



# **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

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**April 2021**



## **Happy EASTER on Sunday April 4!**



# Pastor's Letter

*Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!*

*Splendor the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!*

*Jesus is risen, and we shall arise.*

*Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

-from the hymn Alleluia! Jesus is Risen, words by Herbert F. Brokering

Dear Friends,

Spring is here. Easter is upon us. Alleluia!

Among the Lenten/Easter traditions of the wider church is the practice of putting away the “Alleluias” during the season of Lent – not singing them, speaking them, to resurrect them on Easter morning.

As I was contemplating the dramatic shift we make as the church during Eastertide, I thought of the new hope I am feeling as the covid vaccines are beginning to be more widely available, and the signs of hope and promise seen in others as we contemplate opening possibilities for our church, community, and world. It is beginning to feel like “alleluia!”

So, what are you hopeful for? Where are you feeling signs of resurrection? New birth?

Where is hope leading you to action? To change? To new challenges and opportunities?

And how is hope manifesting in the life of our church?

I invite you to find a partner(s) to have conversations around these questions. I also invite you to commit to praying for our church, our leaders, and our congregants in this season on possibility and potential, that the Spirit may, indeed, birth hope in our hearts, and bring “alleluias” to our lips.

May we be hope-filled resurrection people! Alleluia!

On the Journey, Pastor Terra

## Eastertide

Easter for Christians is not just one day - it's a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter season is more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of these new Christians.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. As “Easter people,” we celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.



## HOLY WEEK

### **Wednesday, March 31 & Thursday, April 1 - Stations of Jesus' Life**

Stations of Jesus' Life is an interactive opportunity that will be offered on 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 at 6:30 PM.**

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**

Easter Sunday Worship will be in person and online. We will help all who attend in person get a seat and social distance while being together in our sanctuary. We would appreciate you coming a little early to get seated so we can begin together at 9:30 AM. We wish everyone a very Blessed Easter!



## College Students Scholarship Available

**MEMORIALS  
COMMITTEE,  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH OF  
MOUNT VERNON**

### **Julian Johnston Scholarship Announced**

College students who will be classified as a junior or senior at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2021-22 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 College. 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 the scholarship application 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 2018 or 2019. In case anyone is missed an application form may be obtained from the church office. There is no age limit. Completed applications must be received at the church office by Friday June 4, 2021. Scholarship award winners will be announced the first week of July.

Diane Legore

# 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](http://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](mailto:pastorterra@umcmv.com)**

**Congregational Care: Contact Julie Baty 319-533-2349**

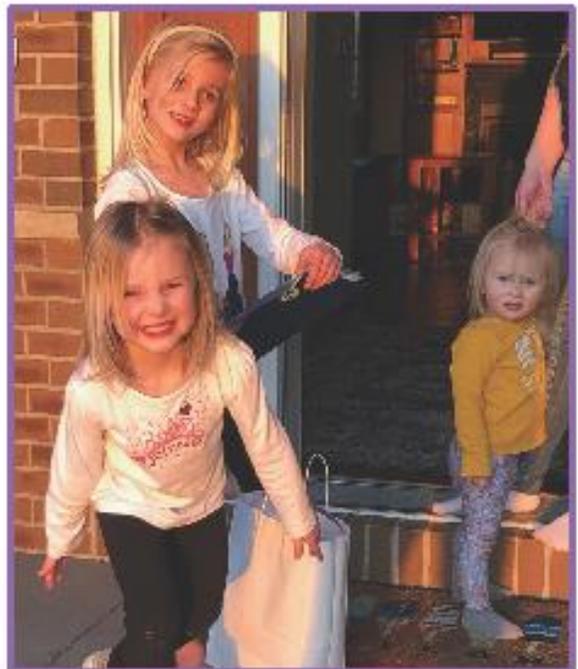
**Communications: Contact Alison Dix 319-573-4801**

## Sunday School -

"Getting Ready for Easter"  
Faith Bags!



What a JOY it was  
to see you so many of you during the  
Drive-Thru Pick-up and Deliveries!



