

AUGUST 2023 Newsletter

“Circuit Rider” for

THE 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

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

Pondering on the Paha: Restored

Pastor's Letter

Several times a week, I pray this prayer for our church, from Ephesians 3:

“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

I’ve been praying for you. Many of you I pray for by name as I walk past the place where you sit in church. For others, I’m still struggling to connect names and faces. I pray for you, but I can’t see you in my mind, yet. Are you praying? This church has a great core of committed volunteers. We also love to sing together! You’ve been incredibly welcoming to me, and you even laugh at my attempts at humor. I’ve heard some great stories about how you care for each other and for our world.

In the midst of all the happy stories, there’s a story of weariness. Weariness with multiple staff changes in a few years. Weariness from the grief of losing friends and neighbors because of political pressures in the church. Jesus calls to love each other as he loved us, but we can feed ourselves a steady diet of fear, suspicion, and jealousy. We have seen fear and suspicion erode the love between us as a nation. Our hearts long for restored relationships, but we realized that is impossible without repentance and change.

I’m praying for restoration, first of our hearts. To believe that in whatever challenge we are facing, that the love of God is there with us. I’m praying for restoration in our church. For a gentle rebuilding of trust and a refocusing on making disciples and making a difference. I’m praying for God to work in our midst, healing the church to fulfill our unique mission in the world. I hope that you will pray with me.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Vicki



August 2023

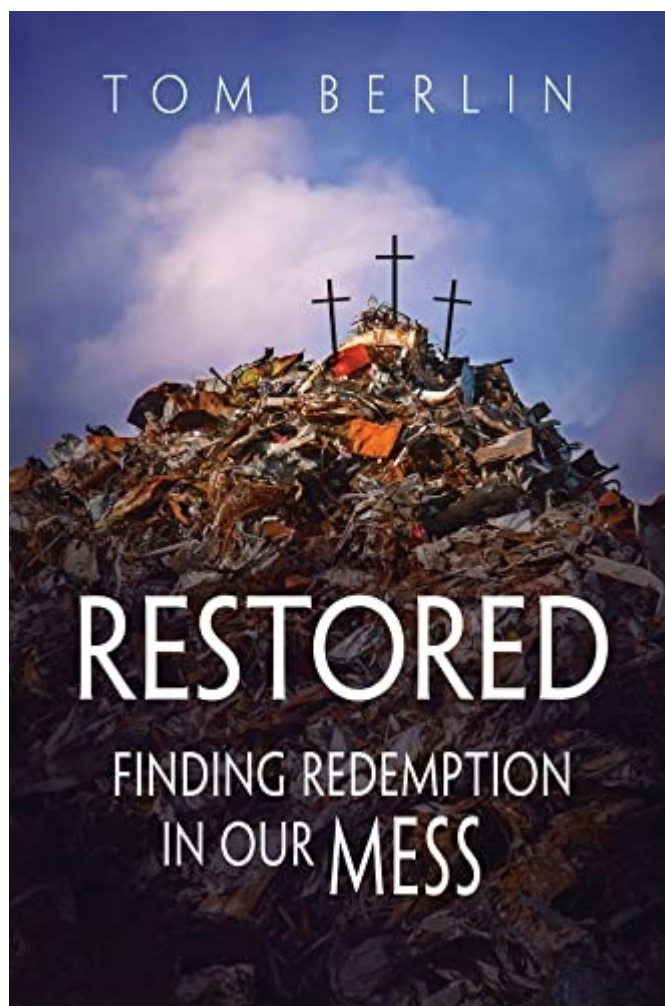


For all who worship with us... we are so blessed to have
you with us on Sunday mornings

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

Online at 8:30 am

www.umcmv.com/online-worship



Message Series for August

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Based on the book by Tom Berlin

What do we do with our mistakes? What do we do with the wounds from the past that we can't quite get healed? Our Sunday worship emphasis will be on the restoring work God has done and is doing through the work of Jesus.

August 6: Communion "Restored: This is a Real Mess!"
Romans 7:14-25 Luke 18:9-14

Worship Question: What does it mean to be justified?
When have we been forgiven?

