



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

OCTOBER 2020



Pastor's Letter



**Rev. Terra
Amundson**

*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of each day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
What song can we offer in honor and praise?*

Dear Friends,

You are a generous people. I see it in your lives of service to others, in your care for one another, in the questions you bring, and in your giving through your time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

Beginning October 18th, we will begin a focus on stewardship, considering how we give of our time, talent gifts, service, and witness, and culminating with the receiving "Estimate of Giving" cards on Sunday, November 15th. The Scriptures and themes I will be focusing on are:

October 18: Matthew 22:15-22 "Our Allegiance"

October 25: Matthew 22:34-40 "The Greatest Commandment"

November 1: (All Saints Sunday) Revelation 7:9-17 "The Saints on Whose Shoulders We Stand"

November 8: Matthew 25:14-30 "Our Talents"

November 15: Luke 19:1-10 "The Gift of Generosity"

During this time, I will also be sharing questions to consider as you prepare your hearts for worship and ideas on how to increase giving for consideration in the mid-week communication.

I invite you to pray for one another. Pray for the leadership of this congregation. Pray for our witness in our communities and in the world.

I hold you in my prayers.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Terra

RE-Entry Guidelines for our Church Building on Sundays

I hope you're as excited as I am to begin worship in our sanctuary! For some people moving worship indoors is not exciting or even possible. So we will continue to provide worship online during this crazy time.

We all love each other very much! For this reason there will be a few rules we'll need to follow inside the building. Church Council has been working through some guidelines to keep us all safe and healthy and passed these guidelines last week.



- ⇒ For the safety of everyone, face coverings will be required in our church building.
- ⇒ We need to limit our time inside the building so services will be 30 minutes long. We're going to continue with just one service for now but will constantly evaluate the need for additional worship opportunities.
- ⇒ We ask that you fellowship outside. It's been a long time and we all love to chat. Right after the service, let's move it outdoors and stay six feet apart. I can't wait to talk to you too!
- ⇒ It's important to keep everyone healthy as we worship. Please follow signs placed around the building and use hand sanitizer when you arrive. Our cleaning company has been doing a great job of cleaning our space. They will continue to sanitize all surfaces regularly. Please do your part and limit touching surfaces.
- ⇒ Since we need to provide distance between family groups, there will be rows of pews blocked off. Please follow the guidance as seen in the sanctuary. Due to space many of us will need to sit up in the balcony. You are welcome to enjoy a new perspective of the sanctuary from a new location.
- ⇒ We won't be singing during worship but feel free to hum along to the music. Clapping and dancing are also allowed.
- ⇒ We can't shake hands during greeting time but we can bump elbows or sign to each other.
- ⇒ Please leave your offering in the basket in the Narthex. This is also a really great time to set up regular electronic giving so you don't have to worry about forgetting your offering.
- ⇒ When its communion Sunday we will all use individual communion kits. Please dispose of these in a trash can.

The building will remain closed at all other times of the day. If you need to visit, please call the office to schedule an appointment. Know that we are all working hard to keep everyone safe so we can continue to worship together for a long time! — Kim Guardado, Council Chair

WORSHIP

INDOOR (IN OUR CHURCH) WORSHIP

Sundays in OCTOBER

@ 9:30 am

Please wear a mask, and social distance for the safety of all!

Please stay home if you are feeling ill.



Please know we want you to be safe and if the **ONLINE Virtual Sermon & Music** is best, please do that!

[It will continue on our website as well](#)
[Sunday mornings!](#)

For the sake of safety and health,
our building is currently closed, except for Sunday Worship & scheduled events.

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, we are here for you.

Pastoral Support Contact Pastor Terra Amundson 712-304-1517

Congregational Care Contact Julie Baty 319-533-2349

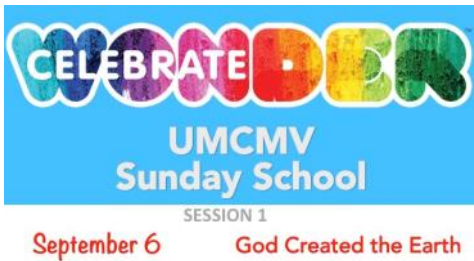
Communications Contact Alison Dix 319-573-4801

Ready, Set, Go! Sunday school is a GO at home and outdoors!



