchell at pastorjoymitchell@gmail.com.

#### **Christian Education Director:**

We are looking for a passionate follower of Jesus who loves children, and wants to help them embark deeper on their spiritual journey. They will need to work well with other adults and children, as they inspire and raise up volunteers for ministry. This person will choose Sunday School Curriculum, work closely with our Sunday School Coordinator, and inspire and raise up teachers and shepherds. Working with volunteers to organize and Implement Sunday School Classes, the Christmas Pageant and VBS will be included. If interested in this 10 hour position, please send your resume and cover letter no later than June 15th, 2018 to Pastor Joy Mitchell at <a href="mailto:pastorjoymitchell@gmail.com">pastorjoymitchell@gmail.com</a>.

Here is a link to the full job descriptions: <a href="https://www.umcmv.com/job-postings/">https://www.umcmv.com/job-postings/</a>



DEAR GOD,
I WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE.
NOT TO ASK FOR ANYTHING
FROM YOU. BUT TO SIMPLY SAY
THANK YOU. FOR ALL I HAVE.





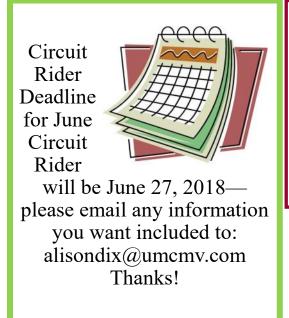


Summer

### FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

10:30 am In Fellowship Hall

After Summer Celebration Service



### Special Giving in May

Thank you for all the support of

**Immigrant Families in Mount Pleasant Iowa!** 

June Special Offerings are ...

SE Linn Bulk Food Drive June 3 and June 10

#### Scrip Update

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! So far in 2018 we have raised over \$764 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.



You can now give electronically ONLINE! Use your debit card, credit card or bank account. We are offering this to allow for varied giving, special offering contributions or wanting to use your cards instead of checks. (we can still set up monthly giving through the bank!)

http://www.umcmv.com/online-giving

#### Give Scrip a Try!

Are you planning to make a big purchase this summer? A new appliance, a computer, or patio furniture? Please considering using Scrip – the regional clearinghouse offers cards from Target, Menards, Lowes, Best Buy, Home Depot, Amazon and many other retailers. Scrip is an easy way to raise funds for the church simply by planning your purchases in advance. You will always receive your cards within a week of the order. Thanks for giving Scrip a try!

Jackie Morrical, Scrip Coordinator morrical@mchsi.com



### Our Mission Team has Returned

Our 6-member mission team to Sibiu, Romania has returned with full hearts and lots of stories. We want to thank each and every person who prayed for us and contributed as a sender. You were there with us, and we felt your love and support!

We did a mini Vacation Bible School for the Superkids Adademy. They learned songs, made crafts, and had outdoor activities. Most importantly, they learned something about Jesus every day.

As we recover from jet lag, we will compile our experiences in order to share them with you. Stay tuned! In the meantime, enjoy this photo of the precious kids we got to meet. They made the sign for us,

which reads "Welcome to Romania". Indeed, we felt very welcomed!

Friends, your love, prayers, and support is life-changing for these kids who have suffered great trauma. Thank you! Stay tuned for more to come.....

Nancy Reasland Outreach Chair







### **Prayer List** — The following family and friends are in need of PRAYERS:

#### **Prayers for Healing:**

- Kaeli Knapp (for rest and recovery from open heart surgery, while awaiting plans for the next medical procedure; please pray for her strength and healing for her heart)
- Sue Pisarik (left knee replacement on 5/25)
- Megan Klaus (receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments)
- Mary Boudreau (cancer)
- Amanda Meeker (cancer)
- Beth Johnson
- Tiffany Snodgress
- Marsha Light
- Mike Duroe, Cornell Wrestling Coach battling brain cancer

#### **Prayers for Comfort and Strength:**

- For Andy and Nicole Knapp, as they maneuver the stress and emotions of being in the PICU with baby Kaeli.
- For the Jim Davis family, following the death of Jim's father.
- For the immigrant families in Mount Pleasant: those husbands, workers, and fathers who were rounded up and their wives, mothers and sisters, who are terrified and without financial support.
- 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:**

- For Maria Escal, for her to find work to support her herself and her family in Venezuela.
- For children and their families as summer vacation from school begins. Prayers for safety during travels and other summer activities.
- For smooth process as Mundo continues to take steps in his asylum status and prayers for those assisting him.
- God's guidance and presence in the lives of our Confirmands.

#### **Prayers for Transition:**

- For Hannah Moss while she awaits her assignment as a Naval Corpsman. Also, for continued progress with health issues.
- For those in the midst of changing seasons of life.
- For graduating seniors in high school and college, and for their families.

#### **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
- Agape Ministry in Cedar Rapids (leader Abraham Boniface)
- UMCMV pastors, 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:**

- For American Pastor Andrew Brunson, imprisoned in Turkey under false charges. Prayers for his release and safety of body and mind.
- For peace for our world and all people everywhere
- Strength and love for those who are hurting

#### The United Methodist Church **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:**

- Thankfulness that the Mission Team has returned from Romania and had an amazing trip. Thank you God for their safe return and your presence during their trip.
- Gratitude and joy for everyone who has contributed to the Romanian mission team by praying, participating in the talent show, donating money and toys, writing encouraging cards and driving the team to and from the airport. We thank you!

## **June 2018 Worship Assistants**

Daulding Lat Dagu Cuastorier			
Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Ron (& Nolan) Jackson		
West Door Greeters:	Amy (& Eryn) Jackson		
Ushers:	Ryley, Anna & Emma Hoffman		
Coffee Host:	Diane Legore		
Communion Assistants	Lily Booth & Ali Ott		
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston/Brittany Booth		
Lector:	Karen Stewart		
Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace		
Story Time & Song Leader:	Anna Nydegger & Renee Nydegger		
Sound Tech	Matt Morrical		
June 10th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)			
Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Loren Hoffman		
West Door Greeters:	Jen Hoffman		
Worship Assistants:	Matt & Allison Traynor		
Coffee Host:	Mary Jane McWilliams		
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert/Rosa Moss		
Lector:	Cot Graber		
Slide Presenter:	Jackie Morrical		
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD		
Sound Tech	TBD		
June 17th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)			
Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Ron Coe		
West Door Greeters:	Ann Coe		
Worship Assistants:	Darrell & Donna Jordan		
Coffee Host	Mike & Karen Stewart		
Nursery:	Emily Davis/Cindy Strong		
Lector:	Rainey Brown		
Slide Presenter:	Trude Elliott		
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD		
Sound Tech	TBD		
June 24th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)			
Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Dan Stoner		
West Door Greeters:	Cathy Stoner		
Worship Assistants:	Kevin Woods & TBD		
Coffee Host	Sherryl Osborn		
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston/Brittany Booth		
Lector:	Ruth Miller		
Slide Presenter:	Cot Graber		
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD		
Sound Tech	TBD		



# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Staff

Senior Pastor	Joy Mitchell
Associate Pastor/Christian	NC 1 T 1
Education Director	Mark Johnson
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter	
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	
Wedding Coordinator	.Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries	
	& Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	Mike Kragenbrink
	Alison Dix
4.	



## NEW Summer Worship

9:30 am Sunday Summer Celebration Worship

Through Sept 2, 2018

Communion Worship 5:30 pm Wednesdays