



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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May 2020

PASTOR'S LETTER

Psalm 91:1-2

**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord,
"My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

Good Morning Church,



I hope I find you living in the midst of the storm with peace in your heart. I have thought many times about the hymn it is well with my soul. During this Pandemic it is what I keep coming back to. As I check in with people and they with me, asking the age old question from John Wesley, how is it with your soul? I can answer a lot of different ways depending on the moment, hour, or day. But, deep down in the midst of it all, I know that it is well with my soul. Christ has offered peace in the midst of trying times. God has offered unconditional love in the midst of the storm. Our Savior has promised to always be with us no matter what comes our way. Jesus says, "I will be with you always even to the end of the age." So, as we walk through another month of things not being as they once were, we look for the Lord in each situation and relationship and all around us. Have you noticed God? I certainly have!

On Monday, April 27th, the Governor of Iowa lifted the closure of churches, stating that if taking the proper precautions, we could re-open, and begin to do life more like normal within the worship setting. However, the Bishop followed that up with a letter strongly encouraging all churches to remain with online worship settings through the month of May. (see Circuit Rider Page 3) Therefore, we will follow the guidance of the Bishop, and remain with online worship through the month of May, and then we will re-evaluate. We will be reviewing different stepped approaches to re-opening in the coming weeks, so that when the time comes to open the doors, we are prepared.

We are all in this together, a global pandemic, it draws people together. And yet, we are all experiencing it in different ways depending on our health, our age, our work situations, our family situations, etc. Know that you are being prayed for, that you are being cared for, and that the love of God is yours for the taking. Please let me know if there is anything we can be doing for you.

The Hymn, "It is well", rolls through my mind, specifically this line: "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." Is it well with your soul?

I'll be seeing you online!

Blessings, Pastor Joy Mitchell



WORSHIP

Sermon Video

10 AM Sundays

Check it out online!



Also music, Children's sermon

and extras coming! <https://www.umcmv.com/covid-19-umcmv/>



Check out Jim Baty's Facebook page to join in the Praise sessions with the Baty Family—they are so uplifting and it is fun to hear their family harmonize!

Also there is a page for all our Children's Sermons, so check that out:

<https://www.umcmv.com/young-disciples-messages/>

As well as our Sunday School Page with activities for Kids!

<https://www.umcmv.com/sunday-school-virtual-learning/>

For the sake of safety and health,

our building is currently closed through June 1.

If you need support, someone to talk to, or other assistance, we are here for you.

We are doing virtual prayer sessions on Wednesday AM so if you want help joining that, please let us know.

Pastor Joy is doing Facebook Live Videos and our sermons are on YouTube, so if you need assistance finding either of those, just let us know.

Pastoral Support Contact Pastor Joy Mitchell 515-450-8994

Congregational Care Contact Julie Baty 319-533-2349

Communications Contact Alison Dix 319-573-4801



From the Office of
Bishop Laurie Haller

Bishop "strongly recommends" no in-person worship before June 1

Dear Friends,

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, I am strongly encouraging all United Methodist churches in Iowa to refrain from in-person worship until June 1, when I will reassess. I am going beyond the Governor's recommendations despite my previously stated intention of following Governor Reynolds' guidelines around worship.

My reasoning is that our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to protect those who are most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the very young, and those with underlying health conditions. Even though we all want to return to our churches and be a part of the body of Christ in person, I believe that it is more important to assure the safety of our communities from further infections.

John Wesley's Three General Rules included: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. In the midst of our own personal desires to get back to normal, our faith requires us to seek the good of all. By practicing good judgment and common sense and out of a concern for the welfare of our neighbor, we must continue to stay the course by being diligent around social distancing and refraining from being in large groups. At the same time, there are ample opportunities to safely engage in mission and outreach in our communities.

In the Wednesday April 29 edition of the Weekly 360°, you will find a process for staged re-opening of local churches entitled, "Incremental Reentry Process for the Iowa Annual Conference." I urge the clergy and lay leadership of every local church to read through it as you ready your congregation.