# Sunday School

## - Remembering Jesus!



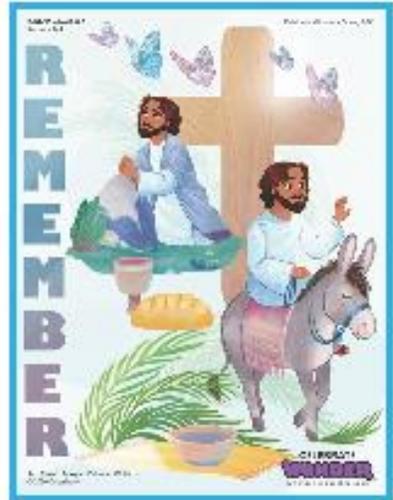
**REMEMBER – To think about and not forget our faith.**

Remember has been our *Celebrate Wonder* Faith Word this past month. Our Bible stories – Jesus Washes Feet, The Last Supper, Praying in the Garden and Jesus Enters Jerusalem—show us how Jesus wanted his friends to remember him and to love and serve others.

**We thank God for Jesus and all the ways we can remember how much he loves us!**

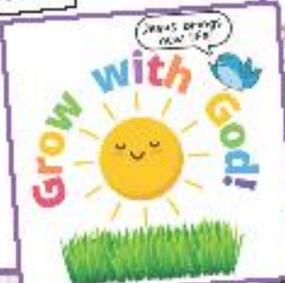


# OUR FAITH WORD



# SUNDAY SCHOOL – AT HOME!

**LENT**  
To prepare for Easter by spending time with God.



**Our Easter Grass is Growing!**  
Lorraine...  
**SPRAY and PRAY!**  
Time at God and say a thank you prayer!



Our "Getting Ready for Easter" bags!



# Mount Vernon Community PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Preschool children have been busy reading - they love to look at books and listen to stories, playing - interacting with friends is the best, and cooking - in March, we watched popcorn POP and enjoyed a tasty snack! The relationships the children have formed with the teachers and each other is a joy to watch.

We are thankful for your continued prayers and support as we finish out our school year.

Our class list for the 2021-2022 school year is filling up quickly. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Ellen Mueller, [mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com), for information about the three and four year old program!



## Our Beautiful Easter Flowers Donated in Memory and in Honor of...

Person(s) Requesting	Easter Flowers for:
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Helen Danforth (dear friend)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Mark Graber (Kay & Cot's son)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Helen and Henry Ewert (Kay's parents)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Mary Ann Ewert (Kay's sister-in-law)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Salome and Bernie Graber (Cot's parents)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Don Graber (Cot's brother)
Kay & Cot Graber	In memory of Vera Graber (Cot's sister)
The Hoffman Family	In honor of our daughters Ryley, Anna and Emma Hoffman
The Hoffman Family	In memory of all of those lost to Covid-19 since the pandemic began
Pastor Terra Amundson	In memory of Dorothy Amundson
Susan & Gregg Glenn and Cynthia & Kevin Halbmaier	In memory of William and Ruth Deskin, our parents
Bonnie Keith	In honor of Melanie & Michael McClaughny, Tom Keith & Sam & Kimmy Walker
Susan and Terry Pisarik	In memory of George & Rose Pisarik
Susan and Terry Pisarik	In memory of Bill & Jeanette Schwietzer
Mike & Karen Stewart	In memory of Glenn & Rilla Stewart
Mike & Karen Stewart	In memory of Wendell & Haleen Pellett
Alison Dix & Mel Steen	In memory of Mary Elizabeth Baux, Mel's Grandma
Alison Dix & Mel Steen	In memory of Marge Gaines, Marion Lehman, Wava Schmidt, Ruth
Al & Barb Shepley	In memory of our family members no longer with us
Jody Stewart	In memory of Joe Murphy, Jody's father
Jody Stewart	In memory of Kim Murphy, Jody's brother
Jody Stewart	In memory of John Poula, Jody's stepfather
Rainey Brown	In memory of Linda & Ingrid Huber
Rainey Brown	In memory of Rainsford & Ann Brown
Kristi Keast	In memory of Craig Keast
Marj Whitley	In memory of Wes Whitley & Carla Whitley
Marj Whitley	In honor of our family
Jim, Julie and Tessa Baty	In memory of Julie's parents, Delmar & Janet Dowd