August 13: "Restored: Who Left This Mess? Galatians
5:13-26 Luke 19:1-10

Worship Question: Who is the Zacchaeus of our day? Are
we ready for Jesus to bless them?

August 20: "Restored: Bless this Mess?" Romans 3:21-24 John 5:1-15 Worship Question: What situations have we accepted as normal?

August 27: Restored: Address this Mess! & Rally day Luke 10: 38-42, Philippians 3:10-16

Worship Question: How do I find time to sit at the feet of Jesus? Where do I tend to judge people?

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 Discipleship
2. Strengthen relationship with Cornell
3. Community Outreach
4. Vibrant Circuit Ministry
5. Small Group Ministry



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 Payton for the artwork on our new banners!

Thanks to Marc, Terry, and Barb for the work on the north memorial garden!

Thanks to Adam and the Finance Committee and all who helped make our Heritage Days food booth a success!

To Mike and Karen for organizing our presence in the parade and for everyone who was a part!

To everyone who is saying “yes” to being a part of the wonderful things God is doing at UMCMV!



Education Wing Façade Renovation

The exterior façade was finished up this week! Now the inside is being finished with updates.

—Updates include:

- Drywall being finished up
- HVAC being installed this week and next
- New windows installed in stairways
- Blinds being ordered

Soon we will be selecting paint and getting the spaces back to useable!

We continue to work to fund this renovation and we are looking forward to getting even closer to our 300K goal!

Memorial Landscaping North Lawn Landscaping Project Update

The new landscaping on the north lawn along First Street is almost complete. The pavers and seat wall were finished just in time for Heritage Day. A big THANK YOU to Terry Pisarik and Marc Mohn for putting in a lot of time and sweat to help get it done. This project has been in the planning stages for several years. It was designed by Loren Hoffman at the same time the Memorial Garden on the west was done about 11 years ago. The funding for the project is coming from memorial contributions. The initial funds coming from the Schmidts. We feel Wava and Jerry would be quite pleased with the results. There is still some plantings and ground work to finish but will wait until the weather cools a bit before putting the trees in the ground. I'd also like to thank Alex and LeAnn Briesemeister for helping plant the grasses along the back of the wall. Also, thanks to the memorial committee for their support and patience in this project. We hope it will become a res-



pite place for folks walking by and a way we can extend a welcome to those in our community. A dedication will be held later this fall.

Barb Shepley, Chair of Memorials Committee

USHERS NEEDED FOR EACH SERVICE

Now that the dreadful Covid is waning, it seems time again for us to be more personally involved in our worship services. One way we can help is by being an usher for the service we usually attend. This involves arriving at least 20 minutes before a service to greet and hand out bulletins at one of the three doors to our sanctuary and then helping to take up the collection. That's all that is required of serving as an usher. Are you willing to be put on the 'Usher List' and serve approximately every 4, 5 or 6 weeks? If so, let Babs Moore know at 319-350-2885 and she will be happy to put you on the list. Thank you in advance!!!

Education/Sunday School

I don't know about anyone else, but my summer has FLOWN by!

I can't believe we're planning for fall already 😬 We have our kickoffs planned so please see below for more information. There are a few things left to cement so make sure to keep an eye/ear open about any changes or updates.



Rally Day will be **Sunday, August 27th** from **9:30am -10:15am**. We are still narrowing down the location.

Regardless of where we have Rally Day, it will still be filled with good times with good people getting signed up for Sunday School. We hope to see you there!

YOUTH GROUP 2023-2024

AUGUST HAPPENINGS...



We will be walking in the Lisbon Sauerkraut Days Parade on Saturday, August 19th. We would love to have you join us! The parade starts at 10:30 so please arrive at the parade starting spot around 9:30, preferably in your new youth group shirts.

