



Monthly Newsletter *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

March 2021

This month we continue the holy season of Lent. We gather as a body of Christ in person and in spirit. We pray for all those families facing this year with an empty place at the table, whether it is due to covid or another illness, all grief is hard when suffered alone.



Have you reached out to a church member this week? Why not try to today? We stay connected when we reach out to one another. You are truly in my thoughts and prayers. Each and every person who reads this message has the power to connect with another person. Think about all the connecting and hope that can be spread just by you and me taking a little time to reach out today.

Smiles! Alison Dix

Lord of hope and love,

Thank you for bringing us through the dark and cold of the winter months, isolated and alone at times. Remind us that you are always with us, like the sun, even when we cannot see you, you are there. Give us hope for a better day soon, and remind us to keep fast in our prayers and our love for one another. Staying apart is so hard, we know, but with God's strength and help, we do so in order to keep one another safe. We look forward to a time when all the precautions are no longer needed.

AMEN.

Pastor's Letter

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 11

Dear Friends,

It has been a long, cold winter. Not new news to you, I am sure. We've just survived a long sub-zero cold snap and are still buried in neck-deep (slight exaggeration) snow. Compounding everything is the additional isolation that we have been under as we continue to restrict contact to protect one another in the midst of Covid-19.

How I long for seeing you without masks! How I long to give hugs and hold hands and visit without barriers. And I've heard the same from you. It has been a long, cold winter, indeed.

But I also see signs of hope. Even today, February 23rd, the temperature is expected to hit 40 degrees – melting! The first day of spring is March 20th – less than a month away! Soon, the crocuses will bloom, the snow will melt, and the trees will awake from their winter slumber. We now have vaccines that are beginning to move into the arms of our most vulnerable, with expanded access on the way. There is hope that, by fall, we will be able to return to some kind of normal rhythm of life. We might be able to sing (SING!) by autumn.

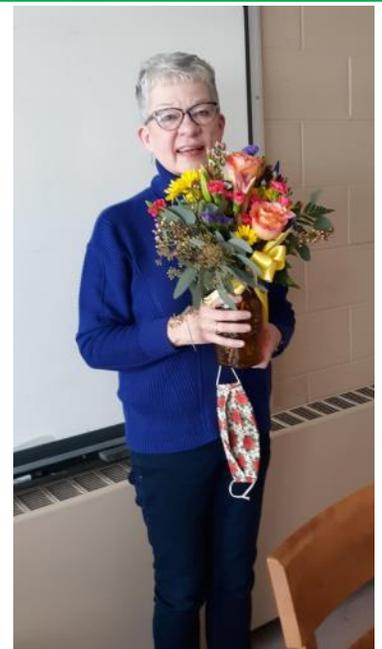
I hear hope in small-group conversations around mission and ministry in our church, in the community, and in the world. I sense a readiness to engage both in ministries that have been a part of the congregation's witness, and a hunger to discern new forms of ministry that offers opportunities for new outreach and service.

It is in this season that I am reminded of the words of a hymn:

*In the bud there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies, will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.*

Will you please join me in prayer as we look for those signs of hope, and together discern God's future for us.

On the Journey, Pastor Terra



Lenten Worship Schedule

March 7 3rd Sunday in Lent John 2:13-22
March 14 4th Sunday in Lent John 3:14-21
March 21 5th Sunday in Lent John 12:20-33

March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday

April 1 Holy Thursday—Open Sanctuary
3-31 Noon to 6 (Wednesday)
& 4-1 Noon to 8 (Thursday)

April 2 Good Friday 6:30 pm Worship

April 4 Easter Sunday John 20:1-18

WORSHIP

Our worship is currently **IN PERSON**

and ONLINE.



Come join us in person at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings

or join in our worship via our website

at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings.

You can also view the worship on replay any time!

www.umcmv.com/online-worship

As recommended for precautions due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, our building is currently closed during the week.

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, please contact us. We want to help meet your needs as this unusual time continues.

**Pastoral Support: Contact Pastor Terra Amundson 712-304-1517
pastorterra@umcmv.com**

Congregational Care: Contact Julie Baty 319-533-2349

Communications: Contact Alison Dix 319-573-4801

Giving Opportunities



LOCALLY IN March

Matthew 25 Hands and feet on the ground still helping make repairs in our community from the August 2020 Derecho Storm. All monies donated in March 2021 will be sent to be used in their programs helping with repairs.

To Support Methodist Organizations:

UMCOR Sunday March 14, 2021 (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

So don't be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name & Ensure the United Methodist Church Can Keep Helping

Will you continue to give to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**)? Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster? As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.



UMCMV Rooted Youth Group is back!

