



The Circuit Rider

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

304 1st Street SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Telephone: 319.895.6286

www.umcmv.com

email: alisondix@umcmv.com

NOVEMBER 2020



Pastor's Letter

An Attitude of Gratitude



Rev. Terra
Amundson

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." - Luke 17:11-19

The nine did nothing wrong. Jesus had just given them directions that led to their healing. They were simply doing what was asked of them.

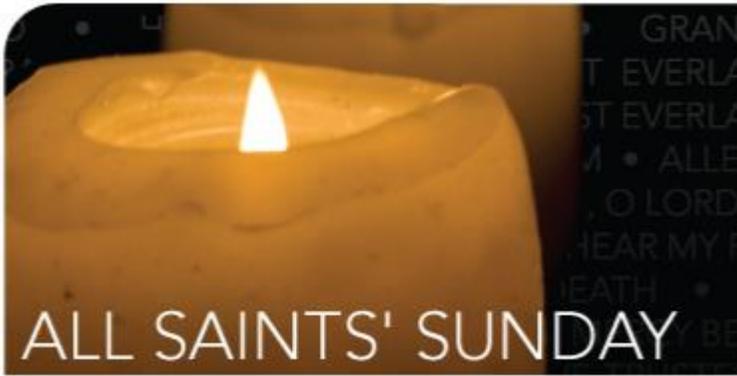
But the one returned to give thanks. This Samaritan leper, an outcast among outcasts, came back to Jesus to offer praise and thanksgiving for the healing he received. You could say he had an attitude of gratitude.

Among the many humorous memes circulating the internet concerning this year: "If 2020 were a drink, it would be a colonoscopy prep" – It's funny, because it rings all too true. It has been quite the year, with Covid-19, the derecho, with all the cleanup and repairs following that storm, and the political furor of this election season. Our spirits are weary from the worry. Our hearts are heavy from the undercurrent of stress. We long for normalcy, while wondering if we are facing a new normal. Life just feels harder right now.

We are in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, as well as our stewardship campaign. Considering how we can grow in our love of God and service to other in a lived response to God's grace in our lives through the giving of our time, talents gifts, service, and witness can fill our hearts with gratitude. And out of that gratitude, we give back to God in praise and thanksgiving.

So, in preparation, what if we start practicing an "attitude of gratitude" and develop greater thanksgiving-oriented "muscle memory" by responding for the rest of this month to the question, "How are you," with the simple but powerful reply, "I'm grateful." There's more we could do, of course, like starting a gratitude list that you add to, review, or say aloud each night before you go to bed, for instance. But for now, perhaps just the challenge and encouragement to say "I'm grateful" is enough. It may surprise you— and those around you— how meaningful this simple practice can be.

On the Journey, *Pastor Terra*



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On November 1 our congregation will observe All Saints' Sunday. It is a high and holy day when we remember with thanksgiving all the saints who

have walked in our midst but in the past year have been called to walk along side Jesus.

Those of our church family who have passed away this past year are: Rosa Moss, Marge Gaines, Marion Lehman and Wava Schmidt.

During our service we will honor these Saints' by reading their names and ringing bells.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

There are two ways to memorialize a friend or loved one with a gift to the church: Gifts to a Memorial Fund are typically given in memory of a loved one, and can be designated for a specific purpose, or added to the general Memorial fund for use in the future.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be given as a memorial or a general gift. Funds are added to the church's endowment investments. Income from the interest on the endowment fund is used to support non-budgeted special projects within the church. The principal is never spent and is left to accrue income to support the church in perpetuity.

The Memorial committee appreciates all the gifts received this year and will uphold our mission to be good stewards of these gifts in funding projects for the church. Projects this year have included funds to the 'Neighbor in Need' fund and purchasing more of the Green Supplement Hymnal. Also, 4, \$500 scholarships were awarded through the Jullian Johnston fund.

Any questions or ideas for projects can be directed to Barb Shepley at 895-6566.

From our 2020 Charge Conference:

We wanted to share stories of where you have seen God work through your congregation.