## CARE CORNER

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

- AUDREY HEPBURN



Just over a year ago we were all quarantined in our homes, with no idea of what the next year would bring. Wow! What a year it has been. Now, here we are, in much better condition than one year ago. We have much to be grateful for, and also much to continue to process. The past year has impacted us all in ways we may not even be aware of yet. The uncertainty that COVID-19 brought to us had a way of stretching us in all directions. Now, as we come out on the other side, we still have some processing and reflection work to do.

What does that mean for you? What does that mean for us as the United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon?

It's time to acknowledge all that we have accomplished this past year, despite it being very hard. Probably time to continue to be patient as more of our congregation gets vaccinated and also time to look ahead and think about tomorrow.

Now more than ever, let's try to keep our communication open and ongoing. How are you feeling? What do you need from your church? Please know we miss those of you who continue to need to worship at home. How can I help provide care to you? Reach out and let me know.

Most of you know that I am a flower gardener. I love to nurture my flowers and then share the harvest with my church family and friends. I came upon a quote that spoke to my heart recently: “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” I can hardly wait to get out and get my flower garden planted. The beauty in the flowers that are God's creation simply amaze me as I am in awe of their individuality and vibrant colors and design.

What brings you joy? What can you plan to do in the month of April that helps you look towards tomorrow with hope and faith? May we continue to care for one another and lean into tomorrow, knowing we have survived a very dark time and joy comes in the morning.

With love and care, Julie Baty, Care Ministry

## PRAYER LIST

### Prayers for Healing:

- For Sheryl (Donna Walter's sister) who is still dealing with vision issues (the condition has improved and prayers for complete healing are requested)
- For Jodi Seeman, who had open heart surgery and then suffered a stroke following surgery. Prayers are needed for her healing and steps of recovery that lie ahead. Jodi is the daughter of Gwen Drahos (of Gwen's restaurant)
- 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:

- For all who mourn loved ones who were lost in the recent shootings within our nation
- For those who have been impacted by the recent shootings in any way
- Continued prayers for Don Stine
- Continued prayers for Doris Bacher
- Continued prayers for all of our healthcare workers and others in essential jobs, continuing to show up day after day. Prayers for their safety, strength, energy 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 UCMCV as they continue to work on behalf of our church
- 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
- Pray for love among all people
- Prayers for peace for people everywhere - peace worldwide
- 
- Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:
- It is with gratitude and praise that we report Dick Jacob has been discharged home, where he will continue his recovery
- We are thankful that the number of persons who have been vaccinated continues to increase, praise for the vaccine that will help us see one another more in person and reunite families and friends
- 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