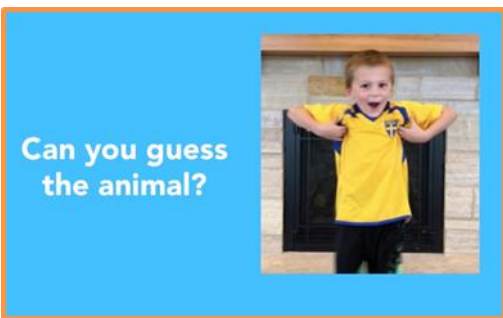
READY

Deliveries of a new Celebrate Wonder Storybook Bible, Family Activity book, and other goodies to our young Sunday school families were met with much JOY!



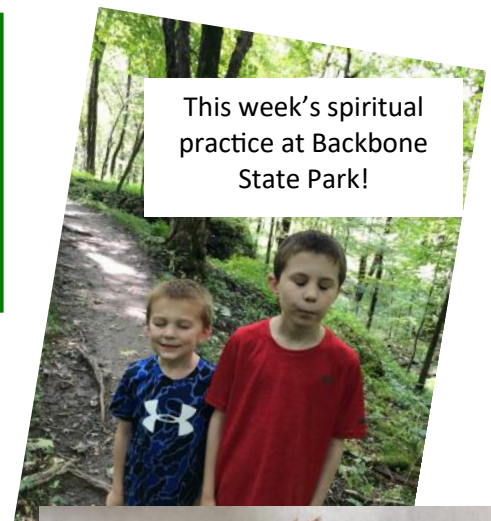
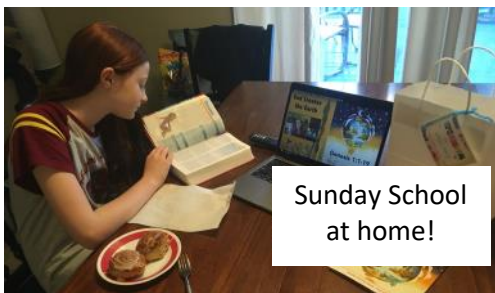
SET

Weekly videos are made each week with help from our Sunday school kids!



GO

Sunday School kids find places at home and outdoors to watch the weekly Sunday School video and experience the lessons on the go!



Our faith word!



Joey helps us “Get-to-Know” Pastor Terra!



[Check out the video!](#)

You can view their conversation on the UMCMV website.

Find out Pastor Terra’s – favorite color, her favorite sweet treat, what she likes to do, what she loves about UMCMV, what she wanted to be when she “grew up”, when she knew she wanted to be a pastor, and much more!

Joey helps us “Get-to-Know” Pastor Terra Amundson

Joey’s conversation with Pastor Terra was a lot of fun and included questions provided by our Sunday School students. The conversation was the perfect way to celebrate what we have been learning over the first month of Sunday school.

Our *Celebrate Wonder* Sunday school lessons have been all about God’s creativity-how God created the earth, living things, and people. We learned that God created each one of us in God’s image-unique, beautiful, and good. We also see God creates “helpers” –calling us to work together to care for the earth and for each other.

“(A pastor) is someone who comes along side people in a church and community to help them to grow in their love of God and love for one another and love for the people around them that might not be part of the church but who God loves. And my job is to help people do that.”

(Pastor Terra)

We hope you too will enjoy this opportunity to “get to know” Pastor Terra and celebrate the way our pastor and church family are called to work together to grow in faith together, caring for each other and for all of

Mount Vernon Community Preschool UPDATE

The MV Community Preschool is starting its 55th school year as a mission of the UMCMV to provide early education to children in the community. This fall we welcomed 18 children into our classrooms. Please pray for these children, their families and the teachers for a safe and healthy school year. — Director Ellen Mueller

Praise God!