Rooted Youth Group will meet Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

For now, we are planning to have Middle School (5th-8th) and High School meet at the same time. Of course, we will stay within safe practice guidelines: masks must be worn and the youth must follow distancing guidelines.

This will be an evolving work in progress, keeping the safety, opportunity for community/fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth of the youth as our goals.

If God is laying it on your heart to become a Rooted volunteer and spend your Wednesday evenings with these amazing young people, we would love to have you! Just let any of the leaders or Pastor Terra know.

Our current leaders are Ally Rushford, Kristi Meyer, LeAnn Briesemeister, and Renee Nydegger.

If you are a parent or guardian of a middle school or high school student and did not receive an email with Youth group registration forms or if you have any questions, please let us know!

We are so looking forward to Rooted and reuniting with the Youth!

In Christ, 2021 Rooted Leadership Team

Sunday School



-Following Jesus!

GUIDE – Showing the way, like the light of Christ.

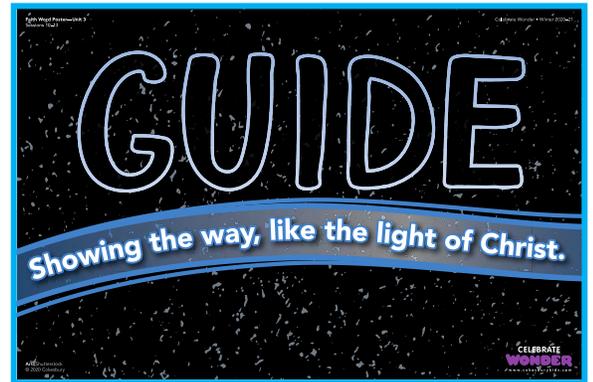
Guide has been our *Celebrate Wonder* Faith Word this past month. Our Bible stories – The Lord’s Prayer, Jesus Calms the Storm, Mary and Martha, and Zacchaeus—show us the many guides God provides for us through the Bible and Jesus’ ministry and teachings.

“Each of us is called to follow Jesus in different ways. What is most important is then we listen to Jesus as a guide in our lives so that we can be faithful and intentional followers.”

Let us all keep the faith-filled meaning of **GUIDE** in our hearts this Lent as we prepare our hearts for Easter by spending time with God.



OUR FAITH WORD



WEEKLY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE - JOEY



SUNDAY SCHOOL – AT HOME!



Mealtime Prayers

SHARING THE WAYS WE LIKE TO PRAY...



Using a Prayer Cube

Jesus is always with us to help calm us.



When seeing an ambulance



Every night at bedtime



THE PERFECT PLACE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL...
A FORT!

Trustees Corner

Trustees would like to Thank our congregation for continuing to give during these trying times. We have some big projects in the near future. Keeping up on our tithing allows us to keep our beautiful old building up and running. This last month we had all of our Exit signs replaced bringing us up to code with fire and building inspections. These lights are LED and should be much more economical and easier to maintain. Guess how many exit lights we have. Over 30!



With spring approaching we are starting to think of mowing season. Kevin Woods graciously purchased and donated a wonderful John Deere riding mower for our use. But that nice mower needs a home on church property. Pastor Terra and Jay have let us use their garage in the summer. Another member housed it during the winter so both Terra and Jay could park in their garage. We would like to find a nice gently used shed to house it in the near future. Do you or anybody you know have a 8 x 10 or slightly larger shed you would like to get rid of? Please help us by keeping your eyes open for one. Contact any trustee if you find one for sale. Or if you know of someone willing to donate to our church. With more eyes searching our mighty green may have a new home in time for mowing season! Not sure who all the trustees are? Contact any of these people with any ideas, needs, and concerns. Jeff Walters, Susan and Terry Pisarik. Kevin Woods, Tim Legore, Brock Barber, Jody Stewart and Kristi Keast. With grateful hearts, we give Thanks!



Mount Vernon Community PRESCHOOL UPDATE

The preschool year continues to be filled with fun and friendship. In February the children participated in many new game and art activities and learned new songs using sign language (check out our Facebook page to watch the videos). The children continue to strengthen their relationships with each other through daily play and learning.

Registration for the 2021-2022 preschool year has begun. Contact Ellen Mueller, mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com, for information about the three and four year old program!



PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing:

- For Jodi Seeman, who recently had open heart surgery and then suffered a stroke following surgery. Prayers are needed for her healing & steps of recovery that lie ahead. Jodi is the daughter of Gwen Draños (of Gwen's restaurant)
- For Karen Stoll as she deals with a health issue concerning her legs and feet
- For Sherryl Osborn as she continues the lengthy recovery from Covid-19
- For Jim (Jim Baty's father) who continues to have lung issues following his heart surgery
- For Cora Collins who has been diagnosed with liver cancer, (a beloved friend of several in our congregation) and began treatment in January
- For Pat Sorgenfrey as she continues to struggle with health issues. Prayers for her continued strength and endurance to deal with the discomfort that remains
- 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:

- Continued prayers for Don Stine and others missing Judy
- Continued prayers for the family of Bill Bacher
- For anyone who is working in the healthcare field or another "frontline" occupation during this pandemic. 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
- For this church, this building, these people, and ways to love on and stay connected with one another
- For all not mentioned by name who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Transition:

- For school administrators, school board members, teachers and students as they continue to move forward week by week
- 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
- Mission of Hope
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church

Prayers for our Nation and our World:

- Continued prayers for peace and unity in our nation
- May we evidence Christian love for one another
- For all people and countries of this world who have been and continue to be effected physically and emotionally 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:

- Congratulations to Mackenzie and Ben Kraus upon the birth and arrival of Harrison Victor Kraus, born on February 19th. Excited siblings include Nora & Ira. We are thrilled to celebrate this new life and joy with this family
- With great joy we congratulate Vince Geis and Amy Scallon Geis on the arrival of their son, Colin Joseph. Colin was born on February 6th. We celebrate the amazing miracle of new life with the Geis family
- We are thankful that vaccinations have begun and that several in our community have been able to get their first dose (and even second dose in some cases)
- We are thankful that warmer weather has arrived
- Thankfulness for online methods of staying connected during this time of social distancing
- Gratefulness for the love and kindness shown to one another
- Gratitude for our many blessings



Join us online after worship.

Grab your coffee at 10:30 am Sundays and join Pastor Terra and Zoom host Jeff Schmitt to discuss the sermon message, or just a time for conversation of what is on your mind for 45 minutes and we will see where the Spirit leads the conversation. All ages welcome. We will use the same Zoom information every week and hope this will be a new tool to

stay connected to our Church family.

Questions Call Jeff Schmitt or email jeff@rubicon-photo.com.

TIP: Copy and Paste this ZOOM link info on your calendar so you remember where it is on Sunday!

Jeff Schmitt is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84490122987?pwd=c1lna29oVzVFRDlCMHhaTXB3OG8xZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 9012 2987 Passcode: coffee

One tap mobile +13017158592,,84490122987# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,84490122987# US (Chicago) Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



March Birthdays

Lonny Merlak	03/01
Brian Bothell	03/02
Abe Tubbs	03/02
Melissa Kahl	03/03
Madison Bowling	03/05
Samantha White	03/05
Jase Jaspers	03/06
Vaughn Jace Havill	03/07
Klayton Kahl	03/08
Suzette Kragenbrink	03/09
Daniel Amster	03/10
Ann Coe	03/10
Nolan Jackson	03/12
Kamryn Kahl	03/13
Jan White	03/13
Ryley Hoffman	03/15
Kellen Johanningmeier	03/15

Emily Davis	03/17
Charlie Schaller	03/17
Mick Snodgress	03/19
Dan Stoner	03/19
Anna Croghan	03/20
Mary Jane Mcwilliams	03/20
Janet Ault	03/21
Owen Rushford	03/21
Lillian Hotz	03/22
Jaylee Jaspers	03/22
Michael Briesemeister	03/23
Anna Hoffman	03/23
Josie Bothell	03/24
John Gee	03/25
Michael Woods	03/25
Dick Simmons	03/26
Brett Cooper	03/27
Samantha Zehms	03/30
Amy Jackson	03/31
Eleanor Kraus	03/31



Happy Happy Birthday!

JOB OPENINGS

at United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Part-time Christian Education Director

Seeking enthusiastic Christian to nurture family spiritual growth through education programs within the congregation of the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon. This candidate should possess strong organization and leadership skills to promote Christian education to children, youth, and adults. This position will help organize the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. The preferred candidate will have college degree and experience in an education, youth or ministry field.

This Christian Education position could be combined with the UMCMV Director of Youth Ministries position for one full-time job opportunity.

Please send Cover Letter & Resume to Pastor Terra Amundson at pastorterra@umcmv.com

Part-time Director of Youth Ministries

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church is seeking an energetic adult passionate about youth to organize and lead youth programming, including evening youth ministry and confirmation programs. This candidate should possess strong communication and leadership skills and be able to lead adult and teen volunteers in effective youth ministry. The preferred candidate will have a college education in youth ministry along with experience working with youth.

This Director of Youth Ministries position could be combined with the UMCMV Christian Education Director position for a full-time job opportunity.