We will be having our **Youth Group Kickoff** on **Wednesday, September 6th** from **6pm-8pm** at **Bass Farms** for youth in grades **6th through 12th**. We will provide the food and Bass Farms will provide the fun 🎈 We might have some fun planned, too...you'll have to come find out! Friends, siblings, parents – all are welcome. We will also have registration forms so you don't have to worry about them getting lost in backpacks or car backseats

We can always use volunteers for Youth Group in many different areas! We need help with the following:

Keeping a watchful eye on the youth

Ideas/opportunities for activities/topics

Guests to share their experiences/knowledge

Prepping for the meal and helping to clean up after the meal

Cooking or donating money for the meal

We are getting by as we are, but we could do so much more with more people. What a great way to show our youth that we care about them and support

them! ❤️ **As always, please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments at veronicafisher@umcmv.com**

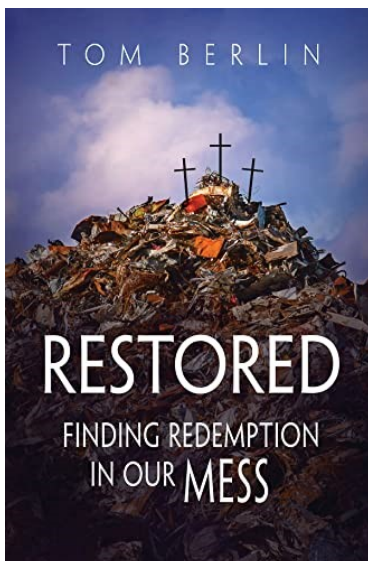
Getting to know UMCMV gatherings

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, Communion Servers, Recruiters

The church is looking for volunteers to help recruit and organize liturgists 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.



BOOKS AVAILABLE

In August, we will begin a new message series based on the book, "Restored" by Tom Berlin. A limited number of books are available at the in the Narthex at the church for \$13 each. (Anyone have a large, partially restored project that we could use during August as a prop? Give me a call!)

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	2 4 pm Memorials meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary	3	4	5 9:00am Reserved sanctuary 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
6 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	7	8 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:30pm SPRC meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room (meeting with DS)	9 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary	10	11	12 9:00am Reserved sanctuary 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
13 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	14	15 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00pm Worship Team meeting, Common Ground Room	16 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary	17	18	19 9:00am Reserved sanctuary 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
20 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	21 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	22 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:30pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:30pm Church Council Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	23 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary	24	25	26 9:00am Reserved sanctuary 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room
27 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:30am Rally Day 9:40am The Faith We Sing, Common Ground Meeting Room 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	28	29 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	30 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	31		

Lift Up these Prayer Requests throughout the week...

Prayers for Healing:

- Continued prayers of healing for Marci Schmatt as she recovers from major surgery
- For a local man who has suffered multiple injuries from an accident at his home. Continued prayers for his recovery are appreciated
- 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 our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer or other health issues

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For Mundo Guardado and his family, as they mourn the death of his mother, Maria Eva
- The immigration processing times are slower than ever, continued prayers for Mundo (and Kim) for a swift and positive outcome for Mundo
- 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 by name 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, as they continue to get acquainted with our congregation and the Mount Vernon and Lisbon communities
 - Prayers for 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

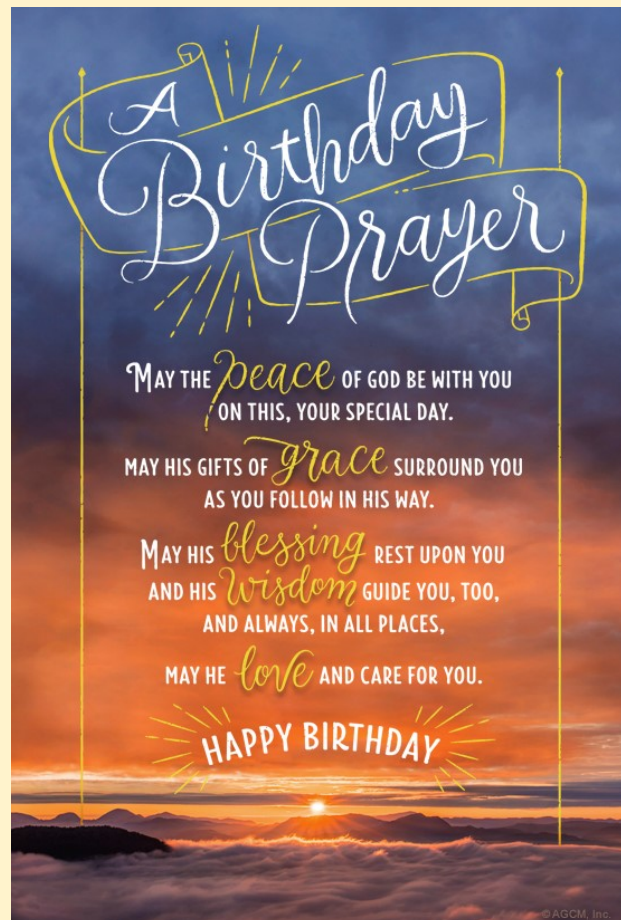
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- With joy and thankfulness we reflect on a successful and heartwarming Heritage Days food tent and parade. Thanks to all who participated in any way
- We are grateful for our trustees, and all the energy and time they give to church projects
- We celebrate having our new pastor here and serving amongst us
- We are thankful for all who lended a hand to prepare for the Education Wall renovation, worked on the new memorial garden project and the preparation of the parsonage. All efforts are much appreciated!
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives

Jason Anderson	08/03
Mary Jane Wilkey	08/03
Candice Jeffrey	08/06
Diane Legore	08/06
Sandra Sill	08/06
Renee Nydegger	08/08
Isaac Dausener	08/09
Emily Stoner	08/09
Judy Van Cleve	08/09
Beth Johnson	08/11
Kailey Shannon	08/13
Marc Mohn	08/14
Jen Stanerson	08/14
Lauren Swartzendruber	08/17
Loren Hoffman	08/19
Kyler Shannon	08/19
Kim Guardado	08/23
Jim Engelbrecht	08/24
Jaimie Hanson	08/26
Landon Johanningmeier	08/30

August Birthdays

Happy Happy Birthday!



Missions Committee August Update



As our summer activities bring some church activities to a slower pace, the same is true for Missions. Our major event for July was our organization and recruitment for a Heritage Day grouping to serve as community outreach and a reminder of our presence in the community. We organized 30+ congregation members of all ages to walk/ride in the parade and hand out small bottles of water with labels reading "Be Refreshed" and our church service times. Our parade vehicles displayed signage reading "United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon -- Everyone Welcome", and our hats were the white hats with UMCMV in rainbow colors. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event verifying our active, welcoming presence in the community.

As fall approaches, we will be collecting for the bulk food purchase for SE Linn Community Center, delivering Meals on Wheels, and serving a meal at Mission of Hope in Cedar Rapids. We hope you are able to participate in some or all of these activities.

Your Mission Committee,

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

Also a great way to be in connection with community is to donate or volunteer at SE Linn Community Center. They have several great events going on this month, their school supply distribution and their ICE CREAM Social during Lisbon's Sauerkraut Days.





Make It OK



Healthiest State
INITIATIVE



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Linn County, Iowa

MAKE IT OK WORKSHOP

DATE & TIME

Tuesday, August 8 from 4 to 6 p.m.

(Refreshments served at 4 p.m., program begins at 4:30 p.m.)

Southeast Linn Community Center
108 South Washington Street Lisbon, IA 52253

ABOUT THE EVENT

Make It OK is a community campaign to reduce the stigma by starting conversations and increasing understanding about mental illness. Come learn about the interconnectedness of mental health and mental illness, tips for talking more openly about mental illness, and ways to help others get the care and support they need. ***This event is free and open to the public.***

HOSTED BY

The event is hosted by Anne Carter and Jacquie Montoya of Linn County Public Health and in collaboration with the Southeast Linn Community Center.

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?

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



Our Diversity Taskforce worked hard to make our presence seen in our community starting at Heritage Days! Here is our first short statement we will be putting out to the community to show our support!

We, as the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon, are here to say we are making spaces safe and affirming for all people to be themselves and that we are specifically in support of the LGBTQ+ community members. We affirm that those in the LGBTQ+ community are persons of sacred worth, full and whole members of the human family, and are be-



We had a great group of people represent our church in the Heritage Days Parade!
“BE REFRESHED” was our theme and we handed out bottles of water!



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



Thanks to all who supported our Heritage Days Food Booth. We are able to raise \$3,300 to put back into our General Fund. We so appreciate the donations and volunteers that make this fun day possible!