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.

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August 2022

Pastor's Letter

Friends,

I am SO excited about our plans for August! Our trustees have been busy, moving the sound booth upstairs, as well as preparing for the replacement of the carpet in the sanctuary. The carpeting will be replaced during first part of August. We will celebrate these accomplishments in the near future!

This has presented us with an opportunity to use this time creatively. During the month of August we will have a single worship service, beginning with breakfast and fellowship. Beginning around ten o'clock, we will move to a time of worship and table conversation, incorporating the book A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community by John Pavlovitz. The small group that studied A Bigger Table this spring found his premise both thought-provoking and exciting. We felt that examining key concepts from A Bigger Table with our wider church family was an opportunity to stimulate conversation and vision for our future as a church.

So friends, our first Sunday is **August 7th, beginning with breakfast at 9:30 -** Rumors have it we are serving BACON! That is cause for celebration! We will then move into a time of song, reflection, and conversation, setting the table, so to speak, for our conversations throughout August.

My prayer is that this time may be a springboard for the ongoing work of our church, bringing us both direction and hope. Please plan on being a part of this time together as we eat in fellowship and love, think together where God might be leading us, and "setting the table", together working to strengthen our church as a community of hospitality and love.

On the Journey,

Pastor Terra

There's a place at the table for you...

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Come as you are- join us for this unique worship time.

9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Breakfast, Fellowship and Worship

Remember, in August we worship at ...

9:30 AM Breakfast, Fellowship and Worship

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us in August for a unique worship experience!

Spend time around "THE BIGGER TABLE" in Fellowship Hall — breakfast and fellowship at 9:30, with a time of devotions and directed conversation

Based on the book A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community, by John Povlovitz.

In this book he posits four marks of living into having a bigger table that we will consider together:

Week One: Radical Hospitality

Week Two: Total Authenticity

Week Three: True Diversity

Week Four: Agenda-Free Community

Mount Vernon Community Preschool

Mount Vernon Community Preschool was founded in 1965 as a mission of the Methodist Church to provide early childhood education to the children in Mount Vernon, Lisbon and surrounding communities.

Over the years the preschool has adjusted to accommodate as many young children as possible. There have been years with classes offered mornings and afternoons five days a week. As times changed and preschools were added to local elementary schools, the number of children enrolled went down but the preschool remained strong, again adjusting to the needs of the community. For the past several years three teachers have taught one class of 3 and 4 year old children on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

As the preschool enters its 57th year, the needs have changed again! Due to the rise in enrollment numbers, a Tuesday/Thursday class has been added. Once again, children will be learning and engaging with teachers and their peers five mornings a week.

It is our hope that we can continue to carry out the mission of the church that was established over 50 years ago and make a difference in the lives of the children and families in our communities.

Thank you UMCMV for your prayers and support as the school year begins!

Endowment Distribution – Submit your request

Our endowment funds held at the Iowa United Methodist Foundation earned a reasonable return in 2021. In accordance with our endowment policy, the Endowment Ministry Team requested, and the Church Council approved, a distribution of $6,500 from the endowment funds. Endowment distributions are used for special projects or ministries that are not part of the church's annual budget.

The Church Council will act to approve one or more specific uses of this year's distribution at its meeting on August 18. In order to be eligible to receive funds from the endowment, the Council agreed on the following procedures and asks everyone wishing to request funds to follow them:

1. All the UMCMV program ministries (Missions, Education, Evangelism, Youth, Stewardship, Worship, Memorials, Membership Care, Peace/Justice) and administrative ministries (Trustees, Staff Parish, Finance, Lay Leadership) are eligible to request funds from the distribution.

2. If there is a request or idea for use of the funds from an individual in the congregation, it must first go through one of the program or administrative ministry teams above.

3. The request must include the name of the project/program/event, etc. to be funded with this distribution, the name of the Council member making the request, a description of what outcome is expected, and the estimated cost.

