



# **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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**June 2023**

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are all on the cusp of change and transition as I prepare to move into retirement, and as you prepare to receive Vicki Fisher as your pastor. I can scarcely believe it!

I came to you knowing that this was a congregation that was blessed with laity who were committed to loving God and loving neighbor. I was impressed by the leadership of this congregation, the multitude of gifts that were brought to worship, to committee work, to the work of the church and into the community.

Together we made it through Covid and have moved toward healing after a difficult season. You were able to make the hard pivots through challenging times with grace and grit. Your resiliency and strength bear witness to the redemptive power of the Spirit's work in this world.

We've laughed and cried together, helped one another as we worked as a team, and dared to dream about a better future for our church and for the world. You've allowed me to journey with you in the joys and vicissitudes of life. I am forever grateful.

I am so excited for you as Pastor Vicki and her family come to Mt. Vernon. Her gifts and graces, her vision of what the Church can be, and her caring spirit are a great match for this congregation. I commend them to you.

You will always be a part of my heart. I will continue to hold you in my prayers. It has been a great joy and privilege serving among you.

On the Journey,

Pastor Terra





For all who worship with us...  
we are so blessed to have you with us on Sunday mornings

**In person at 8:30 am or 10:15 am**

**Online at 8:30 am**

[www.umcmv.com/online-worship](http://www.umcmv.com/online-worship)

**WHO IS**  
*my neighbor?*



**Sunday June 18 @ 9 am**

**Combined Worship with  
Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church  
& First Presbyterian Church of  
Mt. Vernon in celebration of  
Vacation Bible School**

**At Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church,  
798 Brenneman Ln, Lisbon, IA 52253**

**Welcome Sign up online to help welcome Pastor Vicki & Family to the parsonage**

We are so blessed to welcome our new pastor and want to shower them with love and warm welcome. Check up the online sign up to join in the efforts!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44AFA72AA31-welcome>

## Sunday Morning Gatherings starting June 11 called **THE FAITH WE SING**

As our two services move closer together for the summer, a new fellowship and study opportunity will be offered for ALL. Beginning June 11th, come early for second service and stay for just a bit longer following first service. While you enjoy a coffee and a treat in the Common Ground, join us to talk through the lyrics of a song selected from each service.

The rich text found in our hymns is often quickly forgotten and sometimes entirely missed in the act of worship. These lyrics are inspired by scripture and celebrate our journeys of faith, our dedication to the Trinity, and our recognition of our weakness. How does music frame or change your perspective on your faith? What more could you share or learn from others in *The Faith We Sing*?

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are about to start a new regime with another great new pastor, Pastor Vicki Fisher. It will take her a while to learn who we are and where we each fit in to the makeup of our church. One way we can help her – at the risk of repeating myself – ahem! – PLEASE consider wearing your name tag when you enter the church on Sunday morning, or even when you come to meetings in the evening. This will help her immensely! Alison has graciously made them for all members of our church. Let's use them!!!

I'm aware very few of you have been wearing them of late, so it may take a bit of time for you to find your nametag on the racks – or even remember which rack you left it on the last time you wore yours. But do be considerate of Pastor Vicki's task of remembering faces and names and WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!

Thanks!

