



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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January 2016

Dear Friends,

During holiday seasons we have a few family gatherings where we often play games, eat foods with grandmother's recipe, watch movies, and talk about "joys and concerns." What really binds us together as a family is "love." I was invited to a "Jordan" family Ping Pong tournament on Christmas Eve after the 9:00 PM service. We played some "tough" games, but I could feel the love that bound them together as one loving family.

As I look around the whole congregation during Sunday mornings, "I see you (*sa-baw-na*)" as individuals, families, small groups, and one single family. Once an individual is living well, his/her family will be better off. Then when each family is healthier, the whole church will be spiritually sound and well. However, we all live in a liminal borderline between happiness and unhappiness, between joys and concerns. "I see you" when you are in grief as well as in hope and joy. When a family gathers together, we are not embarrassed with "seeing each other closely and even intimately." So the greeting of "I see you" is actually a family language.

It (*Sa-baw-na*; salutation) leads us to another level of *salvus*, "safe," or *salve*, "wellbeing," or "Salvation." The French word, "*salut*" captures these two aspects of salvation altogether: one is "greeting (salutation) such as "hi," and the other, "salvation." When we greet each other with "*salut*" or "I see you," that is a moment of salvation where we embrace each other in our own family circle as well as others such as strangers.

My hope is that our church will be able to say, "I see you," "*salut*," "hi," or "*ahn-nyeong* (Korean)" to "every other" [*tout autre*] as wholly other [*tout autre*] to build a salvific community where everyone is welcome, where everyone is being well, and where everyone is mended. It is simply love, a divine mode of being-with!

Shalom, Pastor Heecheon

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Praise Service

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Fellowship Time,
Common Ground

**11:00 am Traditional
Worship**

Happy New Year!

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Check out our online calendar!

Go to mountvernonumc.org

Click on CHURCH CALENDAR on the
left hand column. Thanks!!

It's True! It's Going to Happen!

Put July 31-August 6, 2016 on your calendar for the long-awaited inter-generational Mission Trip for the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon!

Where are we going? To Project Crossroads in Marion, Virginia.

Who can go? Anyone....families with children, teenagers, young adults, senior citizens,...(we'll find something for ALL to do)

What will we do? Food preparation, stocking shelves, sorting and repairing clothing, construction and home repair, helping with children's daycare, worshipping, general cleanup, working in the clinic, making new friends, building relationships, listening to people's stories, holding hands in prayer, witnessing to our faith through word and actions....

How will we get there and where will we stay? We'll go in cars and vans, sleep in churches, campers or motels (depending on what your back will take)...

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK QUESTIONS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD!

--Your Outreach Planning Team

General Fund Summary

	Donated	Expenses	Budget
Nov.	\$29,042	\$31,100	\$32,135
Year-to-date through			
November	\$290,132	\$349,335	\$353,488

Other November donations

Building Fund	\$ 2,057
Renovation Fund	\$4,180
Parsonage	\$100
AC/Boiler Fund	\$20
Gabi's Journey	\$6,111
SELCC Hams	\$395
Heifer Project	\$1,600
JFON	\$125
Matthew 25	\$310
UM Student Day	\$61
Memorials	\$670

Total for all funds in November \$47,359

Scrip Update

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! Final totals raised this year are being tabulated. All monies raised go to fund the operating expenses of the church! Orders are due on the 1st and 15th of each month. Put the order form/check in the collection plate or drop them off in the church office.

***Deadline for the February 2016
Circuit Rider will be
January 25, 2016.**

**Contact Jo Harman at the Church office with any questions
or email Alison at adix@mediacombb.net**

Church Council Update

Church Council met on Sunday, December 6 and approved the 2016 church budget presented by the Finance Committee. There is much to thank God for and to celebrate! Our Generosity campaign this year generated pledged income **20% above 2015 and equal to 84% of next year's budget compared to 65% of the budget in 2015.**

It is a joy that our 2016 budget allows for a 2% increase for our church staff members. For the first time in a number of years, the Finance Committee was able to present a balanced budget of income and expenses at \$444,800.00. (*Copies of the detailed budget are available in the church office.*) Additionally, the 2015 budget deficit has been significantly reduced through generous year-end giving by our church family.