- Online worship was started to continue to reach out to our congregation and our community when shut down occurred in March 2020.
- Outdoor worship in MV Gazebo was done in August and September to do some form of in person worship utilizing the outdoors when possible.
- Sunday school program at home and the leadership of Brittany Booth, leading with thoughtfulness, delight, freshness and being such an inspired leader for our church families
- Julie Baty our congregational care coordinator has led with heart and care over the entire year, especially helping to connect with people who were dealing with hardships due to covid isolation and stress, including front line workers, medical personnel and teachers.
- Barb Shepley and her care for keeping our sanctuary looking great, cared for and doing the behind the scenes work that is at times thankless and yet so very needed and appreciated
- Jim Baty for his support in recording and helping make online worship a reality for our congregation
- Clint Stanerson has stepped up to lead the Praise Team, offered a sermon and even written new songs to help us get through these unprecedented times
- Moving into one service, previously a point of strife, but with the circumstances of 2020, we have been willing and able to do it with ease and necessity
- The care given during the pandemic including beautiful flowers and kind words, Julie Baty giving a great role model of how to check in on others as well as leading the phone tree to check in our fellow congregation members
- Dedicated giving of 2020 and the Financial Stability that has provided, such a great gift and we celebrate this support!
- Youth members of our congregation checking in with elderly members of our congregation and helping them with household chores
- Preparations for new pastor, taking care of the parsonage, and helping to make the transition time for a new Pastor positive
- For our pastor, Terra, and all the wise and thoughtful ideas she brings to our congregation. We are so thankful for her spirit, and we have found great joy having her be in our midst so far.
- The porch portraits, done by Jeff Schmatt, that helped us to see one another's faces in the times of shut down
- For our Trustees committee, for the work completed, the care for our building and the grounds, for the Lawn mower donated, for Kevin Woods stepping up and helping where he has.
- For our dedicated Cornell Students and their service to our congregation
- For the gardening committee, for planting beautiful geraniums outside each door this summer
- For Karen Stoll, for the music she provided for recording and now at in person worship so that we are able to have piano and organ music
- For the outreach to Gary's workers and thanking the Essential Workers throughout Covid times
- For ringing the Church Bell for Health Care workers



Prayers for those dealing with COVID-19 sickness, Lord, please pour your healing over our world and give us strength in these trying times. Send us health and healing Lord and help us to care for one another. Also be with those lonely due to isolation, separation and those who have lost jobs during this crisis. In your name we pray, AMEN!



RE-Entry Guidelines for our Church Building on Sundays

- ⇒ For the safety of everyone, face coverings will be required in our church building.
- ⇒ We need to limit our time inside the building so services will be 30 minutes long. We're going to continue with just one service for now but will constantly evaluate the need for additional worship opportunities.
- ⇒ We ask that you fellowship outside. It's been a long time and we all love to chat. Right after the service, let's move it outdoors and stay six feet apart. I can't wait to talk to you too!
- ⇒ It's important to keep everyone healthy as we worship. Please follow signs placed around the building and use hand sanitizer when you arrive. Our cleaning company has been doing a great job of cleaning our space. They will continue to sanitize all surfaces regularly. Please do your part and limit touching surfaces.
- ⇒ Since we need to provide distance between family groups, there will be rows of pews blocked off. Please follow the guidance as seen in the sanctuary. Due to space many of us will need to sit up in the balcony. You are welcome to enjoy a new perspective of the sanctuary from a new location.
- ⇒ We won't be singing during worship but feel free to hum along to the music. Clapping and dancing are also allowed.
- ⇒ We can't shake hands during greeting time but we can bump elbows or sign to each other.
- ⇒ Please leave your offering in the basket in the Narthex. This is also a really great time to set up regular electronic giving so you don't have to worry about forgetting your offering.
- ⇒ When its communion Sunday we will all use individual communion kits. Please dispose of these in a trash can.

The building will remain closed at all other times of the day. If you need to visit, please call the office to schedule an appointment. Know that we are all working hard to keep everyone safe so we can continue to worship together for a long time! — Kim Guardado, Council Chair

Mount Vernon Community Preschool UPDATE

The MV Community Preschool year is off to a wonderful start. The children spend their mornings playing, reading, singing and learning alongside one another. We are **thankful** for our preschool families, teachers and board members. We are **grateful** for the support and prayers from all the members of UMCMV and we are **blessed** to be a part of a caring community!

Middle School and High School Sunday School

Meets each Sunday morning following church services

10:00 – 10:30 am Fellowship Hall — Bring masks and your Bible.

Parents of youth will to be contacted by email to communicate any location changes or details. Please contact us if you are a parent of youth and are not receiving these emails.