**We are thankful for the beautiful weather
that has made it possible for
Middle School and High School youth
to meet outdoors on Sundays after church services!**



Middle School and High School youth will continue to meet outdoors as the weather cooperates. Parents of youth will be contacted by email to communicate any location changes or details about additional opportunities to gather.

Please contact us if you are a parent of youth and are not receiving these emails.

Youth Sunday School contacts: Renee Nydegger rlnydegger@msn.com

Brittany Booth boothjb@q.com



October is Pastor Appreciation month, let's show Pastor Terra some love.

October is Pastor Appreciation month and as your Staff Parish Relations Chair I wanted to notify all of you of this opportunity to make Pastor Terra feel our love and appreciation and thanking her for joining our UMCMV family during a very difficult season of being physically separated.

COVID19 protocols and add on a derecho damage to almost everyone's homes it is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day survival, but is more important than ever to stay connected spiritually to our Church family and friends, and I think it is also easy to forget about our Pastor's are struggling with the same things we are.

Pastor Terra was so excited to come to Mount Vernon and meet all of us when she was appointed last winter...who knew by the time she arrived in July we would be in the midst of a global pandemic and we would need to pause services and do other distancing protocols so we can all be safe and make it to the other side of this pandemic together. I would like to ask you and your family to be creative in showing support to Pastor Terra (and her husband Pastor Jay), but a few suggestions, shower them with cards or notes. Maybe your children could make a piece of artwork for them. Many of you may have not had a one-on-one with Pastor Terra due to the 2020 craziness, so please reach out to her for an opportunity to do that in this season of small group gathers, she is willing to meet you at your home inside (with mask and social distance) or outside, or visit them at the parsonage while we still have some great fall weather.

Get out your calendar now and reach out to her at the Church office 319-895-6287 or email pastorterra@umcmv.com, Pastor Terra will be taking some RnR (October 5th thru 11th) and we will have a guest message on Sunday October 11th.

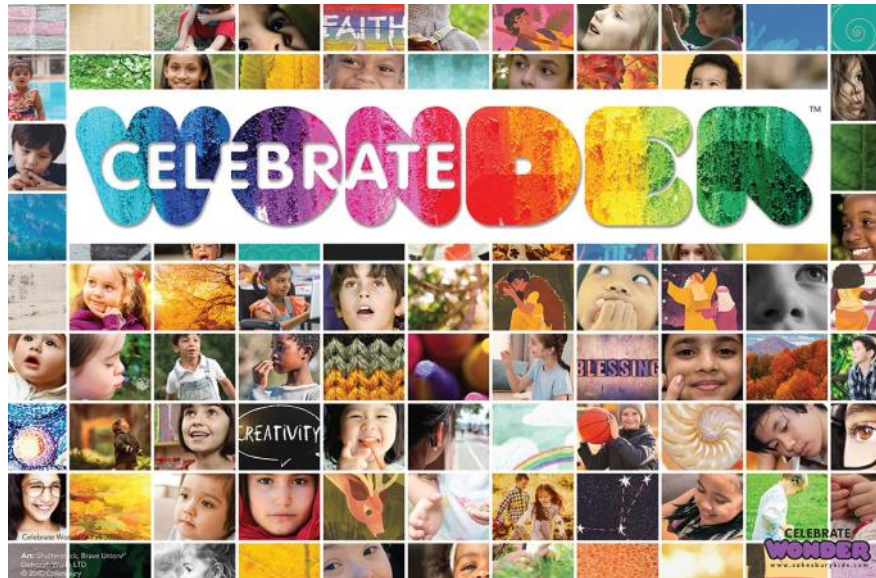
Thank you in advance for your efforts to show Pastor Terra the love and support of our UMCMV family.

God Bless! —Jeff Schmatt SPRC Chair.

Hello Church Family!

Will you join us in creating our very own Wonderwall?

Where do YOU
see God's
Wonder?



Send us your
photo !



Help us create our church family's very own Wonderwall !