4. All requests should be sent to Alison Dix, by August 10. The requests will be presented to the Council at the August meeting for discussion and a vote for selection.

Confirmation Meeting

August 28th, 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall

This year's Confirmation Class will begin on **Sunday, September 11th, at 9:45. This class is for our students who are entering eighth grade this fall.**

To clarify expectations for the class, and to have the opportunity to answer any questions, we will meet on **Sunday, August 28th, 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall.**

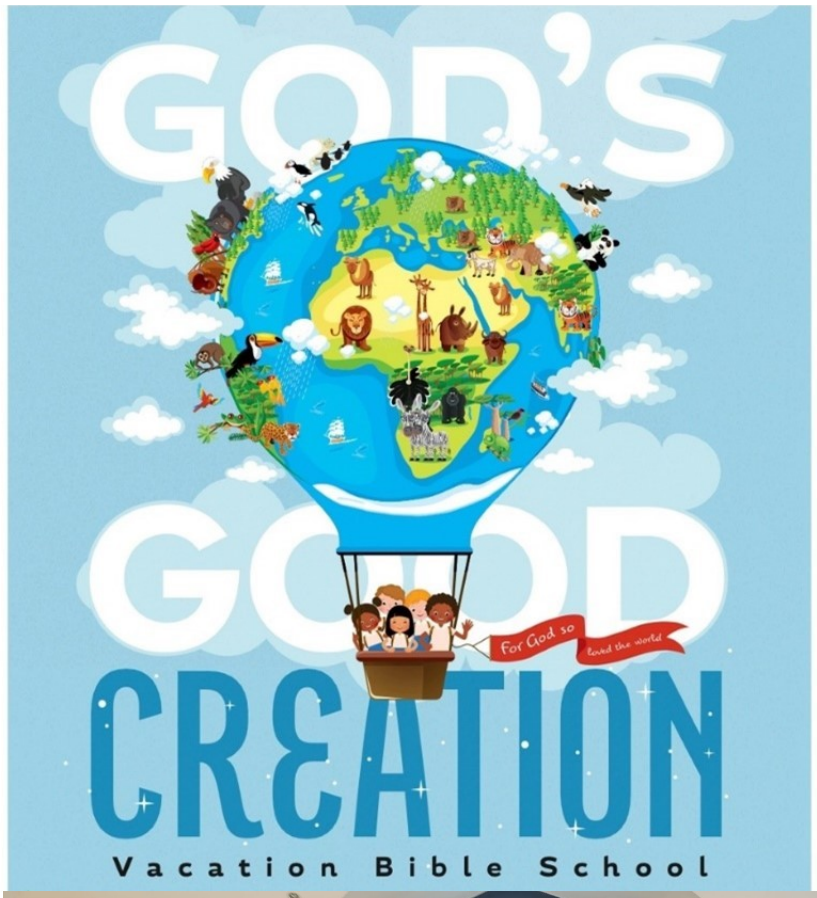
Please contact Pastor Terra (pastorterra@umcmv.com) if you have not received an email concerning the class.

Online Giving and ACH (Automatic Bank Withdrawals) are available to make your giving easy and worry free.

- **Check out our online giving or contact Jackie Morrical about setting up automatic payments for your convenience.**
- **Our website can be used for special gifts or if you want to try out giving electronically.**

Check it out here!

https://bit.ly/3t7r0PE



VBS 2022 Wrap Up

Our ecumenical VBS program was a great hit for both kids and volunteers! I'm not sure who enjoyed seeing the animal visitors most 😊 We learned a lot about animals and how all animals and all people can be used by God in different ways.

I think you'll see in the pictures that it was a pretty good time! A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make this opportunity happen for our kids, whether it was with the actual event or sending your kids or spreading the word or anything else, we are very thankful for you!

Sunday school

Mark your calendars!

Rally Day 2022 will be Sunday September 11th with the first day of class on the 18th. Registration can be done at Rally Day or by filling out forms that you will be able to print and return or submit electronically on the UMCMV website. We will let you know when the updated form will be available.