Youth Sunday School contacts:

Renee Nydegger rnydegger@msn.com

Brittany Booth boothjb@q.com



WORSHIP

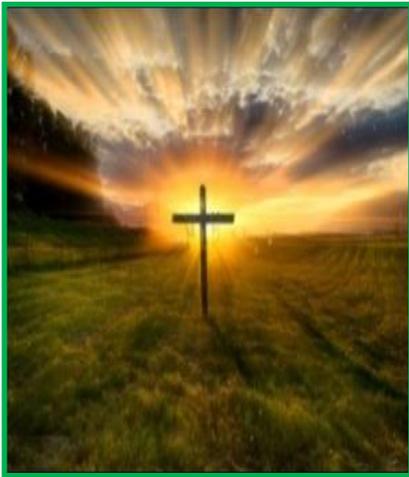
In Person Worship

Sundays in November @ 9:30 am

Please wear a mask, and social distance for the safety of all!

Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

Please know we want you to be safe and if the ONLINE Virtual Sermon & Music is best, please do that!



It will continue on our website as well
Sunday mornings!

www.umcmv.com/covid-19-umcmv

For the sake of safety and health,
our building is currently closed, except for Sunday Worship & scheduled events.

The Church Office is open by appointment.

**Please contact Alison @ 319-895-6286 if you need to meet with her,
Pastor Terra or another staff member.**

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

Pastoral Support Contact Pastor Terra Amundson 712-304-1517

Congregational Care Contact Julie Baty 319-533-2349

Communications Contact Alison Dix 319-573-4801

Care Corner



Dear church,

As we continue to experience the uncertainty and stress of the world around us, let us more than ever reach out to one another in love and support. I reach out to each of you as I write this message to encourage you to remember that **“You Are Not Alone”**.

Whether you are worried about finances, your children, your job, your extended family, or your own health, whether you are lonely or struggling in your relationship —know that you are not alone. As many of us feel isolated in one way or another it is easy to feel like we are the only one dealing with “stuff”. We can make up stories in our heads that simply are not true, and some days can be really hard.

With cold weather upon us and winter approaching, we must all keep our focus and remember that no matter what, God is with us. He will not forsake us at any point. In this world of uncertainty, truly, He is one unchanging part of our lives. He is for us and not against us. He will see us through all the fear, concern and uncertainty of these times. We must remember to lean into and depend on Him during this time.

In addition to knowing that our faith in God can carry us when the load is heavy, let us also continue to carry each other’s burdens. It is easy to feel disconnected from our church family during this time. Many are still unable to worship in person at the church and it has been months since we have enjoyed the familiarity and joy that worshipping, singing and being together in community brings.

In an effort to make connections and remind each other that we are never alone in this, please join me in becoming an Advent Angel. During Advent (November 30th to December 25th) let’s make the extra effort to encourage and love on one another. How can you get involved with our Advent Angel ministry?

Just email or text and let me know you want to share in this special act of caring. Let me know if you want to be assigned a name to care for or if you want your name given to a church friend to receive care. If you are having a rough time and don’t feel like you have the energy to care for another during this time, then let us care for you. If you’d like the care to be reciprocal we can make that happen too. Being an “angel” is acted out in small acts of thoughtfulness and kindness. You can send cards, make phone calls, share cookies, have a zoom call together, send daily emails or weekly devotionals, etc. As a church family let us reach out and remind each other we will continue to get through this time together.

During Advent, we await the birth of our Lord and Savior. We find great hope in the planning for and celebration of His birth. Our world needs hope more than ever. Let’s help share that hope with one another as we care for and love on each other this Advent season.

With Hope, Julie Baty, Care Ministry juliebaty@umcmv.com, 319-533-2349 or 319-895-8486

DID YOU KNOW?.....(History Article for November 2020)

Mt. Vernon and Lisbon Churches “Feed the “5,000” (continued)

The Cedar Rapids flood waters of 2008 finally receded, leaving dark stinky slime over all surfaces that were in its path. Exhausted citizens, business owners, and homeowners desperately needed more help. First Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids became a central focal point as Church Disaster teams of 30 or more from Illinois, Michigan and surrounding states began to call and want to help. Most of the teams had at least 30 persons and were prepared to sleep on church basement floors with sleeping bags and no showers. Local Cedar Rapids churches were preparing sack lunches and dinners until they too were “used up” with the “hospitality church” role.