Our Sunday School program this year is all about exploring and celebrating God's wonder. Already we have learned about the awesome creativity God used to imagine and create the earth, living things, people and helpers - calling it all good. Our families have been using weekly spiritual practices to connect with God. These practices build our faith as we take time to recognize God both in the world around us and within each of us.

Where do you see God's wonder?

Do you see God's wonder in nature, in the faces of family and friends, in the small details of creation's colors and textures? Take time to look around and notice where you see God. What do you see that surprises you, makes you curious, or makes you say "Wow, God! You are awesome!"

Share your pictures with us!

We want to see pictures of our church family and the things you think best represent wonder. Pictures will be used to make a big collage - our very own Wonderwall - similar to the example above. We will build our Wonderwall both physically where it can be seen in our church and virtually along with our Sunday School weekly lesson videos.

How to submit your photos

Photos may be shared by email, text, or Facebook messenger to:

DID YOU KNOW?.....(History Article for October Circuit Rider)

Mt. Vernon Churches Feed the “5,000”

We all are feeling the effects every day of the Pandemic and the terrible storm that came through in early August. We may feel all alone in the world, having to stay away from each other, wear our masks, wash and rewash our hands, and hear constant stories of loss and upheaval. Surely no time in history have people had to go through something so sad!

Actually, Eastern Iowa has experienced a variety of crises through the years, providing the toughest times and yet the most heartwarming and memorable opportunities to challenge our faith in Christ and God. Such was the case with the 2008 Flood in Cedar Rapids.

It was a Friday morning. The Cedar River was filling up with all the rain from the north. By noon, it had exceeded its banks. By 2:00, travelers on the bypass could barely see the tower from the Czech-Slovak Museum. All of south Cedar Rapids was totally immersed. By mid-afternoon, the water had made it to the downtown area, and as it was getting dark, First Responders were evacuating Mercy Hospital, taking patients to whatever community had available hospital beds.

All that spring, the stories of stores, homes, churches, senior citizen living facilities, schools that were completely inundated dominated our attention. The news media captured people who were trying to escape by boat, grabbing what they could, including pets. Whole neighborhoods were inundated; the high waters extended along the highways to Mount Vernon and Lisbon, inundating houses along the Cedar River and causing travelers to find other routes to get from town to town.

It took a few weeks for the drama to calm down and the realities to set in. Every building, every yard, every street in the Cedar Rapids area, was covered with a dark stinky slime. Homes were covered with it, inside and out. Even the safety deposit boxes in the banks had slime in them!

And that’s when the story begins to change. (to be continued)

----Kay Graber, Church Historian

Lord’s Portion Auction 2020

We are planning to have our Church Auction on November 8th. That is a lot later than usual, but this is an unusual year. Because of the virus, we are not going to have a meal this year. The auction will start at 2 p.m. to give you time to finish lunch. We do plan to hold the auction in the basement as usual.



Because of the danger of Covid-19, the attendance will be limited to 40. But we will also offer a way for you to bid online while watching the auction from your computer. And you can turn in your bids as you have in the past and have me bid for you.

So decide what you will contribute and what you would like to bid on. Send that information to Alison or me, and let's have a great auction again!

Truman Jordan, TJHawkeye@aol.com Alison Dix, alisondix@umcmv.com

Staff Parish Committee looking to hire Youth Leader and Christian Education Director

Has COVID19 has brought changes to everyone's lives, and we need to continue our care for our youngest disciples. Has your career been impacted by COVID19? Have you had a calling during this time to do something to help the Church or wanting to help youth? If so please contact us.

