



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 2020



PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear Church,

As we enter the month of June, I'm acutely aware that my last day is quickly approaching, and yet, we are still in the midst of this crazy pandemic. I can't help but look back at the last four years and reflect. I give thanks for each one of you. As I write this letter, I imagine myself standing on the Chancel and looking out at you in the congregation, each in your favorite spot in the sanctuary. I see you in the office, in the fellowship hall, in the chapel room, I see you sitting down for coffee, and in your Sunday school rooms. I see you in Youth group, and I see you in VBS. I see you with hearts filled with love.

Each of you have taught me something new. Each of you have listened, and shared, each of you have participated in my life, each have made an impact. As I leave I hope that you know the gratitude I have for each of you. I thank you for the stories you have shared, the experiences we have walked through, the conversations we have had, the worship and prayers that we have shared. I come before you to say thank you. I know we have had some difficult times, I know that we have disagreed, and we have lost some of our family, we have grieved and ached together, sometimes in healthy ways, and sometimes we haven't done it so well. But, in and through it all, I am grateful for the way you have continued to show up, to do your part.

Church you are the beloved of Christ, you are the avenue our wonderful God has given for the world to come to know Jesus. You are his beloved. You are gifted, you are blessed, you are covered in grace, and mercy, and you are called to holiness.

My prayer and blessing for you is that you will continue to know more and more of God's incredible love. I pray that you would never allow anything to come between you and the love of the Lord, I pray that you would forever know this love, and share it with your neighbors. May we continue to seek first his kingdom and righteousness. May we first seek our Savior in all that we do.

Let's enjoy these last couple of weeks together, and I will bid you farewell on Sunday, June 14th. I'll be seeing you online.

With Great Love, 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/>



On Jim Baty's Facebook Page at 5 PM Sundays, there is Praise Team coming together to share Praise songs for our community as well.

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, and we have a reentry team working on figuring out how to best begin our reentry process.

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

Beloved of God,

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. In just a few short days we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday. The Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth day" and marks the time when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem, marking the birth of the church. For many of us, the "fiftieth day" also marks our time away from in-person worship since the disruption in all areas of our lives caused by this global pandemic. Since March, the Iowa Crisis Response Team and the Appointive Cabinet have turned to specialists in the field of infectious disease to chart a course that privileges lives over every other consideration.

We used that measure as we weighed when to suspend work at the Conference Center, when to advise our congregations to refrain from in-person worship, and most recently in crafting the Reentry Plan for the Iowa Conference. The plan and additional resources can be found on the IAUMC Website, including Guidelines, Checklist for Re-entry, FAQ's, and more: <https://www.iaumc.org/123churchreentry>

I, along with the full Cabinet and Crisis Response Team, recommend that if you live in a county that continues to see an increase, is maintaining, or is just beginning to see a slight decrease in COVID-19 cases, the local churches in that county should continue to conduct virtual worship and refrain from in-person gathering until it is clearly safe to do so. Similarly, if you have very few cases with no recorded increase for two weeks, and if your leadership team has determined that it is ready to move forward into the Yellow Phase of Reentry, you may do so beginning June 1, 2020. We know that throughout Iowa we continue to see epicenters of new cases of the coronavirus. Therefore, please be adaptive and regularly reassess your reentry plans. [Attached you will find a Reentry Checklist](#) to aid in your planning and procedures.

Since Polk County continues to see a rise in cases, the Conference Center will continue to be closed to the public until June 15, 2020. I invite you to join me in prayer for those who are most at risk as they care for the sick or work in essential locations, for those working to find a vaccine, and, most importantly, for those who are suffering from COVID-19 and who have lost friends and loved ones during these unprecedented times.

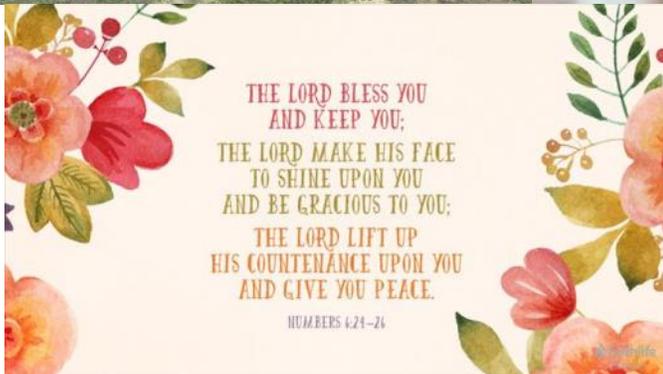
In Christ, Bishop Laurie Haller

**Join in a Farewell Parade for
Pastor Joy Mitchell @ 11 am on
Sunday June 14th.**

**More details to come, but mark
your calendars now!**



Pastor Joy Mitchell's last Sunday worshiping on Sunday with us will be June 14 and we wish her well as she begins her service at Walcott UMC, in Walcott Iowa in July 2020.



TRUSTEES CORNER

WE NEED MOWING HELP!

With all that has changed, we still need mowing volunteers to help with the Church lawn. Anyone who is interested and able, you are asked to email with Kevin Woods (kwoods52314@outlook.com) and he will get you trained on our new riding mower and all the details. Thanks so much!

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

A HISTORY LESSON: *MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH*

Music has always been extremely important to Mount Vernon Methodists, and organ music has long been at the top of the list.

Last month we reviewed the early 1876 pump organ, 1887 reed organ, and our first pipe organ in 1908 with some pipes still in existence at the *west* front of the church.

The 1887 organ served our church well until January 6, 1924...the fateful night that a fire ravaged the Sanctuary and basement. Costs for repairs throughout the church were \$20,000, with an additional \$5,000 raised by the Ladies Aid Society (forerunner of the United Methodist Women).

Included were repairs to the organ. In the process, however, the organ received an extra boost. Because of the will of Charles W. Kepler, a longtime trustee of the church, the pipes for the *east* section of the organ could be added, including chimes, at a cost of \$2,802.22.

It should be added that during these years, the organ was in a stationary position in front of an “angel choir” section, high above the front of the church, overlooking the congregation and just under the front stained glass window. Some of our early choir directors were also the organist. Consequently, the organist’s back would be to the congregation so he or she could also direct the choir.

— Kay Graber, Historian

Have a GREAT Summer!



We will be sharing our Sunday School Teacher & Shepherd Appreciation video on our Worship page website this Sunday. There is also a great video celebrating our Rooted Youth Ministries as well. Check them out!



Thank you so much for all the lovely birthday messages Patty Sorgenfrey received as part of her 85th birthday celebration parade and cards.

Thank you for the well wishes. I certainly wouldn't be who I am today without the guidance of our wonderful Lord and church. Looking forward to praising in person again soon and hearing Jim Baty's awesome voice. Yours Faithfully, Graham Bradbury (2020 Graduate)

Julian Johnston Scholarship DUE June 5

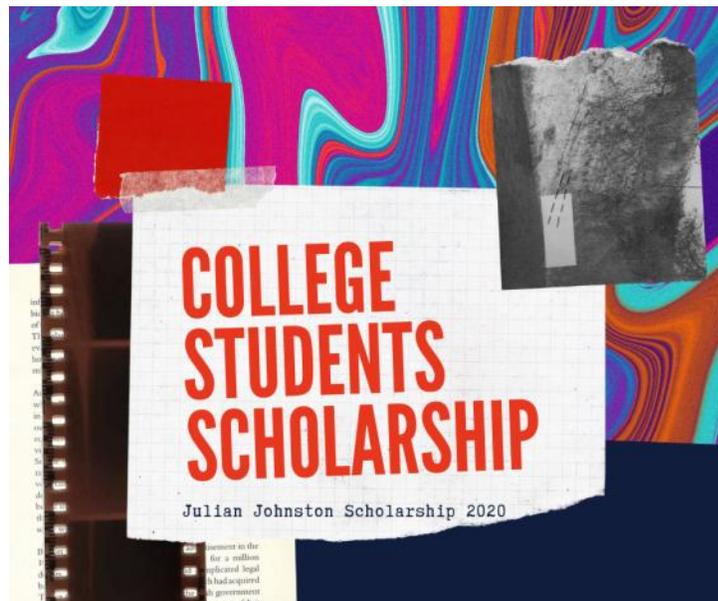
College students who are entering either their junior or senior year at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2020-21 academic year and who are members of the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church are eligible for the Julian Johnston Scholarship award administered by the church's memorial committee.

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/>



THANK
YOU!

We thank all who continue to give to support our outreach to one another and to our community in these times of closure and isolation. We thank all those who faithfully continue to honor their pledges. We understand if these changing economic times have hit your family hard and you need to adjust your giving. Please know we are praying for each and everyone of our families in our church family and we pray health and safety will be with each of you.