A workshop on Disaster Team preparedness, offered by the Methodist Church headquarters in Nashville, was held for churches surrounding Cedar Rapids, and as the Chair of Church and Society in our church, I thought I should attend. It was clear that the cleaning effort was going to go on for a long time, and that Cedar Rapids churches had so many persons affected personally that they could not continue welcoming outside teams.

As I came home from the workshop that evening, along First Street, a crazy message came to me...”Here is Cornell with all these empty dorms....Mt. Vernon isn’t that far from Cedar Rapids. Why couldn’t the teams stay in these dorms? People could bring their bedding and towels, just like students do, but after a long day of mucking out mud, a dorm bed would be a lot better than a church floor and they would have showers, bathrooms, and even a lounge with TV!” Well, eventually good sense prevailed but the idea kept plaguing me. So I called my good friend, Catherine Quehl Engel, the Cornell chaplain, and shared the idea with her. She loved it! And she knew how to get started. Immediately the next day, we both went to the Cornell Housing Office and shared our idea. The Housing Director too was immediately on board! There was just one stumbling block....there was no food service at Cornell in the summer.

Again, a crazy message came to me....”That’s nothing. The Mount Vernon churches can take care of that. We feed people all the time!” So we were off and running. Cornell would open two dorms for the disaster teams and would work directly with the central office in First Methodist in Cedar Rapids. But they would depend on me to arrange for the food needed. Thinking I had really overstepped my bounds in volunteerism, I quickly contacted Frank Seydel, our pastor, and Karen Stewart, chair of Council on Ministries, telling them what I had gotten us into. Again, everyone’s hearts were ready and willing! The next day, a letter from our church went out to the 9 churches in Mount Vernon and Lisbon, laying out the situation and inviting their pastors and a representative from their church who might be a coordinator for this effort to a meeting the following Friday. Seven of the churches responded “We’ll be there!” And they came: Natalie Klostermann from St. John’s Catholic Church, Carolyn Palmer and Lori Wunder from First Presbyterian Church, Denise Cardon from the Latter Day Saints Church, Nola and Gaylord Owens and Bonnie Mull from First Federated Church in Lisbon, Vickie Ozburn from St. Paul Lutheran Church, and Sue Gradwell from the Lisbon Methodist Church. Those from our church included Karen Stewart from Church Council, Pastor Frank, Carrie Nichols and Assoc. Pastor Becky High. The meeting was like a miracle. Everyone was enthusiastic. One person said their church had been wondering how they could help but they didn’t know how to get started and they didn’t have anyone who wanted to take charge!

Our challenge was to figure out how to serve evening meals for teams of approximately 30 people, each for a week, and continuing throughout June and July. The teams also would appreciate the “fixings” for breakfast each morning.

Immediately, the ideas started to pop up. These people knew how to organize! Natalie said the Catholic Church had a newly designed kitchen and Fellowship hall with a wall of freezer space so they would volunteer to host the evening meals for both months. They would volunteer to have the breakfast foods available each morning by 6:30 A.M. and Natalie would personally come, open the church and help the guests get their own breakfasts. There might even be “homemade rolls” some mornings!

Nola said the Federated ladies loved to bake pies but don’t often get a chance. She would volunteer their church to bring pie for everyone for dessert every evening meal every week! The other representatives indicated they would be the contact person from their church, and we agreed to meet every Friday to plan the menu for the following week and to designate individual church responsibilities for food, serving and cleanup. We were ready, willing and able! (to be continued) ----Kay Graber, Church Historian

Hello Church Family!

Will you join us in creating our very own Wonderwall?

Where do YOU see God's Wonder?



Here's the start of our Wonderwall!



Help us create our church family's very own Wonderwall !

Our Sunday School program this year is all about exploring and celebrating God's wonder. Already we have learned about the awesome creativity God used to imagine and create the earth, living things, people and helpers - calling it all good. Our families have been using weekly spiritual practices to connect with God. These practices build our faith as we take time to recognize God both in the world around us and within each of us.

Where do you see God's wonder?

Do you see God's wonder in nature, in the faces of family and friends, in the small details of creation's colors and textures? Take time to look around and notice where you see God. What do you see that surprises you, makes you curious, or makes you say "Wow, God! You are awesome!"

