



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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July 2018

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that your summer is filled with sunshine and joy. I pray that you are experiencing delight in time with family and friends. I hope and pray you are seeing, hearing, smelling, and tasting God all around you.

We are in the midst of VBS week here at the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. Our combined efforts with First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon and Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church are delightful as we gather worshipping the Lord with gladness. I can't quite explain to you the joy I am experiencing as I interact with children and share Bible stories with them in ways that invite them to participate in the story of God. I'm surprised at the amount some already know, and am delighted with the joy of expression as they participate. From preschool children, to youth and adult volunteers, each of our lives are being impacted by the Spirit of God, and for this I'm incredibly grateful.

In the midst of this season that seems to lose a great deal of the normal routine we find in the Fall, Winter and Spring, I am reminded about the words of Jesus in John 15: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

It is certainly true, we must abide in God to be fruitful, in order to truly make a difference in the kingdom. When I allow the shifting routine of schedule to shift my time with God out of priority, I am less productive, less fruitful, and overall grumpier. God continues to reel me back in, to partake in the ancient Spiritual practices that keep us aligned with our one true Lord. Therefore, I challenge you in the same way, my friends. Stick close to Jesus.

We would love to offer you opportunities to worship with us. Sunday mornings we are worshipping at 9:30 all together. This is followed by French toast breakfast in the fellowship hall. If you have not yet partaken, I would encourage you to do so. Wednesday evenings we have a brief communion service at 5:30pm. We will not be worshipping together on the fourth of July, but beginning the 11th of July we will be having a series of testimonies from our very own. I hope you'll come and hear how God is revealing more of God's self to God's people!

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Joy Mitchell

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Sunday
Summer Celebration
Service

French Toast Breakfast
following in Fellowship
Hall

Communion Worship
5:30 pm Wednesdays

(NO Wednesday
Service on July 4)



Summer

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

10:30 am
In Fellowship Hall
After Summer
Celebration Service

JULY Update on the Way Forward

Dear Friends,

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." Some agree with these statements and others do not.

For many there is a great deal of anxiety around these conversations. Many others aren't aware of some of the struggles happening in the United Methodist church across the nation, and therefore across the world. I write to you to keep you informed on the conversations we are having, and invite you into them. We love one another, and are a family. We are in a season and possibility of change and transformation as a church, and we want to care for one another in the midst of this. I'm hopeful that if we can be talking now, we can make wise choices and care for one another, if a time comes when we need to make a decision upon who we are in the midst of this conversation.

At the Iowa Annual Conference this June, our Bishop, Laurie Haller, invited us to participate in praying with Methodists around the world each day at 2:23pm, for four minutes. This matches with when the special general conference will convene, February 23-26, 2019. I invite you to set your alarm on your phone, fitbit, or whatever device you keep close, to join us in praying for our church, our leaders, our delegates, and our friends.

Here at the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon, there are a small group of leaders reading through the book "A Firm Foundation". Our conversations have begun, as we've begun to discuss some of the challenges we have faced, and what we hope for. I'm grateful that these discussions have been loving, kind, and that we have found already that we have all perspectives at the table. We are working toward loving conversations as we wrestle with our own perspectives and any decisions we will need to make as a congregation. We wrestle with those we love and care for, we wrestle with the Christian Scriptures that have withstood the test of time, and wrestle with the interpretations that we desire to remain faithful to. This study will be made available to you this Fall.

The Commission on a Way Forward was set up to discuss and create possible pathways for the United Methodist Church to find our next steps, in order to break free of the disagreements and fighting around LGBTQ conversations. All three pathways that the Commission On a Way Forward have come up with will be brought before the General Conference in February. One of the three is the traditionalist view. This option upholds the wording that is already in the book of discipline and will include greater enforcement of this standing. Another is a branch model, which offers three different perspectives all under one umbrella. This removes the language about homosexuality from the book of discipline, and allows conferences and local churches to find where they best belong. The last option is the local church plan, or the one church plan. This option removes the language from the book of disciple and allows each congregation and pastor to decide for themselves what is most fitting from their perspective.