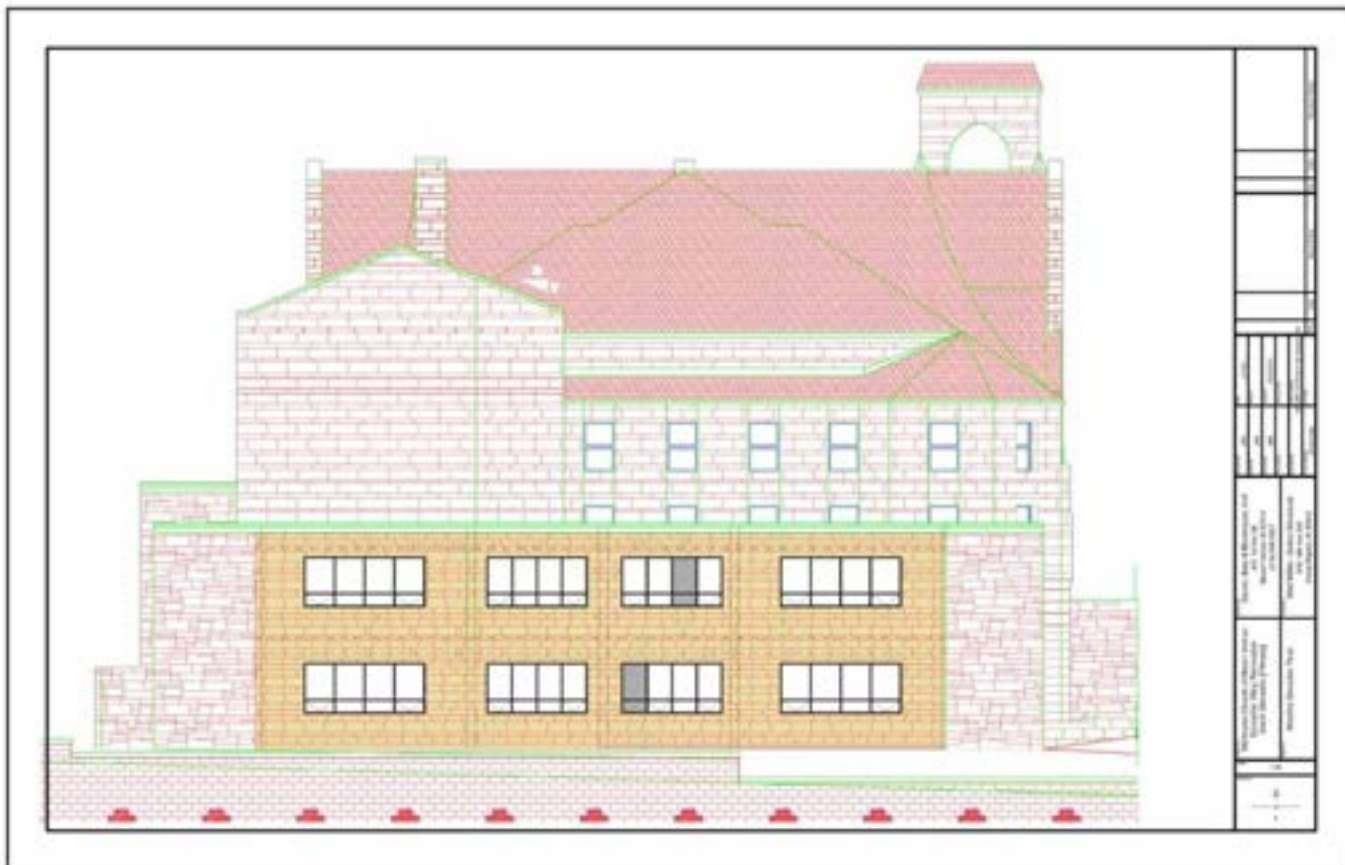
Babs Moore, Lay Leader UMC MV

**Keep our new Pastor,  
Pastor Vicki Fisher  
and her family  
in our thoughts  
and prayers**

**She and her family will be  
arriving June 16, 2023.**







## Education Wing Façade Renovation Fundraising

Church Funds	
Memorials	TBD
Building	\$175,000
Contributions Received	
7	\$19,050
Pledges Received	
5	\$4,800
Funding Received	\$198,850
Total Need	\$300,000
Remaining	\$101,150

The fundraising campaign for the Education Wing Renovation is now underway! Thank you to those who have made a pledge and/or a contribution. Below is a table summarizing the results of the campaign as of May 28th. We are 66% of the way to our goal of \$300,000! Please prayerfully consider how you might help. There will be a special offering on Sunday, June 11th for the Education Wing Renovation Project. If possible, please return pledge cards by that date. It is our goal to raise enough funds so a loan from the bank for this project is not required. Questions? Feel free to contact any of the fundraising committee members: Jeff Walters, Adam Krapfl, Alison Dix, or Jackie Morrical.

