



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.*



JULY 2023

www.umcmv.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMCMV>



Pastor's Letter

Pondering on the Paha: Dreaming

I sit in my office on the ancient hillside. The topography speaks of an ice age, windblown sediment, and a time before written history. I place my hands on the limestone blocks that form much of the church and feel the stories they would tell. Of the accumulation of sediment. Of eons underground. Of being quarried and carried up the hill. Of laborers and artisans. Of consecration and songs. They would tell stories of the people who worshipped inside these walls. Stories, long forgotten, of lives changed, commitments kept, and hopes shared. I am a blip in the story of the limestone. I am a passerby on the paha.

My first message series is about dreaming. I have a lot to learn about our story. My time here begins with intentional listening. I have our CAT results, our goals, and our church profile. I'm starting to get an idea of who we are, but it takes time. I invite us to dream together. There's so much we can do as a church. What is critical? What makes us who we are? What healing is needed? I don't know the answers yet, but I know the Spirit is upon us. I know that God has been at work on the paha, and I'm joining the church at a unique place in its history. I'd invite you to dream with me, to pray with me. What does Mount Vernon need from our church? What does Cornell College need from us? What do we need from each other? What critical ministry is waiting for us? I don't know yet, but I'm dreaming.

Two things I do know: God loves you and I do too! I love your ready laughter. I love your generosity. I love the way you cherish the children of your church. I love the way you look out for each other with kind acts of care and consideration. I love being in worship with you! I can't wait to see what God does next!



See you Sunday, Pastor Vicki



**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

Message Series for July: “Dreaming Together”

In July Pastor Vicki will ask us to dream about what God is saying to our church. What healing does God want to bring? What needs is God asking us to address? What passion has God placed on our hearts? Check out the scriptures below and please be praying as we dream together!

July 2: Communion Sunday

Message: “Dreaming of Home”

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16, Matthew 9:1-13

Reflection: What makes a place feel like home?

July 9: Message: “Dreaming of Disciples”

Scriptures: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 8:1-4

Reflection: What does a disciple look like? How are we building disciples?

July 16: Message: “Dreaming of Hospitality”

Scripture: Leviticus 19:33-34, Luke 12

Reflection: How can we grow our welcome to our friends and neighbors? What does hospitality look like?

July 25: Healing Service – anointing with oil will be offered for those interested.

Message: “Dreaming of Healing”

Scripture: James 5:13-20, Matthew 12:1-21

Reflection: What healing do we need to move forward? What does healing look like?

Remembering OUR MISSION

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our missional priorities (goals) for 2023:

1. Increased Congregational membership
2. Maintain and strengthen relationship with Cornell
3. Community Outreach



How to reach Pastor Vicki:

For emergencies, call her cell at 712-563-6094 and leave a message. Otherwise, leave a message at the church at 319-895-6286 or email vicki.fisher@iaumc.net. She will be taking Thursdays as her Sabbath, except in dire emergencies.



A Note of Thanks:

Thanks to everyone who helped welcome us to the community! We are so grateful for your kindness in preparing the parsonage and providing a number of welcome gifts! A special thanks to the person who made the anonymous monetary donation to the parsonage. We will use your gift to purchase a kitchen island and matching stools that will remain with the parsonage.

~ The Fisher Family



Education Wing Façade Renovation

We are 92.2% of the way to our goal of \$300,000!

Church Funds	
Bequest	\$ 7,800
Building	\$ 175,000
Contributions Received	
14	\$ 33,950
Pledges Received	
31	\$ 59,900
Funding Received	\$ 276,650
Total Need	\$ 300,000
Remaining	\$ 23,350

If you missed turning in your pledge card or making your donation in June it is not too late! Simply put your check/pledge card in the mail to the church!

Thanks to everyone who has made a contribution to this project!

Any questions? Please contact any member of the fundraising team: Jeff Walters, Adam Krapfl, Alison Dix, or Jackie Morrical



Memorial Landscaping

What's happening on First Street? Memorial funds are being used to create a decorative area with a wall bench and pavers. This will be a beautiful addition to the church grounds and a nice area to sit!



Summer Gathering between services...

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?

Camp: It's not too late to sign up for camps! Scholarships are available. For more information, check out www.iaumc.org/camps or reach out to Veronica. We have great UMC camps at Okoboji and Indianola.

Who Is My Neighbor?

Vacation Bible School 2023

Our theme this year was Who Is My Neighbor?, so each day we learned about people from **different countries** and how **those people are our neighbors**, even if they don't live near us. We also talked about **how to treat our neighbors** and how **God wants us to care for our neighbors**. We even had an appearance by our very own Mundo! He came to tell us about his native country, **El Salvador**.

Our **Snacks** leaders were Kristi Karwal Clark, Rita Swales, and Pat Hogan and the kids all agreed that the **best snack** of the week was the **fry bread/pupusas** covered in cinnamon and sugar 😊 Even some of the adults were pleasantly surprised by some new foods; the **plantain chips** were loved by all.