Please send Cover Letter & Resume to Pastor Terra Amundson at pastorterra@umcmv.com

HISTORY CORNER

Did you know? March, 2021

Our Sanctuary Church Windows

In February, we began the history of the beautiful stained glass windows around our Sanctuary with the east window as recorded by Dr. William Norton, a Cornell geology professor and the member of our church tasked with arranging for the design and construction of the east window.

With his own words recorded in his diary, he recalled the desire to incorporate scenes from Biblical history, namely, Solomon directing the building of the first temple in Jerusalem, Jesus teaching in the temple, and the heavenly city that is promised to us in Revelations. The window also includes the A (Alpha) and O (Omega), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which symbolizes God as the creator of the beginning and the end of history.

We also learned more about the mystery of whether or not the window was actually a Tiffany window.

The other two large windows, however, have their own stories and symbolism. The central window back of the altar, is called the “Rose Window” or the “Trinity Window”. The important symbols in this window are the three arches or interlocking circles often called the “trefoil” which is a classic symbol of the Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This window was given by the students and faculty of Cornell College around 1899, showing the interrelationship of the church and the college. The top arch includes in the center the cross representing Christ at the center of our faith.

Kay Graber, UMCMV Historian

It's EASTER LILY time!!

It's such a joy to see our sanctuary spring to life on Easter Sunday with lilies and tulips. We are planning to order flowers again this year and you have an opportunity to purchase a lily or tulip in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please use the order form (found in this newsletter page 11) or call the church office to place your order. Please send the form (or information) along with payment of \$15 per plant, to the Church by Mar 22. Also, please note if you would like to pick up a plant following the Easter service. You may take your plant with you after the service or a plant will be labeled with your name and placed inside the front entry (red door) and can be picked up on Mon. April 5. Let us know if you prefer a lily or tulip (no guarantee we can fulfill preference). Thank You! Happy Easter!!



Order your Easter Flowers– Lilies & Tulips

It’s EASTER LILY time!! Please use this order form or call the church office to place your order. Please send the form (or information) along with payment of \$15 per plant, to the Church by March 22. Also, please note if you would like to pick up a plant following the Easter service. You may take your plant with you after the service or a plant will be labeled with your name and placed inside the front entry (red door) and can be picked up on Mon. April 5. Let us know if you prefer a lily or tulip (no guarantee we can fulfill preference).

Thank You! Happy Easter!!

Easter lilies are \$15 each.

To place your order, please fill out the form below and send it to church office, or call the church office to place your order. (319.895.6286).

Orders need to be in by **Monday, March 22**

Checks should be made out to: **UMCMV** & designated for **Easter Lilies**.

Name: _____

Number of Plants _____ (\$15 each)

Amount of Payment Enclosed _____ or can be done online _____ (date paid)

Information for the bulletin insert (please check):

_____ In memory of _____ In honor of

Will you be picking up Flower on Monday after Easter (April 5) _____ (YES OR NO)

Do you have a preference — lily or tulip ? _____



MIDDLE SCHOOL &
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS .

JOIN US FOR YOUTH GROUP!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:30-7:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

5TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS
MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

QUESTIONS?

Renee Nydegger rlnydegger@msn.com

Ally Rushford allyrushford@yahoo.com

HOLY WEEK



Wednesday March 31 &

Thursday April 1 - Stations of Jesus' Life

Stations of Jesus' Life is an interactive opportunity that will be offered for Wednesday, March 31st, from 12:00 – 6:00, and Thursday, April 1st, 12:00 through 8:00 at the church. The stations offer scripture, reflections, and opportunities for interaction. You are invited to come and spend time in meditation, reflection, and prayer as you move through the stations at your leisure.

Friday April 2—Good Friday Tenebrae Service Friday, April 2nd, at 6:30.

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world

All are invited to attend the Tenebrae service to remember the depth of Christ's suffering and death, and to remember the hope of resurrection in anticipation of Easter.

Sunday April 4—Easter Sunday—Worship at 9:30 AM

Our current plan for Easter Sunday is to host in person and online worship. We will work hard to help all get a seat and social distance while being together in our sanctuary.

Join in the fun of counting crosses— email me @ the church office about the # of crosses you find in this newsletter. Also, I would love to hear one thing you liked the about the newsletter this month as I am always trying hard to improve it and could use the feedback.

Thanks! Alison Dix

alisondix@umcmv.com



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
 Praise Team Director—.... Clint Stanerson
 Sunday School Coordinator Brittany Booth
 Congregational Care Coordinator Julie Baty
 Office Manager/NewsletterAlison Dix
 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



***Easter Sunday
 Worship
 Sunday April 4
 @ 9:30 AM***