We are in need of teachers for middle school and high school as well as substitutes and shepherds. If you love children, have a heart of service, and feel called to help, please contact Veronica or Pastor Terra.

Youth group — COMING BACK THIS FALL

We don't have a start date for youth group YET but it will be either late August or early September. This year we WILL be meeting regularly, so get ready for lots of fun and fellowship! There is even a rumor going around that we might be reinstating the meal...

First Presbyterian will be joining us this year, including their leader, Jonathan. Jonathan is currently enjoying family time out of state for July, so when he gets back in town we will nail down details and send them out. Youth and parents, make sure to keep an eye on your emails since there are a lot of changes afoot and you won't want to miss out on anything!

Please call/text Veronica Fisher, Director of Youth and Christian Education, 319-270-2446 or send an email to veronicafisher@umcmv.com if you have any questions.

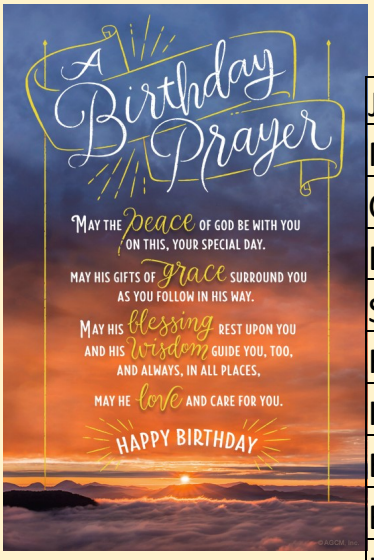
Missions August 2022 Update

We have a team of volunteers helping SE Linn Community Center with Meals on Wheels this month, so thank you to Arlene and Vern Sand for helping to line up those great volunteers and for those going out to the community to help reach those who are in need.

Thank you to all who donated to the School Supply collection for the community school distribution coming up next week.

Thank you to all who supported the FISH FUND special offering to restock our fund and help those who come through our doors when we can.

Thanks for continuing to support the projects that give us opportunities to be Christ's Hands and Feet in our community.



Happy Birthday!

August Birthdays

Jason Anderson	08/03
Mary Jane Wilkey	08/03
Candice Jeffrey	08/06
Diane Legore	08/06
Sandra Sill	08/06
Renee Nydegger	08/08
Isaac Dausener	08/09
Emily Stoner	08/09
Beth Johnson	08/11
Kailey Shannon	08/13
Marc Mohn	08/14
Jen Stanerson	08/14
Lauren Swartzendruber	08/17
Loren Hoffman	08/19
Kyler Shannon	08/19
Kim Guardado	08/23
Jim Engelbrecht	08/24
Landon Johanningmeier	08/30

MOUNT VERNON
Heritage Days

Thank you!

Our food booth at Heritage Days in Mount Vernon was great and we thank all who volunteered, donated and attended it for making it a great success! Here's to doing it again next year!

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting Fellowship Hall	2 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	3 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 7:00pm Nominations Committee, Common Ground Meeting Room	4	5 Sanctuary -re carpet begins moving pews	6 Sanctuary -re carpet begins moving pews
7 9:30am Worship & Breakfast- A Bigger Table Sermon Series, Fellowship Hall	8 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting Fellowship Hall	9 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	10 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 6:30pm Missions Committee meeting, Chapel Meeting Room 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	11 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 6:30pm PEO Meeting, Fellowship Hall	12 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary	13 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary
14 9:30am Worship & Breakfast- A Bigger Table Sermon Series, Fellowship Hall 12:00pm Krapfl Wedding Shower	15 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	16 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 1:00pm CDG Volunteer Gathering, Fellowship Hall	17 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	18 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary 7:00pm Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall	19 New carpet being installed in Sanctuary	20
21 9:30am Worship & Breakfast- A Bigger Table Sermon Series, Fellowship Hall	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting Fellowship Hall	23 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	24 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship & Breakfast- A Bigger Table Series, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Confirmation Parent Meeting, Fellowship Hall	29 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	30 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	31 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary			