Christ is truly at work among us at UMCMV! Let us go forth to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Church Council will meet next on Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in the Common Ground. All are welcome to attend.

Ruth Miller, CC Chair

LET'S WELCOME ALL VISITORS!

Last year a lovely 'Welcome Table' was set up in our Narthex. On it are packets for visitors telling about opportunities to participate in small groups and Sunday School classes. It also contains a map to find one's way around our church building. There are also some paper-back New Testaments that visitors are welcome to take.



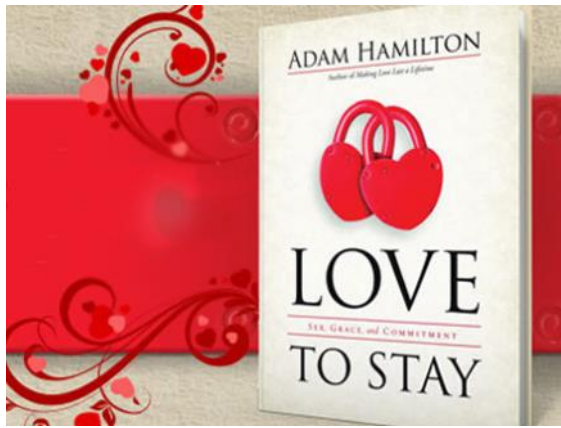
Last year we scheduled members to sit at the table for each service to attempt to spot visitors and welcome them. We found it hard to see who might be attending for the first or second time as people rushed by. Therefore, we are now asking EVERYONE to be part of our 'Welcoming Committee.' If you see someone you don't know – be brave! Introduce yourself and ask if they are new visitors. Then direct them, or better yet, TAKE them to the Welcome Table and make sure they pick up a packet of information. If they like, give them a New Testament, too. Let them know we are happy they chose to come see what we are all about. You'll never know until you try it, but this can be just as rewarding to YOU as to the visitor. Who knows, in time this very person might turn out to become a very dear friend you hadn't met yet!

WORSHIP

UMCMV Starts Podcasts - Techies Needed

After fielding several requests to make our Sunday services available online, we have begun the process of recording, cleaning and uploading them. You will soon be able to visit and revisit sermons from Pastor Heecheon & Pastor Becky. We also hope to have you hear a variety of the music offered by our worship team, chancel choir and gifted organist. Please don't let the term "techies" fool you. What we need now are a few individuals that would like to participate in digitally recording these services, responsible for setting up and taking down the equipment and getting the content to Jim Baty for posting. We'd like to build this into a team if possible and opportunities abound. If you are interested in learning more about what this entails, please email Jim Baty at pga12b@batys5.com.

WORSHIP



"Love to Stay" Sermon Series

"Falling in love is easy, but staying in love takes courage, hard work, and lots of grace." As we journey into a new season of the year 2016, let us make our loving relationship grow across the course of a lifetime.

Please join us for this insightful new series, beginning January 3, 2016!

January 3

The Four Loves
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

January 10

Marriage Is More Than A Piece of Paper
Genesis 2:18, 21-25

January 17

Knowing What She Wants and What He Wants
Philippians 2:1-5

January 24

The Significance of Sexual Intimacy
1 Corinthians 7:3-5

January 31

Building Habits that Heal
Ephesians 4:29
1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
Proverbs 5:18-20a

February 7

Clothe, Bear With, and Forgive
Colossians 3:12-13

February 14 (First Sunday of Lent)

A Love That Lasts: Living Well, Loving Well and Dying Well
Colossians 3:14-15

Bibliography

Hamilton, Adam. Love To Stay: Sex, Grace and Commitment.

Lewis, C.S. The Four Loves.