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

[LINK to ONLINE GIVING PAGE to continue to Financially Support UMCMV](#)

June Birthdays



Kennedy Hunter	06/01
Lincoln Traynor	
Alison Dix	06/04
Dixie Raiber	
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
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
Isabelle Krapfl	06/19
Nathan Stewart	06/20
Jacob Leopold	06/21
Mitchell Kragenbrink	06/24
Doug Shannon	06/25
Joseph Timm	06/26
Warren Havill	06/27
Elsa Lafollette	
Lindsey Hotz	06/29
Adam Zehms	06/30
Erik Zehms	

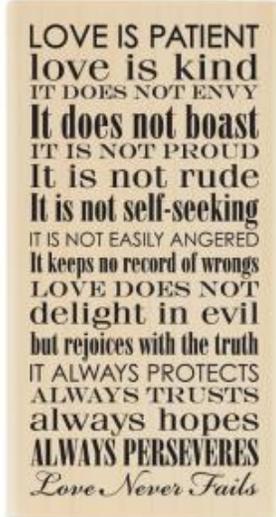


Giving

Opportunities

- UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund
<https://advance.umcmmission.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/>

Happy June Anniversaries!!



Loren & Renee Nydegger	06/01
Ron & Stephanie Frantz	06/03
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
Mike & Suzette Kragenbrink	
Andrew & Reagan Morf	
Richard & Nancy Thomas	
Samantha & John Zehms	06/19
Jeff & Donna Walters	06/26
Jeremy & Lindsey Hotz	06/28
Dillon & Emily Fawcett	06/30

Please keep these persons on your lips in prayer throughout the week.

PRAYER LIST

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, future treatments and social distancing.
- For all who are currently infected with the COVID-19 virus
- For Rob Stoll who continues to experience health issues
- For Spencer, a young man and son of a colleague of Jim Baty's. Spencer is recovering from removal of a tumor and possibly a stroke that incurred during surgery. Prayers are needed that he will be able to recover his mobility
- For Doris Lockridge (Jackie Wallace's mother) who is 90 & has dementia, has lost her stability when walking. It is difficult for Jackie & Doris to be separated at this time. Prayers for health & for comfort during this time when no visitors are allowed
- Continued prayers for Emily (Stoner) Bell as she continues to make steady progress in her recovery
- For all our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For anyone who is working in the healthcare field or another "frontline" occupation during this pandemic and unprecedented time. Prayers for their safety, strength and comfort
- For anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated due to recent changes in how we live day to day. Prayers that they will reach out to others, that God will comfort them, and we will all make extra efforts to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus
- 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
- For this church, this building, these people, and ways to love on and stay connected with one another even if we are not in worship services together
- For all not mentioned by name who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Transition:

- Prayers for "reopening" of our State. Patience and understanding in regard to each other's perspectives
- For our teachers and students as the school year ends. Prayers for both as they begin to embrace summer
- For college seniors, as their transition after college may be different than expected
- For Pastor Terra Amundson (and her husband, Jay) as she prepares to begin her ministry at UMCMV and for Pastor Joy Mitchell (and Weston) as she 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 unusual times
- For the United Methodist Church: including the global church, the Iowa Conference and our Mount Vernon congregation

Prayers for Sustenance:

- Prayers for Maxine Havill and John Havill as they reside in a Care Facility during this time of social distancing. Their days are spent almost exclusively in their rooms. Let's try to brighten their day with some mail, here is the address: Mechanicsville Specialty Care, 104 E 4th Street, Mechanicsville, Iowa 52306
- For the children in Sibiu, Romania being served at The Super Kids Day Center and the staff who are ministering to them.
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and Care Ministers
- Mission of Hope
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church, Pastor Lee Schott, and the 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:

- Our God is with us day by day
- Congratulations to Andrew and Gretchen Light (and family, including proud grandparents Denise and Warren Havill) upon the birth of twins, Eve Estelle and Abner Allen, who were born on May 15th. Mom, Eve and Abner are all doing well. Eve and Abner remain in the NICU at St. Lukes to continue growing and feeding a bit more before they can be discharged home. Prayers are welcomed for these two little blessings, that they continue to grow in order to be discharged home
- Congratulations to all Lisbon and Mount Vernon graduating seniors! We are proud of you and celebrate with you!
- Happy, Happy 85th Birthday to Pat Sorgenfrey!!!
- Congratulations to Maura and Jon Arnold and proud big sisters, Anistynn and Josie, on the birth of Donald (Donnie) James born on May 2nd.
- Congratulations to Pat Sorgenfrey's great grandson, Lucas Barnum, who is a graduate of Tipton High School this year and plans to continue National Guard
- 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
- 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
- Thanksgiving for our small and wonderful communities of Mount Vernon and Lisbon
- Gratitude for our many blessings



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



THIS MONTH WE SAY GOODBYE TO
 PASTOR JOY AS WELL AS...

**Thank You
 Pastor Joy Mitchell**

FROM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 OF MOUNT VERNON