This morning, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a proclamation, easing some restrictions that have been in place around the state. The full proclamation can be found [here](#). Here are the highlights:

- Beginning this Friday, May 1, some businesses in 77 counties will be permitted to reopen at 50% capacity, including restaurants, fitness centers, libraries, racetracks, retail stores, and malls (food courts and common seating areas must remain closed). The other 22 counties will continue their current restrictions.
- Social, community, recreational, and leisure sporting events can open, with a limit of ten people.
- Other businesses will remain closed until May 15.
- Spiritual and religious gatherings will be permitted as long as they practice social distancing guidelines.

You can find the list of the counties that will be allowed to ease prior restrictions [here](#). Because the Iowa Annual Conference Center is in Polk County, which is not included in the eased restrictions, we will remain closed until June 1, with staff continuing to work from home.

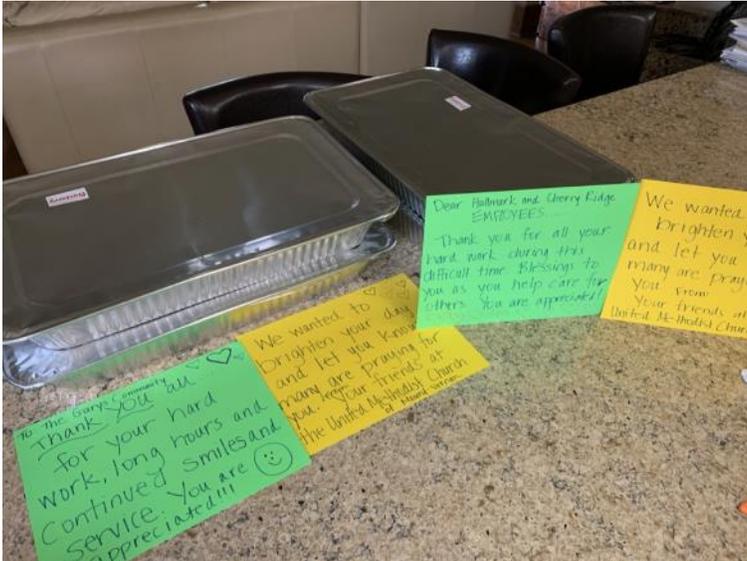
During the past five weeks, I have participated in a number of online worship services and have been truly blessed by your creativity, your deep desire to share Christ's love in new ways, and your warm invitation to be a part of a faith community. Statistics are already showing strong indications of a resurgence in participation in worship and small groups.

These are not easy times. Yet the body of Christ remains strong and faithful and is making a huge difference in our state and around the world. I will keep you informed in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you.

Bishop Laurie

Posted online April 27- <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/letter-from-bishop-laurie-regarding-governor-kim-reynolds-proclamation-13651153>

CARE CIRCLE



Julie Baty, our Congregational Care Coordinator has been busy spreading care throughout our congregation and our community. We were able to treat the Gary's employees with Coffee cakes from Skillet Café as well as Hallmark and Cherry Ridge team members who are caring for their residents with much care and concern.

We have also decorated the church lawn with encouragement and cheer to help as people walk or pass by to remind them that "TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS!" Other signs include supporting health care workers, graduates and Keeping the Faith through these uncertain times.



OUTREACH & MISSIONS

We continue to partner with SE Linn Community Center in Lisbon. One of their upcoming projects includes Community Gardens, including a vegetable plot near Lisbon Rehab Center, a Butterfly Garden Outside Lisbon Rehab Center and Raised Bed Gardens at Lester Buresh Wellness Center in Mount Vernon. Here is their message for volunteering around the gardens:

Today is a perfect day to kick off our Community Garden project for 2020! This year we are expanding to 3 gardens and we need your help. In partnership with the LBC in Mount Vernon and local Master Gardeners, we're adding 12 raised bed gardens at the LBC. We'll continue our traditional vegetable garden near the Lisbon Rehab Center and add a butterfly garden outside of the sunroom at that facility, for the residents to enjoy.

So if you need to get out of your house, find a task to calm your anxieties, or just want to do a good deed for the community, this is for you! We'll be adhering to all social distancing guidelines by scheduling volunteers at separate times or in family groups only. Volunteers are welcome to bring their own tools, or we will have cleaning supplies on hand to disinfect tools between uses.