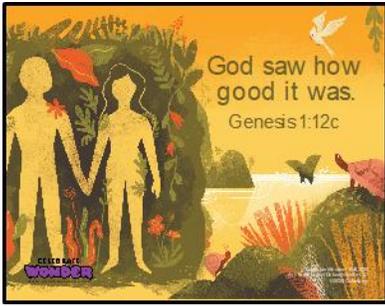
Share your pictures with us!

We want to see pictures of our church family and the things you think best represent wonder. Pictures will be used to make a big collage - our very own Wonderwall - similar to the example above. We will build our Wonderwall both physically where it can be seen in our church and virtually along with our Sunday School weekly lesson videos.

How to submit your photos - Photos may be shared by email, text, or Facebook messenger to:

Brittany Booth boothjb@g.com 319-533-1358

Alison Dix alisondix@umcmv.com or dropped off in the church office.



UNIT 1

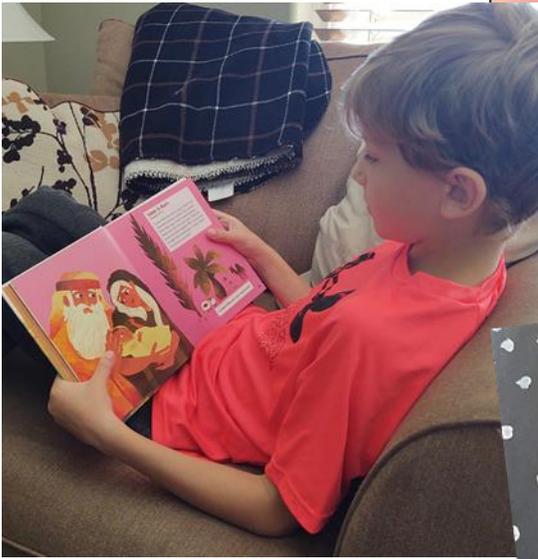
God Creates the Earth, Living Things and People.

UMCMV Sunday School
Celebrating Wonder from our homes



UNIT 2

Abraham and Sarah
Isaac is Born



Lord's Portion Auction 2020



Auction - Virtual on Sunday November 8th - 2 PM

The Items for Bidding List will come out next Wednesday– November 4, 2020

Let's have a great auction again!

Truman Jordan, TJHawkeye@aol.com

Alison Dix, alisondix@umcmv.com



Opportunity to Grow Through Stewardship Series Continues

November 1: (All Saints Sunday) Revelation 7:9-17 “The Saints on Whose Shoulders We Stand”

November 8: Matthew 25:14-30 “Our Talents”

November 15: Luke 19:1-10 “The Gift of Generosity”

The Stewardship 2021 Letters & Estimate of Giving Cards will be sent out November 6, 2020 and we are requesting them to be returned by Sunday November 15, 2020 if possible. We will bless them in worship that day.



Sign up to be part of our Advent devotional! We are creating our own Advent devotional booklet this year and are looking for people to contribute a reflection, story and prayer for all to enjoy. Please let Alison in the church office know by 11/4 if you are willing to participate. We are excited to have this way to connect to one another this holiday season.



Want to be an Advent Angel?
See details in CARE CORNER
article by Julie Baty.
Call or Text Julie Baty 319-533-2349



SAVE THE DATE ...

Come drive our Advent Avenue

Sunday November 29

5 to 6 pm

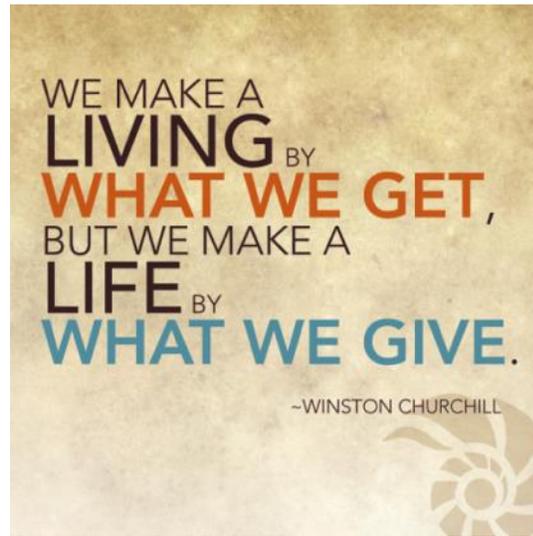
**A Parking Lot Event with caroling
& Advent Blessings bag**