Sue Deibner and Emily Walsh led the **Simulation** time. The kids created **shelters** out of different materials to get an understanding that you don't have to have a house to have/be a good neighbor. One group made a multi-room shelter that **looked really cool** but it didn't stay up very long.

Sue and Emily discussed different **cultures** with the kids and how **God loves every one of those people**, and **He loves all of us**.

These kids had fun, I promise! This was at the end of the day and it had been a hot one. Overall, though, it was generally **decent weather**.



Vacation Bible School 2023 Continued...



Except the day our **Games** leader Jonathan Walsh had to bring the **play inside** due to the poor quality outside from the wildfire smoke. He taught some games that originated from the counties we learned about. Any **Bluey** lover will recognize the game “**Keepy-Uppy**” but we learned that it’s played in some form or another in **many other cultures**, generally with round objects.

Our **Crafts** leaders, Sara Lenhart and Jan Pyatt, chose projects that were inspired by **art** from different cultures, such as **henna** in **India** (rest assured, at no point in time was a kid ever in possession of henna. You know how that would have gone.) They did, however, get to use **chalk pastels** to reimagine **Pueblo** Adobe houses in bright, vibrant colors.

Our **Family** time was led by Pastor Roberta with the help of some **youth group volunteers**. The volunteers acted out **skits** teaching the story of the **Good Samaritan**, helped lead **songs/activities**, and stamped the “**passports**” issued to each attendee at the beginning of week. We also had a few youth wranglers who were skilled in helping kids to refocus energy in productive ways. The smiles don’t lie, it was a good time!



Getting to know UMCMV gatherings

I am looking for individuals to organize gatherings of 8-12 people for a one time gathering of about 90 minutes. I will bring a variety of open ended questions to these gatherings with the purpose of learning more about our church and our dreams. These gatherings can happen at the church, at your home, or at a local restaurant. If you're interested in organizing one of these, please leave a message at the office 319-895-6286.

Thank you! ~ Pastor Vicki

Help Wanted: Scriptures readers, Usher/Greeters, Communion Servers, Recruiters

The church is looking for volunteers to help recruit and organize liturgists, Usher/Greeters, and Communion Servers. A number of people step in to help every Sunday, but there are holes in our welcome that guests could easily slip through. We would love to have more voices assist with worship leadership. If you're interested, contact Pastor Vicki at 319-895-6286



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 JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			28	29	30	1 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
2 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	3 Offices Closed	4 Independence Day, Offices Closed	5 6:00 to 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	6	7 Boy Scouts 100th birthday - Set up in Fellowship Hall Heritage Days Food Booth prep, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen	8 Heritage Days Food Booth, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen 6:00am Heritage Days-Troop 40 100th Anniversary Celebration 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
9 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	10	11	12 6:00 to 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	13	14	15 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
16 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	17 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	18	19 6:00 to 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	20	21	22 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
23 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:00am Private Shower in Fellowship hall 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	24	25	26 6:00 to 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary	27	28	29 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
30 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	31					

Lift Up these Prayer Requests throughout the week...

Prayers for Healing:

- For Mundo's mother who is currently hospitalized in El Salvador
- For Marci Schmatt as she continues her recovery from surgery
- For those healing from surgery, including Pat Zimmerman and Son Jim -Song
- For Don who continues to deal with significant health issues and needs prayers for pain management
- Continued prayers for Barb Neal (mother of Abby Bock) as she continues her battle against cancer
- For all our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- The immigration processing times are slower than ever, continued prayers for Mundo (and Kim) for a swift and positive outcome for Mundo
- For Alison Dix who is scheduled for an oral surgery on July 11th. Prayers for peace, comfort and calm, as she waits and also for healing following the surgery
- For the family and friends of John Ruess, as they mourn his death
- For those concerned with health issues
- For all who are struggling: emotionally, physically or spiritually
- For those suffering silently with anxiety and depression
- For all not mentioned who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend

Prayers for Transition:

- We pray for our new pastor, Vicki Fisher and her family. They have arrived!!! and are getting settled at the parsonage.
- Prayers for the Bishop Keneetha Bingham Tsai who is now serving as the resident Bishop for the Iowa area
- For the leaders of UMCMV as they continue to work on behalf of our church
- For the United Methodist 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

PRAYER LIST continued

- 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
- Prayers for peace for all humanity