In the last two years we've raised 1500 pounds of vegetables for our food pantry clients and community members. With your help, we can continue to fight hunger and promote healthy eating here in Lisbon and Mount Vernon. Please click on the link below if you are interested in volunteering. Feel free to share this email or link with anyone. Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/mkNPCeQQyG9eqSbx8>

DID YOU KNOW... History of United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Music has always been an integral part of worship at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, not only through singing but also through instruments. For Methodists, an organ was integral to a worshipful service!

The first record of an organ in our church is in the 1887 minutes of the Board of Trustees. The minutes tell of the "authorization of the purchase of an organ, not to exceed \$100." However, it appears that no organs were available at or below that price because the Trustee minutes for 1891 indicated that "W. R. Blackwell was appointed to negotiate the purchase of a reed organ for \$150."

Early parishioners claimed there was an organ before that time "for Mrs. R. D. Parsons pumped one steadily for protracted meetings in 1876, and Clara Brackett had played for church before 1884". It is also recorded in later minutes that "the old organ was repaired."

Apparently parishioners were not satisfied with the reed organ. A pipe organ was purchased in 1908 from the Hillgreen and Lane Company, and pipes were installed on the west side of the choir loft (Are they still there?)

The history goes on to mention "the notable service of Horace Alden Miller as organist, director of the choir, and guiding spirit through many years." Older members of the congregation remembered him as a boy, playing the reed organ.

From the Trustee minutes: "After the installation of the pipe organ, his mechanical genius and basic understanding of the instrument kept the organ speaking on cold winter mornings and through many years on occasions grave or joyous, his organ echoed the mood of the hour. His spirit still lingers in the church in compositions and arrangements for both choir and organ which are given frequent place in the order of worship".

NOTE: (The major music scholarships that Cornell College awards each year are called the Horace Alden Miller scholarships; Miller was also a professor at the college. His home was the second stone house on Third Street. It is now owned and used by Cornell). ----Kay Graber, UMCMV Historian

Dear Sunday school families,

I can't wait for you to see the video we are making to celebrate our teachers and shepherds at the end of May...you will see this year-despite its abrupt ending-was full of wonderful times.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
2019-20**

Still, I must say...

I miss you! I miss your children! I miss interacting with all our teachers and shepherds!

When I consider all the things I've been missing without Sunday school, I realize what I am missing is the opportunity to CONNECT. This realization makes me all the more grateful that we spent the Sunday school year focused on the theme *Connect: Loving God, Loving Neighbor*. Despite the shorted number of classes, **our faithful God made sure this year was full of lessons we would need for the days ahead.**

As we continue to live with stay-at-home restrictions, we find so much of our life has changed. Connections with other people-even close friends and family-are unprecedentedly disrupted and at times surrounded by fear and uncertainty. **Still, though the way we connect with others must change during this pandemic, God's promise to be with us and our ability to personally connect with God remains.**

These are the very lessons we take away from this Sunday school year.

Kicking off our Connect theme, we saw God use the stars to remind **Abraham** that God would keep the promise to be with him and give him many descendants. We are all children of God and joined in a big world-wide family. God promises to be with us too!

Our new **Connect station** allowed us to practice different individually suited ways to be quiet and connect with God. Ask your children about it and give it a try!

In the **Pentecost unit**, God sends the Holy Spirit ("God with us") to live within us and to be our comfort and guide. There is no greater connection that!

In the **Fruit of the Spirit unit**, Paul teaches the people of Galatia that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) are signs of the Spirit's presence within us. This is how we follow Jesus and love our neighbor.

In the picture book, *Maybe God is Like that Too*, by Jennifer Grant, we saw the fruit of the Spirit in action. The boy's grandmother says, where the fruit of the Spirit are, "there too is God." Just by looking for these characteristics, "An ordinary day in his city opens this young boy's eyes to God's Spirit at work all around him."

