



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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October 2022



Dear Friends,

Pastor's Letter

I announced on September 18th my retirement, effective June 30th, 2023. For many of you this comes as a surprise. For others, I imagine you were wondering when such an announcement might happen!

Whenever a pastoral change is anticipated, anxiety increases as folks wonder who might be coming to serve the church as pastor, as well as basic process questions. Let me briefly walk you through what to expect in the coming months.

1. Your SPRC (Staff/Parish Relations Committee) is already at work readying a church profile, including a description of the community/communities, a description of the congregation, and a 5-7 prioritized list of attributes hoped for in your next pastor. These will be discussed with District Superintendent Moody Colorado, and provided to the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet for consideration as they work to match gifts and graces of a pastor with this congregation.

2. As a "Clear-Open" church (a church where the clergyperson is retiring, it is a definite vacancy), the profile provided by the SPRC will be sent to all the clergy of the Iowa Annual Conference. This highlights our church, and allows pastors to look at the profile and to indicate their interest in serving this congregation. The clergy are encouraged to write a letter to the Bishop stating how they see their gifts and graces matching the gifts, graces and needs of the church in which they are interested.

3. The Appointive season is from generally from January through May. It is during this time, after the AIM (Appointive Introductory Meeting) with the SPRC, that the church will learn who will be coming to serve them as pastor. At that time the SPRC and other leadership of the church will begin to communicate with the incoming pastor and laying the groundwork for a good beginning. I will also offer to meet with the incoming pastor to share any knowledge they would like as they prepare to come and serve.

How can you help? Be praying for our church, for one another, for the Bishop and Cabinet as they make appointments, and for your future pastor. Share with any of the SPRC members your hopes and concerns, that they may take these into consideration.

I continue to be your pastor. And I will continue to serve this congregation with joy and thanksgiving. I love this church, and pray with you and for you in this season of transition that we may all look back and see God's hand in all of this.

On the Journey, Pastor Terra





**Worship
with us!**



In person at 8:30 or 11 am

Online at 8:30 am www.umcmv.com/online-worship

Starting Sunday Oct 2 @ 5:30 PM—come for dinner!

Continuing Our Conversation around A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community, by John Pavlovitz.

Building on the fellowship and lively conversation we experienced in our joint worship services in August, we will be continuing our conversation around the book A Bigger Table at 5:30 -7:00 on the Sunday evenings of October 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

The chapters we will be covering from the book are:

- Week One: Show Then the Ocean
- Week Two: The Church Will be Queer
- Week Three: Fear Less

Like our August Services, we will begin our time with a meal and fellowship, and continue with a time of learning and conversation around the tables. Whether or not you were part of the August conversations, you are welcome to come and be a part of this time of learning together.

Mount Vernon Community Preschool

October 2022 Update



The preschool school year is off to a wonderful and busy start! The children have enjoyed spending time playing, reading, singing, dancing, cooking and making new friends. It is always a joy to watch the children form relationships with each other and the teachers.

We appreciate your continued prayers for the children, their families and the teachers

for a safe and healthy school year.

Preschool Contact Information: mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com or 563-321-0752





2023 Financial Generosity Campaign

Sunday October 9, 16 and October 23

This year's campaign is focused on joy,
the joy of our Creator's love for us and for all of creation,
the joy that is present when
we seek to be close to the heart of God,
and the joy of generosity when
we give of our time, our talents, our gifts, our service, and
our witness.

Please watch for weekly mailings,
and if you have any questions, please reach out.



“ Increase our faith!” – Luke 17: 5b

Dear Friends,

This Sunday’s scripture passage opens with the disciples asking Jesus to “Increase our faith”. We have some amazing opportunities to do just that as we look ahead to the month of October:

1. Continued Study of “A Bigger Table” by John Povlovitz – 5:30-7:00 Sunday Evenings,

October 2, 9, and 16 In response to the enthusiasm expressed over our August worship format, we will continue our time of a meal together, fellowship around the tables, and a time of learning and conversation around the book A Bigger Table, by John Povlovitz. The themes of each week are:

Week 1: “Show Them the Ocean” -Building authentic faith community

Week 2: “The Church Will be Queer” – growing into an open and affirming community based on respect.

Week 3: “Fear Less” - Living a life committed to faith, rather than ruled by fear.

2. “Together with Joy” 2023 Financial Generosity Campaign – October 9,16, and 24

Generosity is sign of spiritual maturity. As we acknowledge God’s grace and mercy in our own lives, giving back to God and to others out of a heart of gratitude is a natural response

This year’s campaign is focused on joy, the joy of our Creator’s love for us and for all of creation, the joy that is present when we seek to be close to the heart of God, and the joy of generosity when we give of our time, our talents, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

The financial generosity campaign will conclude on October 23rd with the receiving of the “Estimate of Giving” cards. These cards are considered your best estimate of what your will give in the coming year. If life circumstances change, your estimate can be changed, but these commitments will enable our leadership to faithfully plan and execute our church budget for the 2023 year.

3. Church Auction – Sunday, October 23, at 12:00

If you’ve never attended one of our church auctions, I invite you to make plans to donate items, and to be present This is an another opportunity for food and fellowship, and some good-hearted competition while raising some money for the work of the church.