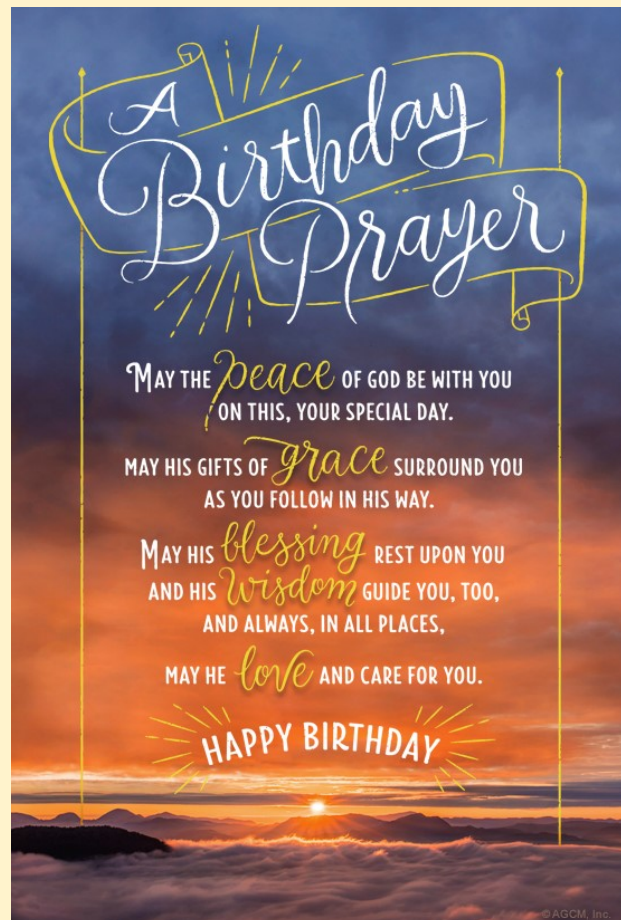
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- Thanksgiving and praise for a promising Iowa Annual Conference 2023
- We celebrate having our new pastor here and serving amongst us
- With thanksgiving we lift up the news that Pastor Terra received the best news possible and is cancer free
- We are thankful for all who have lended a hand to help prepare for the Education Wall renovation, the new memorial garden and the preparation of the parsonage, including the gardens and yard. All efforts are much appreciated!
- We celebrate with our 2023 high school graduates and college graduates. Best wishes to each and everyone, wherever your path leads next

Dorothy Rilett	07/01
Jacob Stewart	07/01
Jim Wallace	07/02
Addison Ault	07/03
Graham Bradbury	07/03
Nicole Claussen	07/03
Matt Stewart	07/03
Finn Hartzler	07/04
Jody Stewart	07/05
Maggie Hartzler	07/09
Cathy Stoner	07/09
Florence Reinken	07/11
Amy Anderson	07/12
Chad Conrad	07/14
Jule Falconer	07/15
Marilyn Schnittjer	07/15
Lohgan Anderson	07/19
Cot Graber	07/19
LaVonne M. Meyer	07/21
Luke Rushford	07/22
Seth Rushford	07/22
Marj Whitley	07/22
Kay Graber	07/23
Preston Johnson	07/24
Jay Currie	07/29
Jeff Walters	07/31

JULY Birthdays

Happy Happy Birthday!



Missions Committee JULY Update



The missions team has dreamed up participating in the Heritage Days Parade to show our love of this community and also hand out bottles of water with the saying "BE RE-FRESHED" at UMCMV.

Let the church office know if you want to walk (or ride) in the Heritage Days Parade to show our great love for this community!

Did you miss worship? Check out our online worship at <https://tinyurl.com/weloveUMCMV>

How to contact

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Office Phone # (319) 895-6286

Email: alisondix@umcmv.com

Website: www.umcmv.com

JULIAN JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Four students have been awarded Julian Johnston Scholarships of \$500 each for the 2023-24 academic year. The committee received seven strong and noteworthy applications this year.

Anna Hoffman is a junior at Lake Forest College with a double major in data sciences and economics as well as a minor in public policy. Anna is planning on attending law school to obtain a degree in corporate or environmental law. She is the daughter of Loren and Jennifer Hoffman.

Isabella Krapfl is a junior at the University of Iowa. She is the daughter of Adam and Erin Krapfl and is working towards a degree in Speech and Hearing Science, and an Art minor. Isabella plans to attend graduate school to obtain a Speech Language Pathology degree.

Anna Nydegger is a junior at the University of Northern Iowa. She is the daughter of Loren and Renee Nydegger. Anna is working on an undergraduate degree that will allow her to attend graduate school to obtain her Speech Language Pathology board certification.

Payton Schwiebert, son of Rick and Kim Schwiebert, is a senior. He is majoring in studio arts at the University of Northern Iowa. He hopes to have a career in studio art as a painter, illustrator, and sculptor.

The scholarship was established by Julian E. Johnston, a well-known Mount Vernon businessman. Mr. Johnston was very appreciative of the financial support he received from the local Methodist Church as a Cornell College student during the 1930's and set up this scholarship to help others. This is the 26th year the Memorials Committee has offered the scholarship. A certificate and check will be awarded to each of the scholarship recipients during a Sunday worship service. The date has not yet been determined.



Traveling this summer and still want to support our church with your giving?

Great, check out the link on our website front page www.umcmv.com or Click ONLINE GIVING to go directly to our page!

Thanks to everyone who has been giving ACH or electronically online!



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 Vicki Fisher
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



**Let us know if you want
to Walk in the Heritage
Days Parade to show
our great love for this
community!**

**Join us for Lunch
Saturday July 8**

11 to 2 pm Food

Booth out front of the church

**Grilled Burgers, chicken patties,
brats, hot dogs, sloppy joes along
with chips, cookies, Kathy's fruit pies
and yummy lemonade!**