Yes, God provided what we need for these days. We can trust God and take comfort that God is with us. We can keep our eyes open and be grateful when we see the fruit of the Spirit acting in others—knowing that God is near and at work around us. We can take quiet time to connect with God. We can keep our focus on Jesus. We can practice the fruit of the Spirit to help us live well with our families and help others.

I look forward to connecting with you all in Sunday School next year!

Take care. Continue to Trust God. And know that you all are in my prayers!

Brittany Booth, Sunday School Coordinator

Vacation Bible School 2020

Rocky Railway- Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!

UPDATE



Due to the ongoing pandemic, we unfortunately will not be able to gather for our traditional in-person VBS this summer. Even as stay-at-home restrictions begin to be lifted around us, we want to keep everyone safe through the summer with the hope of returning to school in the fall. We have already seen many other summer activities being

postponed and cancelled. The Iowa Conference Bishop has recently advised Methodist churches to remain closed until June 1st.

Stay tuned as we consider new ways to provide the VBS experience for our kids!

The publishing team of our Rocky Railway VBS is currently preparing materials for an at-home online experience, so we will explore this Virtual VBS option as it comes available. We have also considered incorporating the VBS experience into Sunday school this fall.

Join us in prayer for our VBS as we all work our way through this pandemic and determine the best VBS option for our children, youth, and volunteers.

As the Rocky Railway tagline reminds us... **"Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!"** What an important message for us all to keep in front of us during this time of so much uncertainty.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

Congratulations to the high school seniors in our congregation. Our church family will recognize and celebrate these graduates on Sunday, May 24th online as well as with the Senior Parade in Mount Vernon. To the left are the seniors we will be honoring. We will be emailing to request a photo of your senior to use for a slide show and MV Students we will be making signs for out front as the Senior Parade passes by. Please help us make our list complete and email the office if you think of a senior that needs to be included in this recognition and celebration.

2020 Graduates

Graham Bradbury
Audi Eichhorn
Ryley Hoffman
Candice Jeffrey
Jack Kragenbrink
Colter LaFollette
Annie Leopold
Reagan Light
Tryston Locke
Mady Morrical
Ben Moss
Kailey Shannon



Scrip Update (GIFT CARDS That SUPPORT THE CHURCH)

Scrip cards continue to be available even when the church is closed. Please contact Jackie Morrical (morrical@mchsi.com) to place your order and coordinate porch drop off and/or pick up. Now more than ever people are shopping at Gary's so please use Gary's Scrip cards to help earn \$\$ for the church general fund.



SEND PHOTOS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We are requesting a picture or pictures of you and your family. Send us photos of your family, holding words of encouragement or a favorite scripture, and we plan to make them into a fun video to spread cheer and share with one another so that we can see each others' smiling faces. (OR Sign up on [SignUpGenius](#) for a Porch Photo Session with Jeff Schmatt—See details Below) Please direct your pictures to Alison Dix and she will be compiling them with a few volunteers.

Let Levity and Love Flow

Mother's Day is approaching rapidly and this year will be like none before. Spending a long Sunday honoring the grace and beauty of moms will likely occur on opposite sides of a window, driveway or porch. Physical distancing may continue to keep us from worshipping together too and giving thanks as a faith community for motherhood. Let us help play a role of making the most (and the least) of this time.

We are planning a special tribute project for our faith community and UMCMV member Jeff Schmatt of Rubicon Photo is offering his services to make it even a little bit better. How about a quick front porch family photo over Mother's Day weekend? Have fun and be creative. Dress in your best quarantine PJs or crazy quarantine attire; highlight your crazy hair, your stash of TP, or whatever you else you can think of to bring humor and levity to your isolation. How about maybe even dressing up like you would have for Easter Sunday...minus the extra hair we're all carrying. Perhaps, even, have a sign displaying an inspiration or Bible verse to incorporate in the photo. These fun photos will bring more lasting memories to your time of sequestering that you can't get as easily with selfies and timers.

Rubicon Photo will provide a social media image for free to all participants and if you like how your photo turns out you can purchase photo products from Rubicon Photo. Jeff will donate 50% of all proceeds back to the UMCMV Outreach & Mission Fund. A great way to celebrate, commemorate, contribute and be in community in a different way.