Lift Up these Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing:

- For Judy Van Cleve recovering from surgery on July 26
- For Pam (Jeff and Donna Walter's niece) who had a brain tumor successfully removed in June, but then suffered a stroke. Pam has been moved to rehab and is in need of continued prayers for recovery from the effects of the stroke
- For Summer Brand, a current student at Central College and Mount Vernon High School graduate, as she receives treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma
- For a friend of Ann Currie's who was just diagnosed with cancer and is awaiting treatment plan options
- For Alex, a friend of Veronica Fisher, in need of prayers for a variety of health concerns
- For Veronica Fisher who is dealing with health issues and doctor appointments
- For Morgan Blomme who continues a fierce fight with cancer. Life has thrown some really big hurdles at them. Morgan is a 4th grade teacher in Cedar Rapids and her husband, Nick, is a 4th grade teacher and part of the Lisbon Community School District Family. Nick and Morgan's daughter just celebrated her first birthday in June. Prayers for strength, peace and comfort for this young couple and all those who love them
- For our Bishop, Laurie Haller, as she continues recovery from a concussion
- For all our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer
- For all within our church and Mount Vernon community who have endured Covid recently, and who continue to regain their strength and energy

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For a MV mother who had brain surgery in July, prayers for her continued recovery
- For those concerned with health issues
- For all who are struggling: emotionally, physically or spiritually
- 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 our college freshman as they prepare for the start of Fall semester, and families adjust to the transition this brings
- For families enjoying vacations during summer, we pray for safety while traveling and for a time of refreshment and renewal as family members spend special time together
- Don Stine is now residing at Cherry Ridge Independent and Assisted Living in Mount Vernon. Prayers for his that this may be a positive transition time for him

PRAYER LIST continued

- Prayers for all students, teachers, school staff and administrators to have a great end to their summer vacation and a positive start to the school year
- For young adults who are struggling to find their future path, may they feel God's presence, encouragement and love in their lives
- For the leaders of UMCMV 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 our Nation and our World:

- Prayers for the family and friends of the victims of the shooting at Maquoketa Caves State Park. Special prayers for the surviving 9 year old, that God may wrap his arms around him and comfort him in the days and years to come. Prayers also for the family of the young man responsible for the shooting, they too need God's love and comfort
- Pray for peace in our world. Specifically for the people caught in the tragedies of war in Ukraine and Russia. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers
- For those in our country and around the world dealing with natural disasters. Prayers for their safety, peace and comfort
- For people all over the world who are suffering from the COVID-19 virus
- Pray for peace and calm for humanity

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- With great joy we celebrate with Karen Stoll, who is a proud new grandmother, celebrating the birth of her granddaughter, Penelope Bristow Stoll, born on July 14th
- Congratulations to Cindy Roberts, as she has welcomed a grandson born on June 23rd. We celebrate with Cindy, the arrival of baby Joel
- We celebrate with both Lisbon and Mount Vernon softball teams who made it to the State Tournament, and also the Lisbon baseball team that made it to State. We are very happy for these athletes! Congratulations to the MV softball girls who earned the 3A State title
- We are blessed with wonderful musicians and devoted tech team members that add so much to our worship services
- With thanksgiving we think of our Trustees and all the hard work they do to keep our church building in good working order, up to date with renovations and many other day to day acts of service

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
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
Choir Accompanist Denae McGrath
Custodian . . . . . Night Shift
Maintenance & Repair Director . . …….. Trustees
Wedding Coordinator…… Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries . . ……... . Richard Jacob,
Tim Legore & Jackie Morrical
Treasurers . . . . . ……. Mike Kragenbrink
Alison Dix

There's a place at the table for you!

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