Praise Songs @ 8:30 AM Worship

Hymn Sing @ 10:15 Worship

JOIN IN THE FUN!

*It's going to be  
a musical  
Sunday!*

**SUNDAY JUNE 4th**

## INVITATION TO AFFIRMING MESSAGE TASK FORCE

As the Iowa Annual Conference meets next weekend for next steps in the denominational shift and General Conference 2024 (2020) continues to evolve for June 2024, our congregation in Mount Vernon has maintained a position of affirming for the LGBTQ+ community, in many ways leading within our District and State.

Our Admin Council moved last week to form a task force of passionate persons to begin crafting messages for our website, our newspaper, our hallways, our doorways and other forms to proclaim our desire to be a church for ALL. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative and being part of this task force, contact Jim Baty, Council Chair, at [pga12b@batys5.com](mailto:pga12b@batys5.com).

***Pastor Vicki's First Worship will be***

***Sunday June 25 @ 8:30 and 10:15 AM here at UMCMV!***



# Sunday school Pictures from the year







## Youth group Pictures from the year

At Youth Group on May 3, 2023, we encouraged our students to delve into the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. The idea was suggested by Teresa Stewart, who had composed her own interpretation of the Lord's Prayer when she was a student. For such an important prayer, we thought it would be beneficial to our students for multiple reasons. When they can understand what the prayer means, they aren't simply reciting words but speaking them with intent. Putting it into their own words makes the prayer relevant and personal, which helps them comprehend God as being relatable. Here was their combined update:

### The Lord's Prayer 2023

Our Father God, who lives in Heaven,

Your special name is honored and known, and we praise you.

Life will persist on earth like it is in Heaven and Your will will be done.

Give us our daily needs for our life today and let us take Your body for our communion so that we remember we are saved by You.

Give us a fresh start and joyfulness.

Forgive us for our wrong doings and help us forgive those who have wronged us.

Lead us away from the bad and toward the good and help us learn from the sins of our past. Amen.



# Dine and Discover

## A Summer Speaker Series

Wednesday, June 7th: Whitney Jost, LISW

- Advance Care Planning

Wednesday, June 21st: Bill Mueller, Author

- "Leaving Your Legacy"

Wednesday, July 19th: Justin Hansen, Marco Technologies

- Basic Computer Use & Security

Wednesday, August 2nd: Phyllis Zalenski, ISU Extension and Outreach

- Thriving in Place

Wednesday, August 16th: Sonia Redmond & Jake Krob, Mt. Vernon Bank & Trust

- Fraud & Financial Abuse

**FREE LIGHT  
BREAKFAST**

**8:30am at SELCC  
108 S. Washington St.  
Lisbon, IA**



We need your support!

Sign up to donate and or serve at  
our July 8th HERITAGE DAY FOOD  
BOOTH

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44AFA72AA31-heritage>



# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 IA Annual Conference in West Des Moines Julian Johnson Scholarship Deadline	3 IA Annual Conference in West Des Moines 12:00pm Dick Thomas Visitation / memorial service at 1 pm, refreshments following Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
4 IA Annual Conference in West Des Moines 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 2:00pm Piano Recital - Sanctuary (Lynda Hakken's students)	5 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	6 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	7 6:30pm Missions Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	8	9	10 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
11 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	12 1:00pm Vacation Bible School, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon, IA 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	13 Gathering at Pastor Terra for Staff 1:00pm Vacation Bible School, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon, IA	14 1:00pm Vacation Bible School, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon, IA	15 1:00pm Vacation Bible School, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon, IA	16 1:00pm Vacation Bible School, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon, IA	17 7:00am PEO Garage Sale- West Parking Lot 2:00pm Fred Lehman 100th Birthday Open House 2 to 4 pm Fellowship Hall 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
18 9:00am Combined worship @ Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church	19 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	20	21	22	23	24 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
25 Pastor Vicki Fisher's first Sunday preaching  8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	26	27 7:00am Main Street Iowa, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	28	29	30	1 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room