Kim Peterson, Margaret. Sing Me To Heaven: the Story of a Marriage

WORSHIP



Generation Change... a youth group Bible study for teens that will help your HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH understand who they are in Christ and how to apply His principles to every aspect of their lives . . . including how to handle MONEY (the truth about credit cards, student loans, buying a car, living debt free & more) !!!!

Beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2016, the High School Youth Group will begin this learning adventure, led by our own Angie Watson. The series will be broken down in to three sections, each containing 3 weeks of lessons. Your Youth have been told that while we want them to participate in all 9 weeks, they must only commit to one 3 week session at a time. During those 3 weeks, we don't want them to miss a week, if at all possible.

While the church typically tries to pay for all curriculum we use, for this series there is a **one time** \$10 fee to help cover the cost of the workbooks the youth will be using. That fee should be paid by January 3rd. However, if this is a hardship for you, there are scholarships available (contact Pastor Becky).

This is something our Youth Ministry Team has wanted the opportunity to teach your Youth for some time. We all wish *we* could have had this teaching before we were responsible for making financial commitments & decisions in our own adult lives. We hope you'll find it encouraging & helpful for your Youth.
-- Pastor Becky High & Team

FAMILY MINISTRY



Heartfelt thanks to all those who bought gifts for

the three area families from SELCC's "Adopt a Family" program, and also 30+ coats for the Mission of Hope! The tree will remain standing, and mitten donations taken throughout the winter. Special thanks to project coordinator, Ryley Hoffman, for helping as part of her confirmation project!

OUTREACH

WE need your help!!

It is that time, again to set up the schedule for Ushers/ Offertory Assistants and we need volunteers. Being an Usher can be one of the first impressions that our visitors will have when they come to visit our wonderful church. They are also responsible for handing out bulletins before service and assisting with the offering. Being an Usher/ Offertory Assistant is very gratifying, and will help you get to know our regular members and will help to invite new members to come back! Thank you all in advance. We couldn't do it without you!

Please email Dee Downey-Pata at deena-downey@netzero.com for 8:30AM Praise Service and Susan Pisarik at ts.pisarik@iowatelecom.net for the 11:00AM Traditional Service, for the Sundays that will work for you. Thank you!

WORSHIP



Hey Parents and Adults...You are on God's Team too!

Here are some great ways for you to Exercise Your Faith:

“Care for Our Common Home”

The Danforth Class that meets behind the balcony next to the elevator each Sunday is reading together and discussing Pope Francis's Encyclical on “Care for Our Common Home.”

Pope Francis begins with the reminder that Francis of Assisi spoke of the earth as “our common home that is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace.” He urges that “this sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will”.

He goes further to point out the urging of the various Popes before him: 50 years ago when Pope John XXIII who wrote “to all men and women of good will...faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I write to all the members of the church to enter into dialogue about our common home.”

In 1971, Pope Paul VI referred to the “ecological concern of unchecked human activity that with this ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation”....saying that “the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress, will definitely turn against man.”

And Pope Benedict XVI reminded the world that “we have forgotten that man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself...we must realize that creation is harmed where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone.”

The Encyclical covers a wide range of issues including not only the environment and climate change but also the family, economic systems, social orders, worldwide poverty, and global inequality. The class has had a spirited discussion on these challenging issues which are so intertwined with Biblical teaching.

Though we are close to finishing our study within the next two weeks, we welcome and encourage anyone who would like to take part in the discussion to join us. It is very thought-provoking and gets to the depths of our church vision on how to lead all persons to a relationship with Jesus Christ if we don't live as if we have that relationship.