## HISTORY CORNER

### The West Window

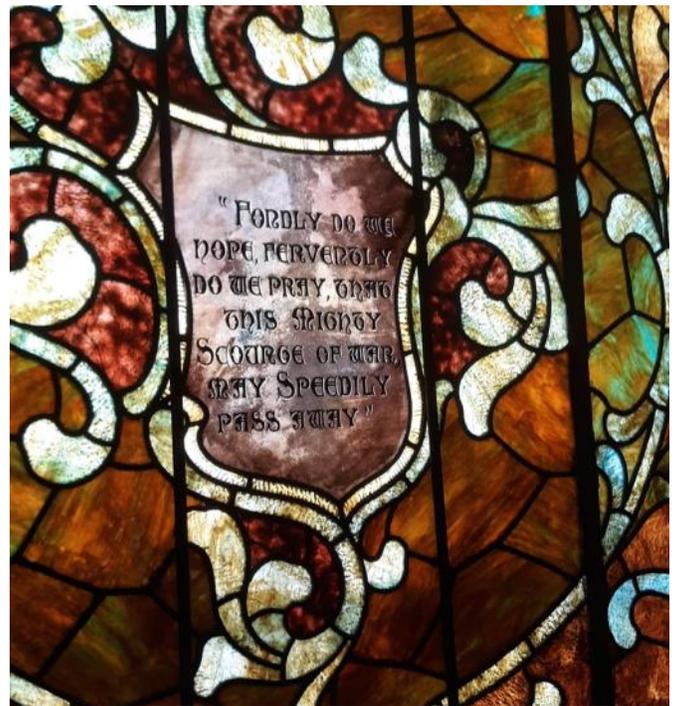
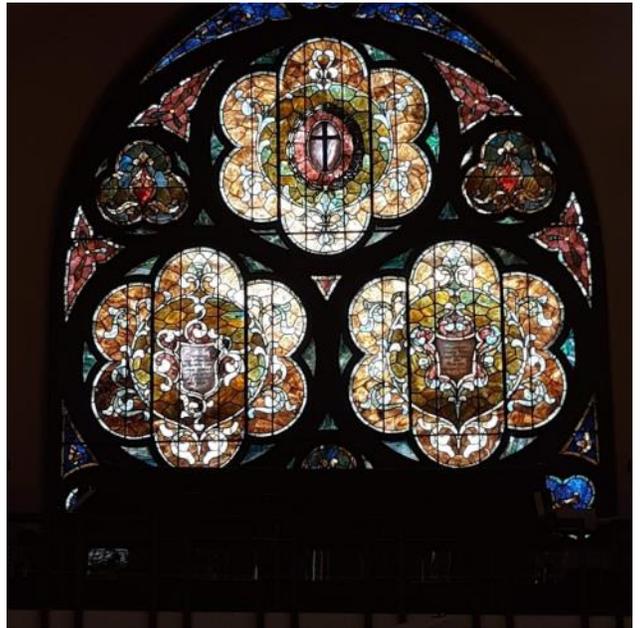
The last of the three large stained glass windows in our church sanctuary has its own history. The big west window was generously given by the local G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic) and the Women's Relief Corps with Colonel Rood and Martin Rigby as the committee in charge.

The Colonel wanted a big American flag and he thought a cannon and piles of cannon balls would look nice to go with the flag. The church had delegated William Norton again to handle the situation.

Norton called attention to the quiet tones that would be in the rest of the window, and "would the brilliant colors of the flag be quite in place"? The Colonel finally agreed that the flag be omitted, but later he decided that the colors of "Old Glory" would go with anything on heaven or earth."

Norton then suggested something more symbolic and less realistic than a cannon and cannon balls, perhaps shields as both Biblical and military. The colonel replied that as much as he could remember, there wasn't much use for shields in any battles he had fought in.

The two men had another meeting but got nowhere, so finally decided to leave it up to the architect who firmly dropped the idea of the flag and cannons. Norton remarks that our community had had massive suffering and casualties from the Civil War. There finally was agreement on including a quotation from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that the mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away". This window soon became the town memorial to the Civil War.



Close up of Lower left hand section with inscription.

Kay Graber, Historian



## **SPRC announcement**

### **Veronica Fisher hired to be Christian Education Director and Director of Youth Ministries**

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is excited to announce the hiring of Veronica Fisher to work with our youth in dual part-time roles of Christian Education Director and Director of Youth Minis-

tries. Veronica is an answer to our prayers, she has the academic and experience credentials we were hoping for; plus a bonus...she is a Cornell College Alumni (Class of 2008).

SPRC would like to thank Brittany Booth for her dedication and supporting our Sunday School activities (in the midst of the pandemic) as we recruited a new hire. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who have helped keep our Middle School and High School youth involved in our Youth Group, especially Renee Nydegger, Ally Rushford and LeAnn Briesemeister and their family members. Veronica will be starting in April and beginning to embrace both jobs.

As we all look forward to a return to more in person activities so you can meet her and her son Ben, we would like to encourage you in the meantime to send a welcome note to the Church office or send her a welcoming email at [veronicafisher@umcmv.com](mailto:veronicafisher@umcmv.com).