I believe each of these activities are opportunities for us to increase our faith - to grow together in fellowship and study and to grow together as we support the financial health of our church. May we work together in the coming days to grow in our faithfulness as we look to the future with joy.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Terra



Youth group—Wednesdays @ 6:30 to 8 pm

Youth group has official started for 2022-23! We're trying something new this year by joining with the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon and Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church in Lisbon. Middle school (6th grade through 8th grade) as well as high school will be meeting every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8pm in Fellowship Hall (unless noted otherwise). For our kick-off, we met together at Bass Farms on September 14th and had over 30 youth attend. We enjoyed hot dogs and watermelon, learned a little bit about the youth, and just generally had a good time!

September 28th we had Walking Tacos and worked on a tie blanket service project.

The schedule of activities is shown below. Please let Veronica (veronicafisher@umcmv.com) if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.



Date	Activity (subject to change)
14-Sep	Bass Farms kickoff
21-Sep	Game night
28-Sep	Tie blankets service project
5-Oct	Scavenger hunt
12-Oct	Night walk at the Pal
19-Oct	Willis Dady kits service project
26-Oct	Halloween party
2-Nov	Escape room
9-Nov	TBA
16-Nov	Random Acts of Kindness
23-Nov	Thanksgiving break
30-Nov	Soup supper prep
7-Dec	Hallmark visit
14-Dec	Christmas party with white elephant gift exchange



Sunday school RALLY SUNDAY!



Sunday School started with Rally Day on September 11th. It was so great seeing all the families who came! There were



cupcakes and apple, bingo, a nose pick game, and other fun activities.

First WEEK of Sunday School: We started lessons in the classroom on September 18th where we learned about Hannah praying to God for a baby and Samuel hearing God's call. Our first unit Faith Word is "Call" - to know we are each chosen by God to do God's work in the world.

Our next unit begins October 2nd and will have the Faith Word "Seeking". This unit we will learn more about David and introduce Solomon.



Congrats to our Third graders getting their Bibles!

On September 25th we presented Bibles to the 3rd grade class. They will be taking their Bible class during the month of October. Congratulations to Lucy Cook, Vaughn Jace Havill, Claire Light, Eloise Reinken, Ellie Smith, and Nathan Stewart!

LORD'S PORTION AUCTION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23 @ Noon

Fellowship Hall

Our **ANNUAL LORD'S PORTION AUCTION is This Month!**
soon!

Thank you for all the donations so far and know we are going to have a fun auction! Your generous support of this major fund raiser for our church has been so very appreciated.

We hope you will again give prayerful consideration to what talents and/or gifts you might donate to this year's event. As we have seen in years past, it is an opportunity to share a wide range of "homegrown" talents, occupational experiences, and creative creations. We hope you will tell your friends and neighbors of our event and invite them to come along with you to share in the opportunity to sample these talents and gifts for yourself.

We hope to have the list of Auction items in the bulletin October 16 and feel free to invite friends and family to join in the fun!

We will offer a light lunch with the auction immediately following the 11:00 service. Cost is Free Will Offering.

We look forward to a fun event with your help!

Hope to see you here on October 23rd!





WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for “The Amazing Collection”: The Bible Book by Book

“The Amazing Collection” is a video Bible study written for women, by women. Each DVD is an overview of one of the books of the bible. This study is geared toward busy women to guide you through each chapter of the bible.

**Weekly class held each Tuesday
9:30 to 11 am**

**Classes begin Tuesday October 11
in the Balcony Classroom at the
United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon,
304 1st St. SW, Mount Vernon**

Questions? Contact Cathy Stoner at (319)551-6666

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)

<https://bit.ly/3t7r0PE>

Missions Committee October Update

Our third bulk food offering for the SE Linn Food pantry for 2022 was a great success. Over \$3200 of food was delivered to SE Linn from Gary's foods by Jim Wallace, Jamie Wallace-Smith, Tim Legore, Al Shepley, Mike Woods, and Mike Stewart.



The staff of Southeast Linn reported the food pantry served 85 families last week, returning to the numbers that were served during the middle of the pandemic. They said the need is increasing steadily as government help is being reduced for individuals.

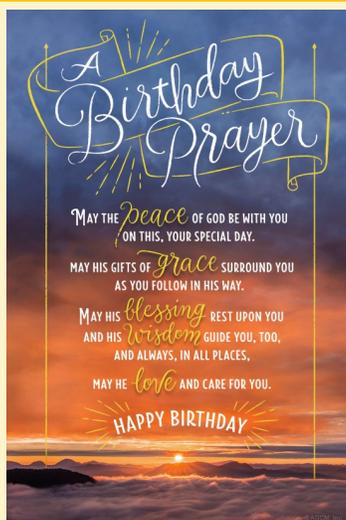
HACAP (that funnels some food to them from government surplus programs) is receiving only severely reduced supplies to pass on to them. We are truly serving our local community in an amazing capacity by cooperating with Gary's Foods on this project. Thank you, generous congregation.