The Story

The Story, NIV (Amazon.com) group will meet each Sunday during the traditional Sunday School hour in the Library directly off Fellowship Hall. Our group will use this version of God's story, written to demonstrate the continuity of God's relationship with His people. For the 2015-16 season, we will enter into the beginning of God's story by looking at Genesis through Kings. Often assumed to be evidence of a harsh and mistrusting God, the Old Testament is filled with wonderful stories of God doing his best to woo us and abide with us. It really is the start of it all and sets the stage for the amazing transition of our God's deep yearning for our attention and the numerous ways we figure out how to ignore Him. If you want to know more, be more and love more, this is the study group built for you and we'll be waiting for you to join. All our welcome no matter the amount of your experience, confidence and knowledge. This is a discussion and a time to grow together in His Word. This group is facilitated by Jim Baty and will begin meeting October 4, 2015.

Pete's Chapel Class – The Book of Romans Sunday School, 2015-16

In the last half of the first century, Rome was the greatest city in the greatest empire in the world. The apostle Paul was writing to the new Cristian Church in Rome to be sure that they knew the proper Christian doctrine. As we study every verse of this wonderful book, we will obtain a clear understanding of God's grace, his guaranteed salvation for each of us, and his directions for Christian living. There are spectacular and special messages for us here; and we will get to see how these messages affected our religious fathers –

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

No Sunday School January 3!

Sunday School will start back up
on Sunday, January 10



FAMILY MINISTRY

Students grades 2-6!

Metholarks will be preparing for our spring musical.



We also chime and sing January-March. Please join us in praise and worship every Wednesday after school until 4:30. Contact Kristi Keast through the church office.

Men's Bible Study

Please join us for Bible Study Opportunities at...

The Skillet Café. Monday mornings at 6:00am



SPRITUAL GROWTH

Leader: Ed Timm



Women's Bible Study program

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am in the Balcony Classroom

Come join us as we continue on "The Amazing Collection" - Contact Cathy Stoner at: 319-551-6666, or the Church Office with questions or to sign up!

SPRITUAL GROWTH

Celebrating January birthdays!

Clint Stanerson	01/01
Tessa Baty	01/02
Myrt Bowers	
Roselyn Krapfl	
Julie Nosek	01/03
Daniel Campagna	01/04
Paige Roos	
Lauren Adams	01/05
Kerry Kahl	01/07
Richard Peters	
Janet Griffith	01/08
Marcus Orr	
Ed Fordyce	01/12
Jodie Pettinger	
Barb Shepley	01/13
Karlynn Connolly	01/15
Lara Cooper	01/16
Jordan Tuerler	
Camden Meyer	01/19
Robbin Rekemeyer	
Angie Swartzendruber	



Bill Bacher	01/20
Terry Pisarik	
Teresa Stewart	
Ben Alger	01/21
Shellie Kamaus	
Harrison Voigt	01/22
Rosa Moss	01/23
Judy Stine	
Breanna Niec	01/25
Hagen Waters	
Alexander Davis	01/26
Fred Lehman	
Lily Booth	01/27
Ruth Deskin	01/28
Lori Merlak	01/29
Randy Harman	01/31
Elizabeth McWilliams	

January 2016 Anniversaries

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-13



Walt & Sharon Krambeck	01/05
Ray & Nancy Reasland	01/26

The following family and friends are in need of prayer:



Francis & Jolene Bowman
 John & Maxine Havill
 Guardado family
 Schmatt family
 Beth Johnson
 Debbie Micheel
 Marsha Light
 Wattleworth/Myers/Whitley family and
 Dan Boggs
 "Chloe"

Sara Legore & family
 Kaye Siders friend Lori
 Joyce, Larry & Mark Zenor
 Pat Sorgenfrey
 Debi Bridgewater
 Mission of Hope
 Women at the Well
 Brooklyn
 Dick Simmons

Joys:

Praise, joy and thanks for the beautiful Christmas Eve services, all the special music, the young disciples, and everyone who made it so memorable!

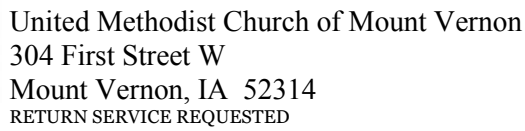
Joy and thanks, for the time spent with loved ones, and the realization that this is the greatest gift of all.