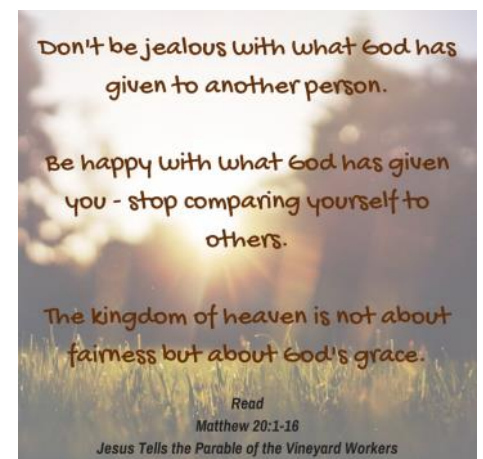
We would love to hire someone inside our UMCMV family. This time we all have to be very creative to solve problems, let's talk about how we can tailor the needs of our Church to have someone lead Christian Education and Youth Leader, we can combine these positions or break out pieces to fit your strengths and your calling. The hours could be part-time, to maybe even full-time, we would prefer to help someone already in our family with this opportunity before we begin our community search. Please contact me to discuss your interest.

Jeff Schmatt, Staff Parish Relations Chair

contact 319-895-8776 jschmatt@gmail.com



**[Check our Facebook Page for
United Methodist Church of
Mount Vernon at
<https://www.facebook.com/UMCMV>](#)**



Missions & Outreach

There are very few areas of the church left unaffected or even thwarted by this season of pandemic under COVID 19.

Still, God calls us to persistence along with patient listening to His gentle nudges. Through this time, one area of our church where volunteers have always been drawn by their hearts is our mission outreach to feed the hungry through Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids. Ruth Miller led us this year setting up two opportunities to serve the community through their open doors. The first, in April, was a time of so much anxiety, concern and frustration. On September 23rd, our church had reserved yet another opportunity to serve through MoH. Through a delivery of pizzas, 125+ were given a hearty noon meal accompanied by some nutritious and filling sides. Mike and Karen Stewart served as the hands and feet of Jesus by delivering the pizzas made by Pizza Hut and offering a blessing over the food.

Barb Shepley coordinated a shipment of our hand-tied blankets that were also blessed and sent on their way to provide warmth to the needy as the fall temperatures start to arrive. In the time of COVID it might be hard to see ways through the challenges of gathering, working and serving but it is oh so important. One thing our church can continue to provide is listening to this calling and serving our communities local, nearby or far from us.

Is God turning the servant handles of your heart these days?

Contact our Mission & Outreach chair, Jim Baty [pga12b@batys5.com] to see where you might be able to serve or provide as we continue to seek the Upper Story during this delicate time.



SE LINN BULK
FOOD DONATION
LIST -
CHECK OUT THE
ONLINE SIGN UP!

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2HFYGGT](https://bit.ly/2HFYGGT)

Check out the ONLINE List for SE Linn Bulk Food Collection for October– we are resuming our special orders for SE Linn Food Bank support outreach in our community!

Make your selection of items you want to order and then send in the money to the church or donate ONLINE!

<https://bit.ly/2HFYGGT>

October Birthdays

may your birthday bring
you as much happiness
as you give to everyone
who knows you
Happy Birthday

Brock Barber	10/03
Griffin Barber	10/03
Gordon Behrens	10/03
Ruth Miller	10/03
Logan Stanerson	10/04
Dee Pata	10/06
Darin Swartzendruber	10/09
Bryan Woodward	10/09
Jamie Smith	10/11
Charlie Engelbrecht	10/13
John Engelbrecht	10/13
Ava Claussen-Tubbs	10/15
Kristi Keast	10/15
Rebecca Conrad	10/18
Nancy Reasland	10/18
Brooklyn Sill	10/18
Allyson Rushford	10/20
Jeremy Hotz	10/21
Doris Bacher	10/23
Joey Watson	10/24
Joleen Woods	10/24
Jackie Engelbrecht	10/25
Garet Swartzendruber	10/26
Andy Morrical	10/27

Happy October Anniversaries!!