## Lift Up these Prayer Requests throughout the week...

### Prayers for Healing:

- For Don who is dealing with significant health issues and needs to gain strength in order to receive treatment that will hopefully provide relief
- For Judy VanCleve as she continues to heal from back surgery
- For David VanCleve who has vision issues, please pray that he will be able to keep his vision that remains and that physicians will know how to treat his specific situation
- Continued prayers for Barb Neal(mom of Abby Bock) as she continues treatment for breast cancer
- 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 Theresa Clark. Theresa passed away on May 29th after a courageous battle with cancer
- 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 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:

- We pray for our new pastor, Vicki Fisher, that will be joining us in June. Prayers for Pastor Fisher and her family as they prepare for their move. Prayers for our hearts to embrace and welcome our new pastor and look to the future with hope and excitement for the ministry that lies ahead
- Prayers for the Bishop Keneetha Bingham Tsai who is now serving as the resident Bishop for the Iowa area. Prayers also for the Iowa Annual Conference that will be held on June 2nd - 4th. Jim Baty, Julie Baty, and Kim Guardado will be in attendance at the conference this year, representing UMCMV
- Prayers for college graduates who are transitioning to the work place and to college students returning home for the summer
- 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:

- For the families grieving over recent shootings and the loss of loved ones
- For families and communities devastated by natural disasters
- 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
- Pray for peace and love for all humanity

## PRAYER LIST continued

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- With thankfulness, Pastor Terra announced that her cancer was indeed caught early, and the prognosis is very good. She thanks all for the special thoughts and prayers
- With joy and thankfulness Pastor Terra was celebrated on Sunday, May 28th. Thanks to all who attended to help say farewell and send Pastor Terra off with love and blessings
- It is a joy that Karen Stoll is doing well following a surgery on 5/22
- Our congregation and community celebrated the lives of Don and Judy Stine, and Gayle Ann Wallace on May 20th and 21st. The services were beautiful and we continue to hold these families in our thoughts and prayers
- We celebrate with our 2023 high school graduates and college graduates. Best wishes to each and everyone, wherever your path leads next
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives

Hannah Bray	06/04
Alison Dix	06/04
Dixie Raiber	06/04
Alexa Roos	06/05
Lane Stewart	06/05
Tena Pratt	06/06
Kristin Stewart	06/08
Cassidy Reinken	06/13
Tim Reynolds	06/13
Ann Booth	06/14
Becky Woodward	06/14
Travis Cooper	06/15
Preston Ellis Johnson	06/15
Jim Rebhuhn	06/17
Isabelle Krapfl	06/19
Nathan Stewart	06/20
Mitchell Kragenbrink	06/24
Payton Schwiebert	06/24
Doug Shannon	06/25
Christopher Stoner	06/25
Chris Stoltz	06/26
Joseph Timm	06/26
Warren Havill	06/27
Mae Krapfl	06/30
Adam Zehms	06/30
Erik Zehms	06/30

## June Birthdays

Happy Happy Birthday!





## **Julian Johnson Scholarship Applications Due**

College students who are entering either their junior or senior year at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2023-24 academic year and who are members of the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon are eligible for the Julian Johnston Scholarship award administered by the church's memorial committee.

Julian Johnston, a former Mount 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. 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 chosen applications and the actual funds available. Applicants need to 1) fill out a demographic information, 2) write a one-page letter describing the financial need and their career goals, and 3) provide a letter of recommendation to be considered by the evaluation committee. Application letters were emailed to our church members who were high school graduates in 2020 or 2021. Other eligible members may request application information from the church office. There is no age limit. Completed applications must be received by the church office by Friday June 2, 2023. Awards will be announced by June 30th.

## **TRUSTEES CORNER**

The weather is warming up and we have turned on the air conditioner so please remember to keep all the doors closed to the Sanctuary (upper & lower), doors into the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. If you should open any windows, please close them when you leave the room or meetings also just a reminder to turn off lights. We would also like to ask that if you (members, committee chairs, organization chairs, etc) when setting up or having a meeting, class, practice, etc. please have it put on the church calendar. This will help us to know when to lock up the church, we do sometimes go thru the church and lock up early if nothing is on the calendar. If you are having a meeting you may want to check to see if anyone in your group has a key.