The caveat...we'd like to ask that all participants agree to let us use your image for a special UMCMV faith community project. Of course, if you want to participate with your own photo, we want to include as many members as possible. For questions regarding a more professional shoot, contact Jeff Schmatt 319-895-8776 or jeff@rubicon-photo.com. If submitting your own family photo please email them to him as well. No matter whether you have family surrounding you or you are quarantined alone, Jeff would love to include everyone in this project so please sign up.

Jeff will conduct these shoots with these safety reminders; 1) only your quarantined family members in the photo, 2) Jeff will take a quick family photo at a distance from your front yard, 3) Photos are weather permitting.

Sign up on [SignUpGenius](#) for a time window Starting Friday May 8th thru Sunday May 10th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44AFA72AA31-porch>

First Quarter Financial Report

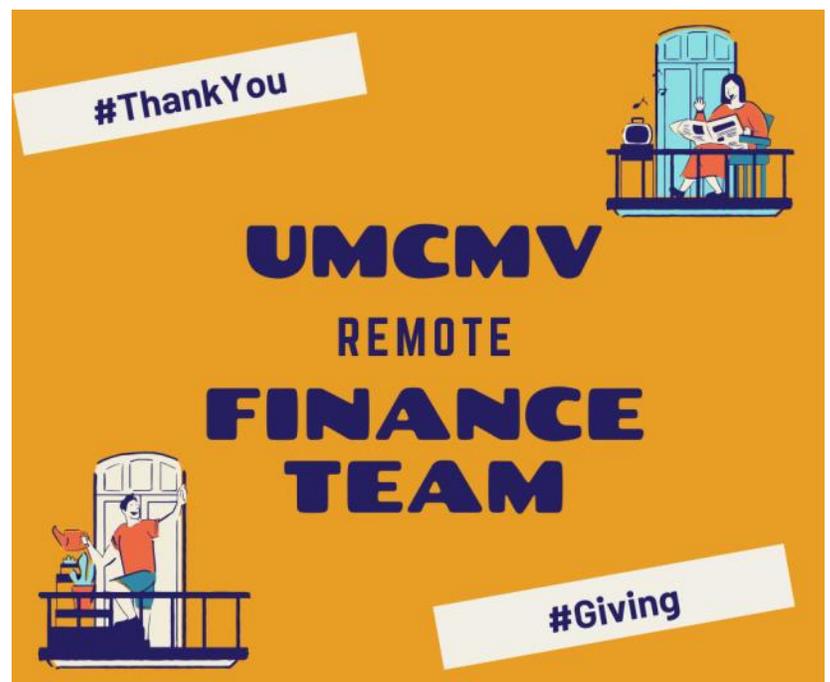
As you may recall the General Fund started off in 2020 with a positive balance of \$6,384. After the first quarter of 2020, the General Fund stands at a positive balance of \$24,686. This surplus is largely due to the fact that some members paid their entire pledge in January 2020. Thank you!

It is also important to realize that we were open for normal operations through mid-March, with weekly offerings and ACH Contributions. Now that our church has been closed for the past 6 weeks, the expenses of the church continue. We are still paying our staff members and other building expenses.

We ask that you keep your contributions coming in during this time as well. You can mail your check to the church or drop it on in the mailbox outside the north entrance. You can also mail/drop off your contribution to Dick Jacob or Jackie Morrical. In addition, please consider signing up for ACH payments for a monthly contribution to be made directly to the church. Contact Alisondix@umcmv.com if you are interested in setting up ACH.

Finally, you also have the option of making an online donation [here](#). Please remember, if you choose to make an online donation a processing fee of approximately 3.5% is charged to the church so please consider factoring this in to the amount you would like the church to receive.

Thanks for continuing your financial support of the church during this difficult time!



Sunday School Teacher and Shepherd Appreciation

“...the Fruit of the Spirit is...

**LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS,
FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, and SELF-CONTROL.”**

Galatians 5:22

Fruit of the Spirit was the last Sunday school unit we shared together before the pandemic brought Sunday School to an abrupt end. Though I am disappointed we are unable to finish the Sunday school year together in celebration of our wonderful teachers and shepherds, I am grateful to have the fruit of the Spirit fresh in my mind because...