Gregg & Susan Glenn	10/03
Randy & Tammy Cooper	10/13
Warren & Denise Havill	10/17
Erin & Seth Schaller	10/23
Roger & Dixie Raiber	10/29
Guy & Ann Booth	10/30



Giving Opportunities

World Communion Sunday Special Offering — You can give to our church fund or online here:

<https://bit.ly/30m3l2j>

- UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund

<https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-2025-umcor-covid-19-response-fund.aspx>

SE Linn Community Center

- <https://selinn.org/>

Matthew 25 HUB

<https://www.hub25.org/donate25/>

Prayers for Healing:

- For Mike Ryan who has had back surgery to help rectify severe back pain
- For Pat Sorgenfrey as she continues to struggle with an infection that has been hard to treat. Prayers for her continued good spirits in the midst of discomfort and that the medical team can find the right treatment to give Pat longterm relief
- For Gavin Hayes (Marilyn and Roger Schnittjer's nephew) who recently had a recheck and was given the news that his cancer has returned in three different sites. He is beginning a new chemotherapy and prayers are most certainly needed and welcome
- For Pastor Terra's cousin, Sherry, who is out of ICU having dealt with COVID-19 and is now in rehabilitation
- For Ann Currie's friend Heather, who suffered a stroke and has heart issues, and is now at St. Lukes in rehab. Continued prayers for healing and comfort
- For all who are currently infected with the COVID-19 virus
- 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 Doris Lockridge (Jackie Wallace's mother) who passed away on September 14th
- For Judy and Don Stine as they continue to cope and adjust to Judy's cancer diagnosis. Prayers for Judy's quality of life to continue to be good for as long as possible, enabling her to do things she enjoys
- For Carol Reed, a dear friend of Jeff Schmatt's, who is now in a care center. She is dealing with dementia, parkinson's disease and the isolation that COVID has brought
- For the family and friends of Marsha Hansen (Marci Schmatt's mother) as they continue to mourn her death
- For clarity and strength for their family in caring for Marci Schmatt's dad
- For the friends and family of Marion Lehman as they continue to adjust and mourn her passing
- For the family & friends of Wava Schmidt, who passed August 25th. Wava was a cherished part of our UMCMV family
- For Jeff and Donna Walters, as they look ahead to a significant surgery for their dog Bella. Surgery will be October 6th
- For all who continue to recover from the derecho that caused so much damage in Mount Vernon and surrounding communities. Prayers for people to continue to help each other and that hearts and souls will be renewed.
- For anyone who is working in the healthcare field or another "frontline" occupation during this pandemic and unprecedented time. Prayers for their safety, strength and comfort
- For anyone who is feeling lonely or isolated due to recent changes in how we live day to day. Prayers that they will reach out to others, that God will comfort them, and we will all make extra efforts to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus
- 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 even if we are not in worship services together
- For all not mentioned by name who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Transition:

- For school administrators, the school board members and teachers as they work to serve students and families this year
- For our schools and families as school resumes, whatever this looks like for each family
- 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
- UMCMV Stephen Ministers and Care Ministers
- Mission of Hope
- Women at the Well United Methodist Church

Prayers for our Nation and our World:

- Prayers for California, Washington and Oregon and all who are dealing with the wildfires. We pray that the fires will get under control, that the weather conditions will lend to this effort.
- For justice and peace for people of color in our country. May the Holy Spirit move throughout our churches and individuals to help us be part of the solution to the current unrest and racism.
- For all people and countries of this world who have been and continue to be effected physically 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:

- For our Gazebo outdoor services and the chance to worship together
- This beautiful week of sunshine and refreshing Fall weather
- Thankfulness for neighbors helping neighbors, church family helping church family and the Lisbon and Mount Vernon communities working hard together
- Thankfulness for the linemen, tree trimming companies, insurance workers, healthcare workers, groceries employees, child-care providers and all others who are on the frontlines helping our communities Thankfulness for online methods of staying connected during this time of social distancing
- Gratefulness for the love and kindness shown to one another in times of crisis
- Gratitude for our many blessings



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
Director of Youth	
Praise Team Director– Interim–	Clint Stanerson
Christian Education Director....	
Sunday School Coordinator	Brittany Booth
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter	Alison Dix
Admin. Asst./ Membership.....	
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



**In Person Indoors Worship is
starting...**

Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Join us in Worship for a
30 minute Worship
with Pastor Terra leading us in
Worship!**