Our church endowment has provided supplies for youth group mission projects. Tied fleece blankets and personal hygiene kits, assembled by our youth, will be shared with area shelters for distribution.

Opportunities continue to be available for congregation members to become more involved in our Mission Committee projects. If you are interested in delivering meals on wheels, organizing holiday giving (Tag Tree, holiday hams, coat collections, mitten tree, etc), or suggesting other ways we can support our community, please call Alison in the church office.

Mission Committee

Arlene and Verne Sand, Mary Jane McWilliams, Jen Hoffman, Renee Nydegger, Alison Dix, Barb Shepley, Karen Stewart



Brock Barber	10/03
Griffin Barber	10/03
Gordon Behrens	10/03
Logan Stanerson	10/04
Dee Pata	10/06
Darin Swartzendruber	10/09
Bryan Woodward	10/09
Jamie Smith	10/11
Keira Niec	10/12
Charlie Engelbrecht	10/13
John Engelbrecht	10/13
Ava Claussen-Tubbs	10/15

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

Kristi Keast	10/15
Rebecca Conrad	10/18
Brooklyn Sill	10/18
Allyson Rushford	10/20
Kinsley Harms	10/22
Doris Bacher	10/23
Joey Watson	10/24
Joleen Woods	10/24
Jackie Engelbrecht	10/25
Garet Swartzendruber	10/26
Andy Morrival	10/27

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 World Communion Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Fellowship time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Confirmation Class, Balcony Classroom 9:45am Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 5:30pm Evening Gather- Extending Bigger Table, Fellowship Hall	3	4 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	5 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group- Middle School & HS, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Chancel choir practice, Sanctuary	6	7	8
9 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Fellowship time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Confirmation Class, Balcony Classroom 9:45am Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 5:30pm Evening Gather- Extending Bigger Table, Fellowship Hall	10	11 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom	12 6:30pm Missions Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group- Middle School & HS, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Chancel choir practice, Sanctuary	13 6:00pm PEO Meeting, Sanctuary & Common Ground Meeting	14	15
16 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Fellowship time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Confirmation Class, Balcony Classroom 9:45am Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 5:30pm Evening Gather- Extending Bigger Table, Fellowship Hall	17 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	18 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom	19 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group- Middle School & HS, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Chancel choir practice, Sanctuary	20 7:00pm Ad Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall	21	22 8:00am Cornell Convocation, Sanctuary 10 am
23 Pledge Sunday for 2023 Support 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Fellowship time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Confirmation Class, Balcony Classroom 9:45am Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 12:00pm Lord's Portion Auction - Fellowship Hall	24	25 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom	26 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group- Middle School & HS, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Chancel choir practice, Sanctuary	27	28	29
30 All Saints Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Fellowship time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Confirmation Class, Balcony Classroom 9:45am Sunday School, Classrooms 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	31	1 9:30am Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom	2 6:30pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group- Middle School & HS, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Chancel choir practice, Sanctuary	3	4	5

Lift Up these Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing:

- For Josie Bothell (one of our 8th grade confirmands) who now has a cast on to help heal an ankle injury that happened two months ago. Prayers that this will finally bring her healing and relief from the pain
- For Mary Holubar (friend of LeAnn Briesemeister/aunt to Alison Dix) who is dealing with health concerns
- For Leroy Clark who is currently hospitalized for issues with his hip joint and is experiencing a lot of pain
- For John Baty (Jim's brother) as he recovers from surgery
- For Summer Brand, a current student at Central College and Mount Vernon High School graduate, as she receives treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma
- 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 Amanda Meeker (daughter-in-law of Bob Meeker and Marsha Acord), as they mourn her passing
- For the family and friends who are grieving the death of Kate Rose
- For the family and friends of Dave Levan (Cathy Boggs father and brother-in-law to Marilyn Schnittjer) who passed away on September 13th
- For Henry Steine who continues Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and for Denae and his siblings as they miss his presence at home
- 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 continue to get oriented to their new "home away from home", and their family members as they adjust during this time of transition
- Don Stine is now residing at Cherry Ridge Independent and Assisted Living in Mount Vernon. Prayers that this may be a positive time of transition for him
- Prayers for all students, teachers, school staff and administrators to have a positive first semester of the school year
- 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

PRAYER LIST continued

Prayers for our Nation and our World:

- 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:

- We celebrate the birth of Lennon Catherine Kraus with Ben and Mackenzie Kraus, born on Sept 9th and welcomed into the world by her big sister and two big brothers. Congratulations also to proud grandparents Susan and Gregg Glenn
- We have NEW carpet in the sanctuary!! What a joy this is and we offer our gratitude to those in our church who helped to organize this effort
- 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
- We are thankful for beautiful Fall days; filled with crisp air, sunshine and amazing colors



Upcoming Dates for important meetings

Thursday, October 20 at 7 pm

Church Council meeting 7 pm Fellowship Hall

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

November 13 at 2 pm— Charge
Conference meeting—
Fellowship Hall



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



**Pies, and chocolates and
 Cheesecake—OH MY!**

**Join us for the
 LORD’S PORTION AUCTION**

Sunday October 23

Noon in

Fellowship Hall