I can't think of a better list of characteristics to describe what makes our teachers and shepherds so special!



In his letter to the Galatians, Paul said that the fruit of the Spirit are signs of the Spirit's presence within us. If you have been around on Sunday mornings, you know that this special group of leaders (from preschool to high school and adult classes) is Spirit-filled!

Thanks to our volunteers, Sunday School is full of:

Loving hugs as little ones happily greet their shepherds. **Gentle** conversations that help a shy child separate from a parent or join a game. **Joyful** dancing with the children to the crazy Father Abraham music in Opening. **Patient** redirection to help a child that can't help but talk to his buddy. **Kind** encouragement of a child's thoughtful response. **Peaceful** resolution of disagreements when taking turns seems extra hard. **Faithful** sharing of one's faith, time and energy week after week, and in many cases year after year.

We are so grateful for our Spirit-filled teachers and shepherds! You are a blessing to our entire church family.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to these wonderful individuals that share their time and gifts with the children, youth, and adults of our church family. If you or your child would like to send a personal note of thanks, I would be happy to provide you with the addresses for any of these individuals.

With love and gratitude,

Brittany Booth, Sunday School Coordinator

UMCMV Teachers and Shepherds 2019-20

Sunday School

TEACHERS

Rotation Stations

Erin Krapfl, Ann Coe, Angie Watson, Beth Johnson, Brittany Booth

Preschool Teresa Stewart, Courtney Micheel

Middle School (5th-7th grade)

Renee Nydegger, LeAnn Briesemeister, Jennifer Hoffman, Amy Jackson, Allyson Rushford

High School & 8th grade Loren Nydegger, Abe Tubbs

Adult Sunday School Rainey Brown

3rd Grade Bible Class Diane Legore

Substitute Teachers: Marci Schmatt, Kim Guardado



SHEPHERDS

AK/Kindergarten: Allison Traynor

1st/2nd grade: Stacey Barber, Shellie Kamaus, Amy Anderson,

3rd/4th grade: Bill Micheel, Talia Breidinger, Amy Paulus

Floating Shepherds: Ava Claussen Tubbs, Lily Booth

Substitute Shepherds:

Leigh Bradbury, Lauren Swartzendruber, Lindsey Hotz, Emily Stamp, Jamie Smith

NURSERY CARE (during Sunday School hour) Melissa Oxley, Alyse Jeffrey (assistant)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT LEADER Denae McGrath

Youth Group

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Leaders: Renee Nydegger, Kristi Meyer, Amy Geis, Maddison Hotz, Loren Nydegger, Emily Fawcett, , Ali Ott, Anna Nydegger, Ben Nydegger, Lauren Swartzendruber, Owen Rushford.

Kitchen helpers: Shellie Kamaus (Lead), Stacey Barber, Jenny Caspers, Melissa Kahl, Amy Anderson, Ally Rushford, Jena Jaspers

Julian Johnston Scholarship Announced

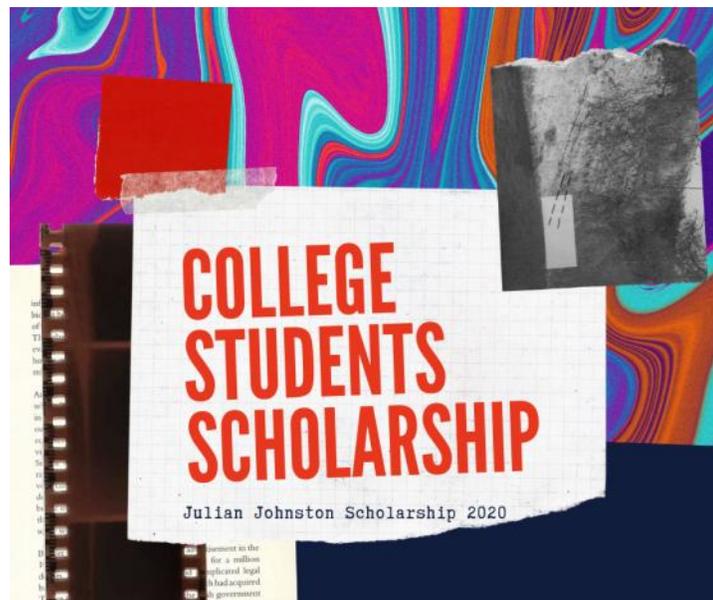
College students who are entering either their junior or senior year at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2020-21 academic year and who are members of the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church are eligible for the Julian Johnston Scholarship award administered by the church's memorial committee.