November Birthdays

Susan Glenn	11/01
Stephanie Frantz	11/02
Angie Watson	11/02
Jason Booth	11/03
Karen Stewart	11/05
Sharon Krambeck	11/07
Mandy Morrical	11/08
Heather Sage	11/09
Ron Coe	11/10
Ron Jackson	11/10
Emily Smith	11/10
Guy Booth	11/11
Benjamin Merlak	11/12
Crystal Shannon	11/12
Keanan Shannon	11/12
Eloise Reinken	11/13
Jacob Timm	11/13
Rik Smith	11/14
Marty St. Clair	11/14
Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn	11/14
Trenton Baty	11/15
Blake Booth	11/15
Cohen Kamaus	11/15
Benjamin Legore	11/16
Truman Jordan	11/18
Bonnie Keith	11/18
Emma Hoffman	11/19
Gretchen Light	11/20
Babs Moore	11/20
Brittany Booth	11/25
Allison Ott	11/25
John Zehms	11/25
Jason Rushford	11/27
Anna Nydegger	11/28
Kaiden Shannon	11/29
Caleb Dausener	11/30
Katelynn Walters	11/30

Happy November Anniversaries!!

Andy & Jackie Morrical 11/16
 Heather & Kevin Sage 11/21



Giving Opportunities

We will be sending out a SIGN UP GENIUS for Angel Tree 2020 (we will be doing it a little different this year) so be watching for that!

ALL SAINTS—DONATIONS TO MEMORIAL FUND can be given this week and next and we will put in the memorials fund.

- UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund

<https://advance.umcmission.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>

SE Linn Community Center

- <https://selinn.org/>

Matthew 25 HUB

<https://www.hub25.org/donate25/>

Prayers for Healing:

- For Ruth Reckling who is currently at Lisbon Rehabilitation Center, following a fall at home. Ruth would certainly appreciate cards and well wishes from her church family
- For Stephanie Hotz's mother, Toni, who is in the hospital following a fall and also has contracted COVID-19
- For Mike Ryan as he continues to manage back issues and is gaining strength through physical therapy
- For Pat Sorgenfrey as she continues to struggle with an infection that has been hard to treat. Prayers for her continued good spirits in the midst of discomfort and that the medical team can find the right treatment to give Pat longterm relief
- For Gavin Hayes (Marilyn and Roger Schnittjer's nephew) who continues to fight cancer. Specific prayers that he will stay healthy as his immune system tries to rebuild
- For all who are currently infected with the COVID-19 virus and their family members
- For all our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For the family and friends of Lee Ireland who passed away suddenly October 23rd due to a heart attack. Lee's wife is Brenda, and the Irelands are neighbors to the Morriscals
- For the family and friends of Jo Clark who passed away unexpectedly last week. Jo has several family members and friends who are part of our church family
- For Judy and Don Stine as they continue to cope and adjust to Judy's cancer diagnosis. Prayers for Judy's quality of life to continue to be good for as long as possible, enabling her to do things she enjoys as she continues to embrace each new day
- 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 those who are 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:

- For school administrators, the school board members & teachers as they work to serve students and families
- For our schools and families as the school year continues to unfold
- 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:

- For the children in Sibiu, Romania being served at The Super Kids Day Center and the staff who are ministering to them. Specifically, prayers for Pastor Cristi and Ligia
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and Care Ministers
- Mission of Hope
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church

Prayers for our Nation and our World:

- May we evidence Christian love for one another
- Prayers for communities that continue to deal with wildfires
- For justice and peace for people of color in our country. May the Holy Spirit move throughout our churches and individuals to help us be part of the solution to the current unrest and racism. Lord hear our prayers, and guide this country and your world to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you
- For people & countries 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:

- Thanksgiving for Matt Traynor's message on October 25th
- Thankfulness for LeAnn Briesemeister's leadership and her message on October 18th
- Thanksgiving for Clint Stanerson's leadership and message shared on October 11th
- For the beauty of Fall, especially the trees and their amazing colors
- For our move to indoor worship services, and continued online worshipping options
- For our Gazebo outdoor services that enabled worship when other options were not possible
- 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
- 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	Pastor Terra Amundson
Director of Youth	
Praise Team Director– Interim–	Clint Stanerson
Christian Education Director....	
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter	Alison 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



In Person Worship

Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Join in the 30 minute Worship
 with Pastor Terra**