Praise, joy and thanks for the many blessings of 2015, and may we continue to be examples of Christ's love throughout the new year!

January 2016 Worship Assistants

January 3rd at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 3rd at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
East Door Greeters:	Jenifer Back	East Door Greeters:	Karen Stoll
West Door Greeters:	Brian & Teresa Bothell	West Door Greeters:	Marge Gaines
Worship Assistants:	Siders & Jordan families	Worship Assistants:	Shepley & McWilliams
Coffee Host:	Trude Elliott	Lector:	Janet Ault
Nursery:	Emily Davis	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
Communion:	Ryley Hoffman & Keaton Wentz	Slide Presenter:	Jackie Morrical
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Communion:	Madeline Morrical & Benjamin Moss
January 10th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 10th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
East Door Greeters:	Kamaus Family	East Door Greeters:	Jan White & Bonnie Keith
West Door Greeters:	Pat Sorgenfrey	West Door Greeters:	Dan Hakken
Worship Assistants:	Traynors, Myla McCall & Ruth Reckling	Worship Assistants:	LaFollette & Pisarik
		Lector:	Nancy Thomas
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Slide Presenter:	Trude Elliott
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host:	Ann Booth
January 17th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 17th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
East Door Greeters:	Gabi & Amy Guadardo	East Door Greeters:	Mike & Karen Stewart
West Door Greeters:	Todd & Kathy Norton	West Door Greeters:	Engelbrecht Family
Worship Assistants:	Wattleworth & Kamaus families	Worship Assistants:	Morrical family
		Lector:	Ruth Miller
Nursery:	Kim Schwiebert	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Slide Presenter:	Cot Graber
Slide Presenter:	Bonnie Wikstrom	Coffee Host:	Jackie Engelbrecht
January 24th at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 24th at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
East Door Greeters:	Matt & Teresa Stewart	East Door Greeters:	Jay Currie
West Door Greeters:	Mary Ann Brindley	West Door Greeters:	Engelbrecht Family
Worship Assistants:	Kahl family & Heather Niec	Worship Assistants:	Nydegger Family
		Lector:	Babs Moore
Nursery:	Emily Davis	Nursery:	Brittany Booth
		Slide Presenter:	Dick Jacob
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host:	Vernon & Arlene Sand
January 31st at 8:30am (Praise Service)		January 31st at 11:00am (Traditional Service)	
East Door Greeters:	Brian & Teresa Bothell	East Door Greeters:	Kay & Cot Graber
West Door Greeters:	Dee & Stella Pata	West Door Greeters:	John & MJ McWilliams
Worship Assistants:	Allison Ott, Nancy Reasland, and Mary Ann Brindley	Worship Assistants:	Hunter family
		Lector:	Karen Stewart
Nursery:	Marissa Cranston	Nursery:	Cindy Strong
		Slide Presenter:	Jackie Wallace
Slide Presenter:	Diane Legore	Coffee Host:	Sherryl Osborn





Senior Pastor	Rev. Heecheon Jeon
Associate Pastor/Youth Director . . .	Rev. Becky High
Office Manager/Newsletter	Alison Dix
Admin. Asst./ Membership.....	Jo Harman
Christian Education Director &	
Sunday School Superintendent . . .	Julie Baty
Nursery Care.	Melissa Oxley
Praise Team Director	Ben Klaus
Director, Children's Vocal Choirs &	
Director, Adult Handbell Choir &	
Director, Youth Handbell Choirs ...	Kristi Keast
Organist/Pianist.....	Dr. Lynda Hakken
Chancel Choir Director	Joleen Woods
Custodian	Rosa Moss
Maintenance & Repair Director . . .	Trustees
Web Master	Dan Hakken
Wedding Coordinator.....	Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries	Richard Jacob, & Jackie Morrical
TreasurersMike Kragen-
brink/ Alison Dix	

A photograph showing three wooden crosses standing on a grassy hill. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The crosses are silhouetted against the bright part of the sky.