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

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 will be mailed to our church members who were high school graduates in 2017 or 2018. 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 5, 2020. Awards will be announced within the next 30 days.

Diane Legore, Chair of JJ Scholarship Committee

<https://www.umcmv.com/familyministry-blog/julian-johnston-scholarship-announced/>



May Birthdays



Reece Olsen	05/01
Loren Nydegger	05/02
Beckett Meyer	05/04
Ann Niehaus	
Al Shepley	
Shea Stamp	
Eleanor Smith	05/05
Erin Schaller	05/06
Shirley Ryan	05/08
Jackie Wallace	
Reagan Light	05/10
Nancy S. Thomas	05/11
Annika Morf	05/12
Hannah Whitley	
Mike Ryan	05/13
Kinsley Kamaus	05/14
Jackie Morrival	
Brody Nosek	05/15
Jackson Jaspers	05/18
Betty Walton	
Marci Schmatt	05/19
Kevin Sill	05/20
Pat Sorgenfrey	
Gretta Zehms	
Lewis Micheel	05/22
Maura Arnold	05/23
Ann Currie	
Jessica Johanningmeier	05/26
Gary Leopold	05/28
Roger Schnittjer	
Kevin Woods	
Walt Krambeck	05/30
Mary Leopold	
Emily Moss	
Quinn Roos	
Taya Roos	



Giving Opportunities

- UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund
<https://advance.umcmision.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>
- SE Linn Community Center
 - <https://selinn.org/>
- Mission of Hope Cedar Rapids
 - <http://www.missionofhopecr.org/>

LOVE IS PATIENT
love is kind
IT DOES NOT ENVY
It does not boast
IT IS NOT PROUD
It is not rude
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
Love Never Fails

Happy May Anniversary!!

Matt & Teresa Stewart	05/12
Jason & Amy Anderson	05/15
Clint & Jen Stanerson	05/16
Ann & Jay Currie	05/17
Ron & Amy Jackson	05/20
Karen & Mike Stewart	05/25
Darin & Angie Swartzendruber	05/26
Angie & Bryon Watson	05/28
Rick & Trude Elliott	05/31

Prayers for Healing:

- For Beth Johnson as she continues her recovery from cancer surgery, prayers that she may feel God's presence and comfort during this time of recovery and social distancing
- For all who are currently infected with the COVID-19 virus
- For Zach Wagner (a friend to Allison Traynor) recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer & will be having surgery soon
- For Harry Osborn, who had some abnormal heart test results last week & will be having a cath done this Friday (May 1st)
- For Doris Lockridge (Jackie Wallace's mother) who is 90 and has dementia, and has lost her stability when walking. It is difficult for Jackie and Doris to be separated at this time. Prayers for Doris during this time when no visitors are allowed
- Stephanie Hotz who has been home in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19, prayers for her swift and complete recovery as she deals with symptoms, and for her family as they cope with the current situation
- For Susan Miller (Jackie Wallace's sister) who has tested positive for COVID-19 & continues to deal with a low fever
- For Rocky (a dear friend of Jim Baty) who is now recovering at home from neck stabilization surgery amidst this pandemic and awaiting test results and treatment plan for TIA issues
- For Joyce Loomis, after a mild heart attack, now back at Methwick & doing well. Prayers for her continued healing.
- For those who are hospitalized and struggling with mental health issues
- For Mike Nugent (Kevin Woods brother-in-law) who lives in Dallas and has cancer in a very serious form
- Continued prayers for Emily (Stoner) Bell as she progresses in her recovery from surgery
- For Gavin Hayes (nephew of Roger and Marilyn Schnittjer) that his new stem cells will be effective in treating his cancer.
- For all our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For the family, friends and entire Lisbon Community School District as they mourn the sudden loss of Roger Teeling. He served as the Elementary principal at Lisbon for the last 15 years and more importantly touched the hearts and lives of everyone he met. May we especially pray for his wife and two daughters and for the Lisbon families that we all know and love that are part of our church family, and who are grieving this major and sudden loss
- For the family and friends of Steve Staker who has passed away after a short battle with cancer. Steve is a beloved member of the Lisbon Community & the Coe College Community, we lift up his family and all who cared deeply for Steve
- Mary Palmer, as her mother, Carolyn Palmer passed away Tuesday.
- For Stella Pata, prayers requested to be remembered and prayed for by her church family
- For Avery Anthony's father, who has been in France for a period of time and is trying to return home. His recent attempts for flights home have fallen through. Avery would appreciate prayers for his safe return
- For anyone who is working in the healthcare field or another "frontline" occupation during this pandemic and uncertain time. Prayers for their safety, strength and comfort
- For those worrying and anxious about health issues For all who are struggling: emotionally and spiritually
- For individuals and families who are under financial stress For those suffering silently with anxiety and depression
- Dick and Nancy Thomas
- For all not mentioned by name who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Transition:

- For our teachers who are heartbroken about not getting to resume classes with their students and for students who are also heartbroken with the announcement that school buildings will remain closed for the remainder of this school year. Prayers for teachers, students and families as they continue to make the transition to online learning through May. Also for college students who are preparing for and taking college finals and wrapping up the year soon.
- For college seniors, as their transition after college will be different than imagined, at least for the immediate future
- For Pastor Terra Amundson (and her husband, Jay) as she completes her work as District Superintendent in the SW District and prepares to begin her ministry at UMCMV beginning in July and for Pastor Joy Mitchell (and Weston) as she continues ministry here at UMCMV through June and also looks ahead to a new appointment in Walcott, Iowa
- For the leaders of our church here at UMCMV to know how to lead us and what to do in these uncertain times
- For the United Methodist Church: including the global church, the Iowa Conference and our Mount Vernon congregation

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
- UMCMV pastor, staff, lay leader, and committee members
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and Care Ministers
- Mission of Hope
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church, Pastor Lee Schott, & the women of Iowa Correctional Institute for Women

Prayers for our World:

- For all people and countries of this world who have been and continue to be effected physically by the COVID-19 virus
- For all people across the globe who are concerned about financial implications of pandemic, both personally and beyond
- For national and state leaders to deal with the COVID-19 virus effectively
- Pray for love among all people Prayers for peace for people everywhere - peace worldwide

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate our Sunday School teachers and shepherds and youth group leaders, what a blessing they are to our church family
- Congratulations to Dillon and Emily Fawcett on the arrival of sweet little Noraleigh Grace born on April 8th
- Thankfulness for the healthcare workers, groceries employees, childcare providers and all others who are on the front-lines helping our communities to function and providing care to those who need it
- Thankfulness for online methods of staying connected during this time of social distancing
- Gratefulness for the love and kindness shown to one another in times of crisis



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 Renee Nydegger with Joy Mitchell
 Praise Team Director– Interim– Clint Stanerson
 Christian Education Director.....
 Sunday School Coordinator Brittany Booth
 Congregational Care Coordinator Julie Baty
 Office Manager/NewsletterAlison Dix
 Admin. Asst./ Membership.....
 Nursery Care. Melissa Oxley
 Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .Kristi Keast
 Organist Karen Stoll
 Chancel Choir Director Joleen Woods
 Custodian Night Shift
 Maintenance & Repair Director . . . Trustees
 Wedding Coordinator.....Barb Shepley
 Financial Secretaries Richard Jacob,
 & Jackie Morrical
 Treasurers Mike Kragenbrink
 Alison Dix



**We put our
 hope in the
 Lord.**

**He is our
 Help and
 our Shield.**

Psalm 33:20