Thanks for your help and support. If you have any questions or see anything that needs attention, please let us know.

Jeff Walters, Kevin Woods, Susan Pisarik, Kristi Keast, Warren Havill, Mary Jane



**WHO IS**  
*my neighbor?*

## Vacation Bible School Summer 2023

1 TO 4 PM

JUNE 12 THROUGH JUNE 16 @ SEEDS OF FAITH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
LISBON IOWA

SUPPORTED BY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MOUNT VERNON, FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNT VERNON & SEEDS OF FAITH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Get registered for Vacation Bible School 2023 today!**

**Register at: [tinyurl.com/mvl2023vbs](https://tinyurl.com/mvl2023vbs)**

**We are so excited to partner with First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon and Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church to make a great kids friendly event this summer!**

**Contact Veronica Fisher our Education & Youth Director with any questions!**

# Missions Committee June Update

## Service Sunday was a great success!

Our Service Sunday event was very successful with 125 participants, 13 projects completed, 40 tubes of toothpaste collected for SE Linn, and wonderful fellowship and Christian presence shown in our community. Thanks again to the planning committee and participants!

Our Soles for Souls footwear project was a resounding success with many pairs of shoes collected and forwarded to the organization. Any further contributions can also be dropped off at Mount Vernon Bank and Trust as we put our “red box” away for the season!

We have two upcoming summer projects to bring to your attention.

1. We are planning to have a UMCMV group walk in the Heritage Day parade, and you are ALL invited to participate. We will wear our UMCMV hats, pass out small bottles of water with UMCMV worship invitation and times, and hope to show the community we are an active, caring congregation.

We will gather at the Cornell athletic parking lot at 9:30 AM on Saturday, July 8 to walk in the parade wearing red shirts and UMCMV hats (provided), and then move to the food stand to be workers or customers! It will be a great morning of activity in support of our church and community.

2. We have been invited to join the Matthew 25 community in project “Transform” from June 26 – 30, 2023. This is an opportunity to volunteer for a day or for the week, solo or with a team, doing yard cleanup, fence repairs, painting, window and gutter work, etc. in the Matthew 25 neighborhood in Cedar Rapids. This service opportunity gives us yet another way to be the hands and feet of Christ. For more information visit [matthew-25.org/housing/transform-week/](https://matthew-25.org/housing/transform-week/)

3. We are beginning fall planning for our September bulk food buy and our September Mission of Hope meal. More information to follow in upcoming months.

Your Mission Committee,

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



## Service Sunday Thank You's

Many thanks to the UMW and all my other church friends for the surprise May Day baskets for me and Donna and, if my memory serves, the Valentine treats and Easter plant. Ever since the "double whammy" of the Covid virus and my stroke on the Ides of March a year later I have had to give up my job of 15+ years at the church and have been pretty much "housebound" ever since. I still spend a lot of time resting every day, but occasionally get to Gary's Grocery store with Donna and have seen a few of you there to briefly say Hello.

We both appreciate that you continue to remember us and hope that some day I will feel strong enough to get back to a Sunday service. I do remember the Sunday afternoon two years ago in late March when Pastor Terra visited me at Mercy Rehab center. I think that we would have gotten along vey well together if I had been able to continue at the church.

Please extend my thanks to all involved. I miss you all. - Dick Jacob

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Dear Church,

I want to thank you all for the Service Sunday. For lots of year I was on the end of this bringing smiles to others and just so enjoyed the Violet basket and smiles from the Claussen-Tubbs family. Guess I really am getting older. May God bring blessings to all of you!! Sincerely thankful, Sherryl Osborn

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Wow! What a great event in every way that the Missions service teams planned for our church! So much heart, so much love, so much activity and spending time with members of our church family. And not even mentioning the wonderful image that was created surrounding our church. Thank you, thank you to all who participated for reminding us all what being the "children of God" means!

Love, Kay Graber





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



**Celebration of Life**  
**Rev. Dr. Richard H. Thomas**

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**  
**1:00 pm**  
**at United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon**