



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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May 2023

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

The arm-wrestling between winter and spring continues. As I am writing this, the predicted high for today is 72 degrees, with Saturday's high being 44, with the possibility of snow. Such is the way of this season of transition.

I think of families whose children are finishing the school year, and looking forward to the different rhythm of summer, of high school and college seniors who are moving into a new phase of life, of folks who are becoming empty-nesters, changing vocations, or, like Jay and I, entering into retirement with all the newness of a different way of being before us. Transitions.

Transitions are a way of life. How poignant and appropriate it is for me as your pastor that the lectionary gospel readings in these last weeks I am with you are focused on the farewell discourse narratives of Jesus - his prayer for the disciples and for the world before his betrayal and crucifixion. Words that remind of to not be troubled, but to trust God. To remember that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that love will guide us and direct us amid life. That the Holy Spirit will continue to bear witness in our hearts and lead us to bear witness to others through our words and our actions. And that in Jesus' prayer for the disciples and all who follow, including each of us, is that God watches over us, and that we can find unity through the Spirit.

May we hold one another in our hearts and in our prayers in this season of transition. May we lean into the promises of the Holy Spirit's gift to us. May we pray that, during this season of change and transition that each of us would be at peace and give glory to God.

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 11:00 am

Online at 8:30 am

www.umcmv.com/online-worship

Mount Vernon Community Preschool May 2023 Update

As we enter the last month of our school year, we reflect on the wonderful children and families that we have been blessed with. It has been a joy to get to know the families, watch the children grow and be a part of their first experiences with school. Children have learned to follow classroom expectations and how to be a part of a group. They have made new friends and developed a growing sense of independence. We are especially proud of their social emotional growth and independence. Mornings at preschool have been filled with learning, laughter and love. What a great year! Thank you to Pastor Terra for her support of the preschool the past few years. We wish her good luck on her next adventure! Thank you to the people and congregation of UMCMV for supporting and praying for all the children, families and teachers throughout the year.

- Mrs. Mueller, Mrs. Grunder and Mrs. Whisner





Farewell Open House for Pastor Terra Amundson

Sunday May 28, 2023

9:30 to 11 am

Common Ground Meeting Room

at

United Methodist Church of Mount
Vernon

**Keep our new Pastor,
Pastor Vicki Fisher
and her family
in our thoughts
and prayers
She will be arriving
in July 2023.**





All-Church Conference

Delivering a needed, energy-efficient and
sustainable renovation to the Education Wing
Sunday, May 7th @ Noon

In Church Sanctuary

Plan to attend —

See details on page 5— >>>

All-Church Conference

Delivering a needed, energy-efficient and
sustainable renovation to the Education Wing
Sunday, May 7th @ Noon

What: An all-church conference has been authorized by the District Superintendent to attend to the discussion and resolution of three vote items pertaining to a renovation project brewing for more than a decade.

The meeting will address three motions:

Should the church proceed with a renovation of the Education Wing with a contract issued to Apex Construction?

Should the church proceed with securing a short-term construction loan with Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Co.?

Should the church proceed with a capital campaign to cover the gap between cash accounts allocated for this renovation and the total construction bill?

Who: Any individual holding membership in this church can register a vote for each motion. Any individual interested in being part of the conversation is invited to attend. You must, however, hold membership to vote. Pastor Terra Amundson will serve as the elder required for this conference.

Where: Meeting will commence in the sanctuary promptly at Noon. A vision board will be on display in the Narthex beginning Sunday, April 30th through to the conference. It will then remain for further conversation after.

If you would like more information, please reach out to Ad Council Chair: Jim Baty, pga12b@batys5.com; Trustees Chair: Jeff Walter, Jeff Walters, jeff.walters@altorfer.com; or Finance Chair: Adam Krapfl, Adam Krapfl adam@krapfl.org.

Sunday school

We started April with our last unit before we're done for the summer if you can believe we're that close! Palm Sunday started with a Palm Parade during the services and then we delved further into it for our lesson. Then it was Easter Sunday and we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! We then learned about the disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus and had our last lesson of the year learning about when Jesus ascended back into Heaven. Our Confirmands were also confirmed that Sunday. Congratulations Alex, Griffin, Josie, Luke, Seth, and Zeke! They did such a great job presenting their I Believe statements <3 That ends our Sunday School year for 2022-23! Servant Sunday is the last week of April and our children and youth joined their families in volunteering for that day. May 7th will be our Teacher Appreciation breakfast where the kids will serve breakfast to their teachers to show how grateful they are to have such wonderful teachers. They, of

course, will get to eat as well. Can't serve food without letting the kids have some!

Please enjoy these pictures from the month !



Youth group

Youth group has been meeting Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8pm. April started with learning some beloved card games of some of our leaders. Then we played some outdoor games at Seeds of Faith. You're never too old for kickball! We had a night of watching some funny internet videos to help take their minds off some of the awful things going on in our country right now. The last meeting of the month is a service project at Camp Tanager for laying some fertilizer sticks alongside some of their trees, spreading some mulch in a new planting area, and other basic yard tasks (weeding, clean up, etc.) that they need.

Also, did you know we are on social media? You can follow our pages at <https://www.facebook.com/UMCMVRooted/> for Facebook and <https://www.instagram.com/rootedumcmv/> for Instagram! These pages will include updates and pictures.

Please let Veronica (veronicafisher@umcmv.com) if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Enjoy these pictures from our outdoors night!



Confirmation Sunday



United Methodist Church Mount Vernon 2023 Confirmation Class
Griffin Barber, Luke Rushford, Josie Bothell, Zeke Claussen-Tubbs
Abe Tubbs, Seth Rushford, Alexander Briesemeister, Pastor Terra Amundson

We are so proud of our 6 confirmands and welcome them as members of our church. We celebrated their confirmation Sunday April 23, 2023 and were so impressed with their statements of faith.

Welcome and congrats!

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	2 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's bible study, Balcony Classroom 6:00pm Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Servant Sunday follow up meeting, Chapel	3 3:00pm Staff Gathering, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group, First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice, Sanctuary	4	5	6
7 Teacher Appreciation Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 12:00pm All Church Conference, Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Women's Ministry Connection & Conversation, Common Ground Meeting Room	8 6:15pm TTT Society camp shower, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	9 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's bible study, Balcony Classroom 6:00pm Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall	10 6:00pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Missions Meeting, Chapel Room 6:30pm Youth Group, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church Lisbon Iowa 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice, Sanctuary	11	12	13
14 Senior Recognition Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Ministry Connection & Conversation, Common Ground Meeting Room	15 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	16 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's bible study, Balcony Classroom 6:00pm Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall	17 6:00pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group, AIRFX season closer for Youth Group 7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice, Sanctuary	18	19 Briesemeister borrowing 2 roasters	20 1:30pm Judy & Don Stine Memorial Service, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
21 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Fellowship Time, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 2:00pm Gayle Wallace Memorial Service - Sanctuary / Common Ground 3:30pm Women's Ministry Connection & Conversation, Common Ground Meeting Room	22 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	23 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's bible study, Balcony Classroom 6:00pm Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Evening Book Club, Common Ground Meet-	24 6:00pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	25 7:00pm Church Council meeting, Fellowship Hall	26	27
28 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Open House for Pastor Terra, Common Ground Meeting Room 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Ministry Connection & Conversation, Common Ground Meeting Room	29 Memorial Day, Offices Closed 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall	30 🚧 Pastor Terra moving date 9:30am Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 9:30am Women's bible study, Balcony Classroom	31 6:00pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary			

Lift Up these Prayer Requests

Prayers for Healing:

- For Beth Johnson who continues to fight against cancer and is receiving treatment
- Continued prayers for Summer Brand, who is fighting Lymphoma
- Continued prayers for Barb Neal (mother of Abby Bock) as she battles 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 Phyllis Baier (Kristi Keast's mother) who passed away on April 17th. We especially lift Kristi up in prayer during this time of grieving
- The family of Bill Bowers, as they mourn his passing. We hold all family members close to our hearts during this time, especially his wife, Myrt Bowers
- 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:

- We pray for our new pastor, Vicki Fisher, that will be joining us in July. 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 Pastor Terra as she looks forward to and begins her transition into retirement
- Prayers for the Bishop Keneetha Bingham Tsai who is now serving as the resident Bishop for the Iowa area
- Prayers for all students, teachers, school staff and administrators
- 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:

- For the families grieving over recent shootings and the loss of loved ones
- For families and communities devastated by natural disasters
- Prayers for all who have had their lives traumatically affected by gun violence
- 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

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- What joy we shared as six confirmands were celebrated and welcomed into our church membership on April 23rd
- Amongst Friends was presented on April 2nd. We are grateful to Babs Moore for leading this group of men and joyful that the powerful drama was well attended and appreciated
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives

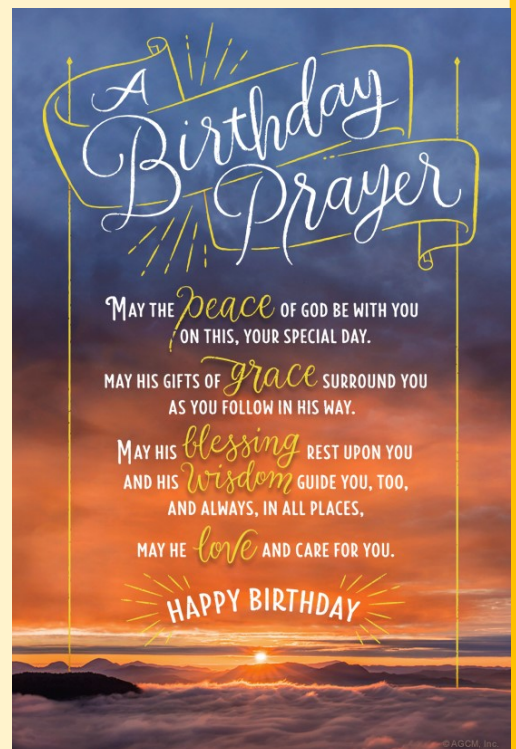
May Birthdays

Happy

Loren Nydegger	05/02
Beckett Meyer	05/04
Al Shepley	05/04
Shea Stamp	05/04
Eleanor Smith	05/05
Erin Schaller	05/06
Zeke Claussen-Tubbs	05/08
Shirley Ryan	05/08
Jackie Wallace	05/08
Nancy S. Thomas	05/11
Rick Schwiebert	05/13
Kinsley Kamaus	05/14
Jackie Morrical	05/14

Birthday!

Abner Light	05/15
Eve Light	05/15
Brody Nosek	05/15
Jackson Jaspers	05/18
Marci Schmatt	05/19
Pat Sorgenfrey	05/20
Gretta Zehms	05/20
Lewis Micheel	05/22
Caleb Smith	05/22
Ann Currie	05/23
Jessica Johanning-meier	05/26
Roger Schnittjer	05/28
Kevin Woods	05/28
Quinn Roos	05/30
Taya Roos	05/30



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!!

Congratulations to the high school seniors & college grads in our congregation. Our church family will recognize, pray over and celebrate these graduates on Sunday, May 14th. Below are the seniors we will be honoring. Please help us make our list complete and call the office if you think of a senior that needs to be included in this recognition and celebration.

Michael Briesemeister

Jesse Schwiebert

Ben Nydegger

Ethan Stanerson

Cohen Kamaus

Owen Rushford

Ben Merlak

Gavin Reinken



Julian Johnson Scholarship Available

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.



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

**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 May Update

Service Sunday was a great success!





Service Sunday

April 30th

Lending a Helping Hand





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



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