I have additional resources and information if you are interested in digging deeper. I am also available for one on one and small group conversations.

May God's Grace and Peace be with you in Abundance,
Pastor Joy Mitchell

Bishop's Statement on Family Separation

Last week, the United Methodist Council of Bishops joined other faith organizations in issuing a statement asking the United States government to end its policy of separating immigrant families. The statement includes these words, "Recently, the U.S. Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the well-being of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

"We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children." You may read the full statement [here](#).

According to the *Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church, paragraph 162.C, "Children...are full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations. ...Moreover, children have the rights to food, shelter, clothing, health care and emotional well-being, as do adults, **and these rights we affirm as theirs regardless of actions or inactions of their parents or guardians.** In particular, children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse."

Paragraph 162.H also clearly states, "We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children...." It is estimated that more than 2,400 immigrant families have been separated at the U.S.-Mexico border from October 2016 through February 2018 and during two weeks in May. Our United Methodist immigration ministry, *Justice for our Neighbors* (JFON), is working to help our immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking neighbors obtain safety, protection, and freedom. If you would like to donate to JFON through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), please click [here](#). 100% of your gift through UMCOR goes to National JFON.

Blessings, Bishop Laurie Haller (from www.iaumc.org)



**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE CHOCOLATE,
WHO VOLUNTEERED for the event and
For all those who purchased CHOCOLATE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

July 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

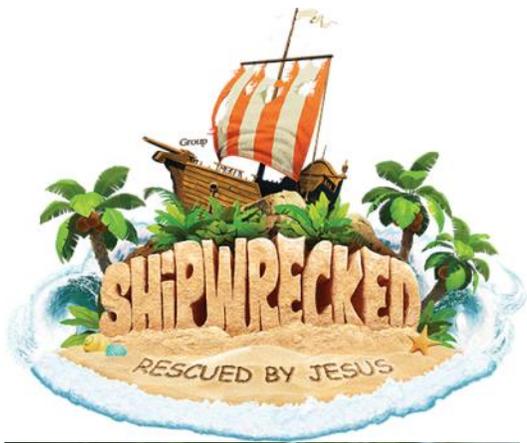
Melissa & Kerry Kahl	07/01
Jason & Brittany Booth	07/02
Alison Dix & Mel Steen	
MacKenzie & Ben Kraus	
Tim & Diane Legore	07/14
Tyler & Taya Roos	
Dan & Cathy Stoner	
Abe Tubbs & Nikki Claussen Tubbs	07/20
Brian & Teresa Bothell	07/24
Scott & Jessica Johanningmeier	07/26
Marty St. Clair & Cindy Strong	
Kyle & Jena Jaspers	07/28



Happy July Birthdays!

Dorothy Rilett	07/01
Jim Wallace	07/02
Addison Ault	07/03
Graham Bradbury	
Nikki Claussen Tubbs	
Sabrina Jones	
Matt Stewart	
Jody Stewart	07/05
Richard Jacob	07/06
Matt Traynor	
Andrea Hallier	07/08
Cathy Stoner	07/09
Amy Anderson	07/12
Chad Conrad	07/14
Henry Steine	

Marilyn Schnittjer	07/15
Danielle Smith	
Cot Graber	07/19
Randy Cooper	07/22
Luke Rushford	
Seth Rushford	
Marj Whitley	
Joyce Zenor	
Kay Graber	07/23
Preston Johnson	07/24
Taylor Sedlacek	07/28
Jay Currie	07/29
Jeff Walters	07/31



VBS 2018 WAS A SUCCESS! REMEMBER- JESUS RESCUES!



Good News! Iowa JFON Hires 3rd Attorney!

Halleluah! The Iowa JFON office has hired Alexander Cardenas, a graduate of Creighton Law School, as its third attorney. This will fill a vacancy from a year ago when a former attorney took a job with Catholic Charities in Cedar Rapids. Even when funding became available, Iowa-JFON has had difficulty finding attorneys with a specialty in immigration law.