*welcome*

# ROOTED Youth Group is back in session!

- **GREAT DISCUSSIONS!**
  - ◇ How life has changed over the last year.
  - ◇ How God can lead us in dealing with social injustice.
  - ◇ How we can be more like Jesus.
- **FUN GAMES!**
- **GREAT MUSIC WITH THE UMCMV PRAISE**



## JOIN THE FUN!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6:30-8:00 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

Questions?

Contact:

Renee Nydegger [rlnydegger@msn.com](mailto:rlnydegger@msn.com)  
or

Ally Rushford [allyrushford@yahoo.com](mailto:allyrushford@yahoo.com)

## Giving Opportunities

### LOCAL ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT IN APRIL

Willis Dady Homeless Shelter– A homeless shelter in Cedar Rapids that is working hard to support men and families going from homeless to back into the community living on their own. They also staff the overflow shelter in the winter months and due to covid, they are keeping it open all of 2021 to allow for space when so many services are shut down. Indicate on your check if donating through the church– Willis Dady Shelter or click [here](#) to give directly.

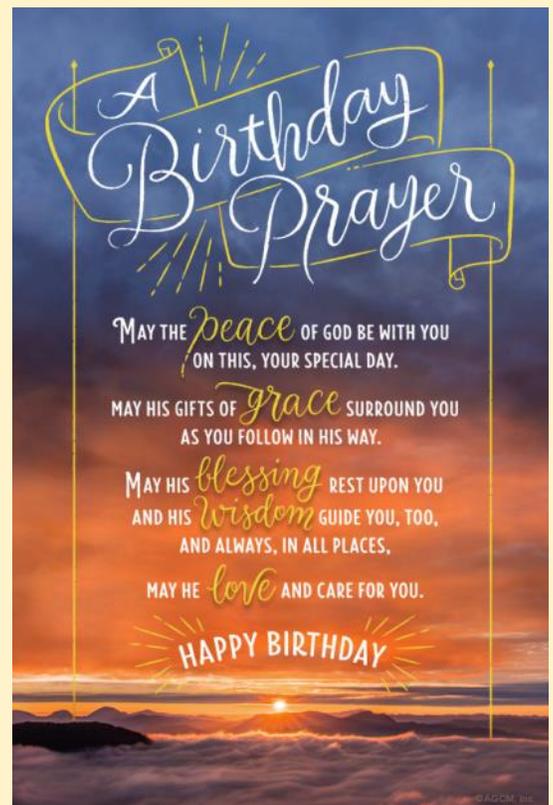
### To Support Methodist Organizations:

#### Native American Ministries Sunday UMCOR – April 18

Every year, we set aside one Sunday to give generously to Native American ministries and scholarships. It's one way we recognize their unique value and contributions to this community. There are 149 Native American congregations with the United Methodist denomination and over 21,000 Native American Methodists.

Marilyn Meyer	04/01
Scott Johanningmeier	04/02
Arlene Sand	04/03
Clare Nydegger	04/04
Jacob Pratt	04/06
Kim Stoner	04/07
Calvin Kragenbrink	04/08
Jack Kragenbrink	04/08
Ella Norton	04/08
Don Stine	04/08
Geoff Glenn	04/10
Camden Mertes	04/10
Sydney Pratt	04/10
Mike Stewart	04/10
Courtney Micheel	04/11
Amy Conrad	04/12
Reagan Morf	04/12
Holly Hotz	04/13
Clint Currie	04/14
Benjamin Nydegger	04/14
Stacey Barber	04/15
Megan Fisher	04/15
Kyle Jaspers	04/17
Gretchen Beckhelm	04/19
Annie Leopold	04/24
Eryn Jackson	04/25
Becky Mohn	04/27

## April Birthdays Happy Birthday!





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  
 Christian Education Director  
 & Director of Youth Ministries. . . . . Veronica Fisher  
 Congregational Care Coordinator . . . . . Julie Baty  
 Office Manager/Newsletter . . . . . Alison 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,  
 Tim Legore & Jackie Morrival  
 Treasurers . . . . . Mike Kragenbrink  
 Alison Dix



***JOIN US for  
 Easter Sunday  
 Worship  
 Sunday April 4  
 @ 9:30 AM***