Iowa-JFON is a Methodist-sponsored ministry, funded through special offerings and the Iowa Annual Conference budget (local church apportionments).

Alexander has worked in law offices in Omaha and Washington, DC. He was born in Puerto Rico and speaks Spanish fluently which will be helpful. He will be taking the Iowa bar exam in July and hopefully can begin work August 1.

Iowa JFON has been operating with only two attorneys for many months. With 7 clinics monthly in the state, there are typically 70-80 new cases added each month and a backlog of 300 cases or more per attorney that continue for as many as four years. At the Cedar Rapids clinic, we have been fortunate to have a volunteer attorney who has had special training to assist with the interview and consultation process. But she cannot participate in the long-term work as she has a fulltime job at a local law firm.

In addition, our Cedar Rapids JFON clinic has had a huge influx of volunteers, five in just the past week. They are typically young professionals, living in Cedar Rapids, Marion, and even Manchester. They have to call the Des Moines office to sign up so it is not an easy process. At the Cedar Rapids clinic, we typically have up to 35 volunteers, including the Methodist women who provide the evening meal. It is so heartwarming to see how many people care!

Kay Graber, Clinic Coordinator
Amy Guardado, Ass't Coordinator
Cedar Rapids JFON Clinic



JULIAN JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Four members of the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church who are all entering their junior year of college have been awarded Julian Johnston Scholarships of \$500 each for the 2018-19 academic year. The awards will be presented at the July 15 morning worship service at the church.

John and Charlie Engelbrecht, sons of Jim and Jackie Engelbrecht, are students at Cornell College following in the footsteps of their father. John is majoring in Business and Exercise Science. With an interest in physical fitness he is considering operating a business in health services. Brother Charlie is majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in Business and also is considering a career as a health professional.

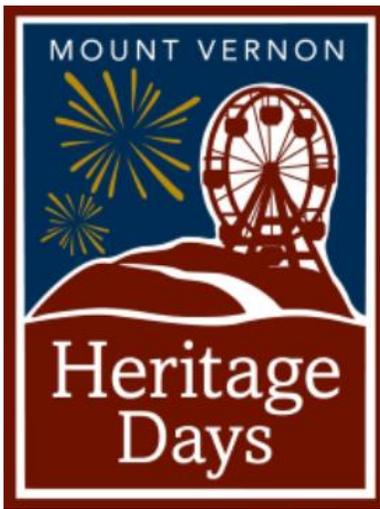
Mitchell Kragenbrink, son of Mike and Suzette Kragenbrink, will be entering his junior year at Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. He is majoring in Engineering Physics with plans of becoming a mechanical or aeronautical engineer.

Joe Timm is the son of Ed and Stephanie Timm and is attending Central College in Pella, Iowa. Joe is studying secondary education and the social sciences with the goal of becoming a middle/high school social studies teacher.

The scholarship was established by Julian E. Johnston, a well-known Mount Vernon businessman. Mr. Johnston was very appreciative of the financial support he received as a Cornell College student during the 1930's from the local Methodist Church and set up this scholarship to help others. This is the 21st year of offering this scholarship.

Cot Graber, Chair, Julian E. Johnston Scholarship Fund, United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon





Sign up to volunteer
or donate to our
Heritage Days Food
Booth coming up
July 14, 2018!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f44afa72aa31-heritage>



Matthew 25 Transform Week

On Tuesday, June 26, Ruth Miller and Kay Graber represented our church at a luncheon and tour of homes being “transformed” during Transform 2018 as part of the Matthew 25 mission work. Mount Vernon Methodist Church is a financial supporter of Matthew 25.

Throughout the southwestern part of Cedar Rapids, 16 renovation projects are taking place with teams of volunteers from churches in the area and companies such as Rockwell and Quaker Oats.

Projects included both the inside and outside of homes. Porches, front steps, windows and doors are being replaced....bathrooms, flooring, decluttering, kitchens are renovated or repaired. Plumbing and electrical work is done by those with special skills, but most of the work is done by hundreds of volunteers....some working one day, some working one week, some working for many weeks....some are retirees, some have leave from their jobs to join a team.....some are professional builders, some have barely held a hammer....but all have a great heart for helping others living healthfully and with dignity in their homes.

The owners have many stories to tell. After the flood ravaged her home, one woman was told the city wanted to buy it so she moved out and left. Two years passed and nothing happened. She then learned the city wasn't interested after all so she came back and found that vagrants had inhabited the house and it was wrecked inside. She had no resources nor the physical ability to make repairs. Enter: Matthew 25!

Here are some pictures from this year's Transform 2018 week. Work will continue much longer than just one week. Does anyone from our church want to help out in this way? Let the church office know, and we will make sure you have an opportunity!



Special Giving in June

Thank you for all the support of

SE Linn Bulk Food Drive—\$1,721 Collected

JULY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Peace with Justice UMCOR Special Offering

Circuit
Rider
Deadline
for June
Circuit
Rider



will be July 27, 2018—please email any information you want included to:
alisondix@umcmv.com
Thanks!

A “Thank you” was received from First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant in support of our special offering to support immigrant families in Mount Pleasant after the ICE raid. Thanks and we continue to keep these families in our prayers.



NEW

Online Giving
Now Available!

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>

At our Wednesday Night Services we will have personal testimonies of the following people:

July 11th - Alison Dix
July 18th - Ruth Miller
July 25th - Jim Baty
August 8th - Julie Baty

SUMMER SERVICES

**COMMUNION
WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS @
5:30 PM**

United Methodist Church
of Mount Vernon

July 2018 @ United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Pastor Joy Mitchell on Vacation			
9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM Evening Book Club, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	7:00 AM Council Breakfast, Skillet Cafe 2:00 PM UMW Reading Group	Offices Closed- 4th of July holiday	Visit to Women at the Well in Mitchellville, IA		8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Romania Team message 9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	11:30 AM Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00 PM Council Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	9:30 AM UMW Board Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room 5:30 PM Wednesday night Communion Worship 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary		Heritage Days prep	Heritage Days Food Booth 11 am to 3 pm - Out front of Church / Kitchen 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Juliet Johnson Baptism UMW - Summer Mission U 9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	UMW - Summer Mission U 6:30 PM Church Committee Night - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	UMW - Summer Mission U 7:00 PM Nominations Meeting, Chapel Room	5:30 PM Wednesday night Communion Worship 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary			8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Balcony Classroom		5:30 PM Wednesday night Communion Worship 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary			8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30 AM One Sunday Worship- Summer Time 10:30 AM French Toast Breakfast, Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall		5:30 PM Wednesday night Communion Worship 6:45 PM Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary			11:00 AM Bridal Shower - Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM AA Meeting Fellowship Hall

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

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

Prayers for Healing:

- Beth Johnson (receiving treatment this week)
- Pat Sorgenfrey—recovering at home from short hospitalization
- Joe Hunter had jaw surgery 6/26 and doing well—prayers for smooth recovery
- Gordon Reed (Angie Watson's father - recovering from open heart surgery)
- Everett Kubik (recently hospitalized)
- Kaeli Knapp (continued prayers for Kaeli and her parents while she is in the PICU)
- Sue Pisarik (recovering from left knee replacement)
- Megan Klaus Mary Boudreau (cancer)
- Amanda Meeker (cancer) Tiffany Snodgress
- Marsha Light Mike Duroe (Cornell wrestling coach, battling brain cancer)

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- The family of Ruby Zabel (Ruth Reckling's sister) as they grieve the loss of Ruby
- For the Kerr Family: "May our loving Lord give grace, strength, and comfort to them all", as they mourn the loss of John Kerr (uncle to Lindsey Kerr Hotz)
- For the Jim Davis family, following the death of Jim's father.
- For Maria Escal, that she will find work to support herself and her family in Venezuela
- 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 a fun, successful and safe week of VBS as children learn about Jesus
- For Sydney Pratt, that she will learn to give the details & control of each day to God, that He can work through her as He wishes.
- For children and their families during summer break. 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.

Prayers for Transition:

- Pastor Mark and his family as they move to Council Bluffs. For all pastors & church congregations who are experiencing changes.
- 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:

- Please pray for summer volunteers for Bridgehaven's retail shop, Treasures
- 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 the children who have been taken from their mothers at the border
 - For peace and serenity among all human kind
 - Strength and love for those who are hurting
- The United Methodist Church

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- Congratulations to Tammy and Randy Cooper on the birth their grandson, Ryken Nash Cooper. Proud parents are Brett and Danielle Cooper and big sister, Emersyn.
- Aaron and Liz Reasland and their children will be moving back to the area this summer, as Aaron has accepted a job with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Cedar Rapids.
- Kaeli Knapp continues to do well, and is making strides towards getting to go home
- For summertime and all the fun and seasonal activities that come with it.
- Sunday morning French toast breakfasts and fellowship.

July 2018 Worship Assistants

July 1st at 9:30am (One Worship Summer Celebration Service)

Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Brian Bothell
West Door Greeters:	Nancy Reasland
Ushers:	TBD
Coffee Host:	N/A
Communion Assistants	Tessa Baty & Ava Claussen-Tubbs
Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Lector:	Janet Ault
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD
Sound Tech	John Gee

July 8th at 9:30am (One Worship Summer Celebration Service)

Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Todd Norton
West Door Greeters:	Jennifer Back
Worship Assistants:	Maura Arnold & Lisa Davis
Coffee Host:	N/A
Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Lector:	Judy Stine
Slide Presenter:	Bonnie Wikstrom
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD
Sound Tech	Peyton Schwiebert

July 15th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)

Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Amy Jackson
West Door Greeters:	Ron Jackson
Worship Assistants:	Vern & Arlene Sand
Coffee Host	N/A
Nursery:	Brittany Booth
Lector:	Kristi Keast
Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacob
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD
Sound Tech	TBD

July 22th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)

Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Matt Stewart
West Door Greeters:	Shellie & Lance Kamaus
Worship Assistants:	Amy & Gabi Guardado
Coffee Host	N/A
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston
Lector:	Babs Moore
Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD
Sound Tech	Peyton Schwiebert

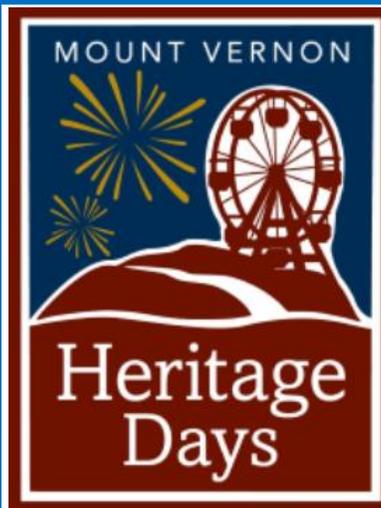
July 29th at 9:30am (One Worship Sunday Service)

Parking Lot Door Greeters:	Eric Briesemeister
West Door Greeters:	Angie Watson
Worship Assistants:	Margo Massey & Kevin Woods
Coffee Host	N/A
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston
Lector:	Dan Hakken
Slide Presenter:	Trude Elliot
Story Time & Song Leader:	TBD
Sound Tech	John Gee


 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
Associate Pastor/Christian	
Education Director.....	Mark Johnson
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter	Alison Dix
Admin. Asst./ Membership.....	Jo Harman
Nursery Care.	Melissa Oxley
Praise Team Director	
Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .	Kristi Keast
Organist/Pianist.....	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Joleen Woods
Custodian	Rosa Moss
Maintenance & Repair Director . . .	Trustees
Wedding Coordinator.....	Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries	Richard Jacob, & Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	Mike Kragenbrink Alison Dix



Check out our
food booth at

**HERITAGE
DAYS!**

Sat. July 14 11 am - 3 pm

**We will have tons of
yummy goodies!**