

SEPTEMBER 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: On the Board

Pastor's Letter

I have a whiteboard in my office. It's crowded with several things I want to keep in front of me as I go about my work. "Love the church" is on the board. It might seem obvious, but sometimes I don't communicate love well.

Fisher and I met while we were both teaching in rural Estherville. The Monday after he proposed, I came to work with a ring, and the kids began to ask questions. When I said I was engaged to Mr. Fisher, there was silence then laughter. My concern for professionalism was such that very few people knew Mark and I were dating, let alone serious. "Love the church." I should probably add, "and tell them you love them!" In my sense of purpose, of mission, I don't always stop and say the words. I have been committed to loving every church I have been asked to serve, but some are easier to love than others. Friends, you are easy to love.

There are a lot of things on that whiteboard in addition to love: Communication (texts, videos, social media), Youth Group (MS & HS), Nominations, Confirmation, Church Conference, Stewardship, Disciple Making, Service/ Missions Opportunities, Property (challenges, repairs, cleaning), Committees (process, values, goals), Cornell, Staff, Adult Education, Social Justice Team, Townhalls. On the first of the month, I go through and update the board. Love, while seeming such a basic thing, stays on the board. In the midst of all the possible places to focus my time and energy, I don't want to forget love.

In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment and he answers, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' All the law and the prophets hang on these." In John 13, Jesus gives his followers a new commandment, "love one another as I have loved you." Loving well. It's so easily missed in our anxieties and to do lists. What do I hope to accomplish here? I hope to love the church well, and to lead us in loving well.



See you Sunday,

Pastor Vicki

September 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 September

September 3: “Restored: No Messing Around” & Communion Sunday

Luke 10:25-37 — We will take a close look at the Parable of the Good Samaritan as we close out the “Restored” series. Are we willing to let people we don’t like be heroes?

September Preaching Series: “The Oldest Stories of Faith: Reclaiming the Beauty of Genesis”

In this post-modern era, does the book of Genesis even matter? What did these stories offer to their first hearers? What can they offer us? Get ready for a deep dive into some familiar stories!

September 10: “The importance of a Good Beginning”

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Do I believe God is good? What does it mean to have a creative God?

September 17: “You don’t put a candy dish in the middle of the floor”

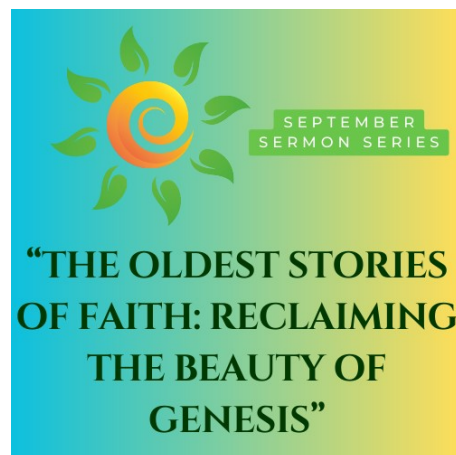
Genesis 2 How much do I need the Bible to make sense? What does this story tell us about God? About people? How can this story speak to the loneliness epidemic?

September 24: “What’s with the talking snake?”

Genesis 3 What feels true about this story? Why? What is this story telling us about God?

October 1: “Well that escalated quickly” & Communion Sunday

Genesis 4:1-17 How seriously do I treat the sin of jealousy? Mood: Repentant



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.



Come and Go Party

at the Parsonage

Saturday, September 9, 1-4 pm

The Fisher's would like to invite you to stop by the parsonage for refreshments and fellowship on September 9. Check out the house, have some snacks, and share time with neighbors.

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



ADULT Sunday School Classes - Starting Sunday September 10

Jim & Julie Baty lead == Dick Peter's memorial Sunday school class—in Balcony Classroom—discuss one scripture you have struggled with and find different meanings and points of view

Danforth Social Justice Sunday School gathering— In classroom next to elevator on 5th floor / Balcony, gather with people like Kevin Woods, Babs Moore & others for heart of learning about social justice topics through book or video studies.

How to contact United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Office Phone # (319) 895-6286

Email: alisondix@umcmv.com

Website: www.umcmv.com

ONLINE GIVING LINK— <https://bit.ly/UMCMVonlinegiving>

IRON SHARPENS IRON INVITES YOU

Saturday mornings from 7:30 - 8:30 am you will find several of the guys from the church gathered in the Fellowship Hall kitchen for togetherness and faith formation. Over nearly a year, this group has been engaging and feeding souls as well as bodies as we get to know each other more and stand up together against the forces of life. Are you looking for a new way to connect? Have you wondered what it likes to receive the gift of support as well as giving it? Come grab some bacon and eggs with us, take a turn at whipping up your own creation and enjoy the Spirit of the Lord promised among us where two or more are gathered.



**Saturday mornings 7:30 am
Fellowship Hall**



**WOMEN'S
MINISTRY** *Connection and
Conversation*
3:30-5PM
SUNDAYS
UMCMV-COMMON GROUND

Women's Ministry—

Connecting & Conversations

Fall Restart — Sunday

September 10th 3:30 to 5 pm

Questions? Contact Jaimie Han-
son or the Church Office.



Education Corner



Thank you to everyone who participated in activities with us over the summer!

JUNE



We started out the summer with VBS in June. We had both children and youth help with and participate in Who Is My Neighbor? where we visited a different nation each day during the week-long program. UCMV's own Mundo Guardado shared with us what it's like in his native country, El Salvador. VBS alum Ally Guardado made a return appearance to show us how to make pupusas, the national dish of El Salvador.



JULY



In July, we walked in the Heritage Days parade in Mount Vernon with others from the church. There was so much candy being thrown, some ended up in the middle of the road - which was handy for the kids since they could grab personal candy to stick in their pockets while they walked and threw church candy!

August

Our final activity of the summer was with the Rooted Youth Group, walking in the Sauerkraut Days parade in Lisbon. We had a great turn out, both for those walking in the parade as well as those supporting us as we paraded by!



There are plenty more activities coming our way with the

FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - SEPT 10TH

Unit 1: Creativity

- 9/10 - God Creates the Earth *Genesis 1:1-19*
- 9/17 - God Creates Living Things *Genesis 1:20-25*
- 9/24 - God Creates People *Genesis 1:26-2:4*
- 10/1 - God Creates Helpers *Genesis 2:10-23*

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF - SEPT 6TH BASS FARMS

Meet at UCMV

- 9/13 - Games
- 9/20 - Praise and Worship
- 9/27 - Journey Boards
- 10/4 - Movie (1stP)

Rev. Frank D. Seydel passed away on Monday, August 21, 2023.

A **Memorial Service** will be held on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at 3 p.m. at Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation (2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014) with a luncheon immediately following the service.

Rev. Seydel served Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Director of Campus Ministry, University of Tennessee, Nashville, Tenn.; Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Tennessee State University; Associate Professor of Biology, Friends University, Wichita, Kans.; Associate Professor of Biology, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; Associate Director, Clergy Education in Human Genetics, Div. of Biochemical Genetics, Div. of Genetics, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.; Director-Clergy Education in Genetics, Biochemical Genetics Laboratory, Georgetown University; Mount Vernon, First; and Mount Vernon, The United Methodist Church. He retired in 2011.



Survivors include his wife, Lynn (616 18th St. Ames, IA 50010); his son, David of York, PA; and three grandchildren, Kaitlyn, Ethan, and Madeline; and his daughter, Roxanne of Springfield, VA. **Frank D. Seydel** was born on May 15, 1944, in Davenport, Iowa, to Robert Emory Seydel and Mildred Faye Gauley Seydel. In 1947 his family moved across the Mississippi River to Moline, Illinois. Frank attended the Moline school system and graduated from 12th grade in 1962. He attended Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1966, with dual majors in biology and chemistry and a minor in math.

He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry—Cell Biology from Iowa State University in 1973 and a Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1976 and was ordained Elder in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1980. He taught chemistry at the University of Tennessee, Nashville, 1976-1980, biology and chemistry at Friends University, Wichita, KS, 1980-1983. He was Director of the Prenatal Screening Program and Associate Director and then Director of Clergy Education in Genetics At Georgetown University Medical Center, 1983-1999. He received his Board certification in Genetic Counseling in 1989. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, academic honorary, and Sigma Xi, scientific honorary. Frank was active in the Mid-Atlantic Region Human Genetics Network; he was chair of the Education Committee for 10 years and chair of the Ethics Committee for three years. He was also active in developmental disability issues, especially the United Methodist Church's Task Force on Developmental Disability, where he served as secretary, chair, or vice chair for 10 years.

He was pastor of the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, 1999-2011; growing the church by 33%, completing a million dollar building addition to the church, and adding an associate pastor.

In 1970 he married Lynn Swanson of Ames, Iowa. This past April 18th, they celebrated 53 years of marriage. Both their son, David, and their daughter, Roxanne, were born in Nashville, TN. Flower gardening and cooking were his passions. In retirement he was also active in the Story County Republican Party, where he served three years as treasurer.

In lieu of flowers, **memorials** can be made in Frank's name to Food at First, Iowa State University, USS Iowa or your favorite charity. From the Office of Bishop Bigham-Tsai and the Cabinet – August 29, 2023

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to bring you the first of what will become a monthly update from your church's Administrative Council. Joining me will be the chairs of other ministry areas as we work together to make this congregation more informed and empowered to spread our message outside these walls. This month we took an important step forward toward 2024. We continue to celebrate the presence of Pastor Vicki in our midst and we now have set goals for our ministry for 2024. This next year we will be focused on 1) Creating increased opportunities for more meaningful relationships; 2) Improving the trust of governance from church leaders through transparency; and 3) Creating a covenant for meetings and congregation. I invite you to ask questions about these and to come learn more as we announce our Charge Conference on October 8th, open for all persons in the church. - Jim Baty, Church Council Chair

Finance Committee Updates

What is the state of the General Fund?

As of July 30th the fund is positive \$17,243. You may recall we started January 1st with a positive balance of \$55,371, so the fund has decreased \$38K in the past 7 months. There was an increase from June to July of \$500, mainly due to income of \$3,300 from the Heritage Days food booth. Thanks to all who participated in/supported the food booth and also to those donors who continue to contribute to the General Fund.

What is the state of the Education Wing Renovation Project?

The finishing touches are being completed. The preschool was able to have their open house on Friday, August 25th and the office staff are looking forward to moving into the new & improved office space. The Trustees are estimating the total cost of the project to be \$325K. As of today we have received pledges/contributions of \$277,299 to cover the costs of the project; the total funding is around \$47K short of the need. Therefore, the church will need to take out a loan from the Mount Vernon Bank and Trust as approved prior to the start of the project. Final costs and donations received in September will help determine the exact amount of the loan required. Thanks to all who have supported this project!

Upcoming Dates:

October 8 - 29 Stewardship Campaign

October 29th @ 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner featuring Jay Currie's special sauce

November 5 - Lord's Portion Auction

United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar September 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9:00am Sanctuary reserved - Clint Stanerson 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room |
| 3 Communion Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary | 4 Labor Day- Offices closed 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall | 5 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall | 6 1:30pm Confirmation Classes, Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Missions team Tour Visit to SE Linn Community Center 5:00pm Missions Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary 6:00pm Youth Group Kick off at Bass Farms 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 7 | 8 | 9 9:00am Sanctuary reserved - Clint Stanerson 1:00pm Come and Go Party at the Parsonage 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room |
| 10 SE Linn Bulk Food Offering Sunday School starts 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary | 11 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall | 12 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall | 13 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm MS & HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 14 | 15 | 16 9:00am Sanctuary reserved - Clint Stanerson 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room |
| 17 SE Linn Bulk Food Offering 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary | 18 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room | 19 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall | 20 1:30pm Confirmation Classes, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm MS & HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 21 | 22 | 23 9:00am Sanctuary reserved - Clint Stanerson 8:00pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm Al-Anon, Common Ground Meeting Room |
| 24 3rd Grade Bible Presentation 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary | 25 Mission of Hope Lunch - serving in CR 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall | 26 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom 1:00pm Staff meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room | 27 6:00pm Praise Team practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm MS & HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 28 | 29 | 30 9:00am Sanctuary reserved - Clint Stanerson 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 Megan Russell (niece of Denise Havill and Myrt Bowers) who is facing critical health issues
- 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
- For former coworkers of Mel Steen who are dealing with major health concerns

Prayers for Comfort and Strength:

- For Gretchen Beckhelm (sister of Babs Moore) who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer, and will be receiving radiation treatments
- 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:

- For parents and families of all college students, especially those with freshmen, as everyone makes adjustments during this time of transition
- For our teachers, administrators, and students during these first few weeks of school
- 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 all who are dealing forest fires, both here in the US and in Canada

PRAYER LIST continued

- 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
- Prayers for peace for all humanity

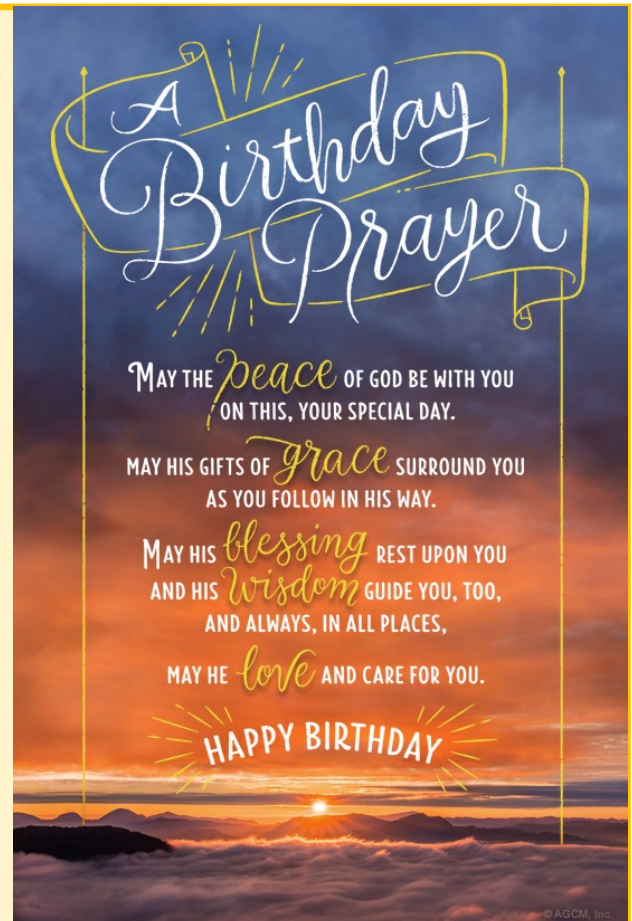
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- We raise thanks and praise for the beautiful morning we were gifted to worship and enjoy fellowship at Bass Farms
- We celebrate the return of Cornell students to Mount Vernon and welcome them to our church community
- 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 the progress on the Education wing renovation
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Bob Meeker | 09/01 |
| Karen Wise | 09/06 |
| Harper Sill | 09/07 |
| Mark Fisher | 09/08 |
| Lennon Kraus | 09/09 |
| Nathan Conrad | 09/10 |
| Stephanie Hotz | 09/10 |
| Jena Jaspers | 09/11 |
| Desmond Bray | 09/12 |
| John McWilliams | 09/13 |
| Meier Anderson | 09/14 |
| Katie Stineman | 09/16 |
| Stefanie Bray | 09/17 |
| Benjamin Johnson | 09/17 |
| Betty Poula | 09/18 |
| Terry Sill | 09/20 |
| Jeff Schmatt | 09/21 |
| Jim Baty | 09/24 |
| Lance Kamaus | 09/25 |
| Linda Kemp | 09/25 |
| Sherryl Osborn | 09/25 |
| Ike Claussen-Tubbs | 09/26 |
| Bill Micheel | 09/26 |
| Sue Nost | 09/29 |
| Susan Pisarik | 09/30 |
| Roger Raiber | 09/30 |

September Birthdays

**Happy
Happy
Birthday!**



Missions Committee September Update



Our church Mission committee has taken the month of August to enjoy some family vacations. We are starting our new year with a meeting on September 6 which includes a visit to SE Linn and a planning session for future activities. We'll be at SE Linn from 4 to 5 PM, and then have planning and a light meal in the Common Ground, followed by our regular meeting at 6:30 PM. We'd love to have new input and involvement from our church family, so if you have a heart for outreach and helping others, please consider becoming involved in our activities.

Discussion for future projects will include: SE Linn Bulk Food donations, Mission of Hope meal on Sept. 25, Women at the Well, Holiday community support, Mission trip (s), Blanket ministry, Service Sunday, and Meals on Wheels. If you have interest in these or other outreach projects, we WELCOME new ideas and new faces. By working together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ in the Mount Vernon & Lisbon communities.

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

Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 9:30 to 11 am

Starting Tuesday Sept 12th

"The Amazing Collection" study

Join us in the balcony classroom — All are welcome

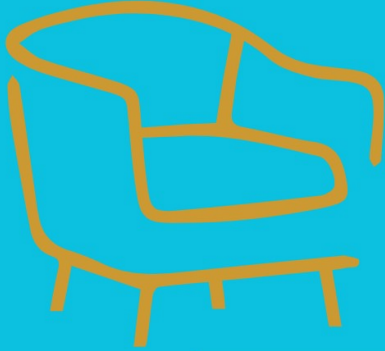
People can call or text any questions to leader, Cathy Stoner, 319-551-6666



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 beloved by God.

WISDOM

Wednesday



**“THEREFORE ENCOURAGE
ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD
ONE ANOTHER UP, JUST AS
YOU ARE DOING”**

-- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF MOUNT VERNON**

Everyone is welcome
304 1st St. SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

“Turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding “
(Proverbs 2:2)

Wisdom Wednesdays

Have you ever struggled with something and felt better after sharing it with a trusted friend or confidant? There are times we feel like we are the only one struggling with parenthood or the only one feeling knee deep in grief. Maybe it is anxiety or another mental health issue that weighs heavily. We truly never know what others are dealing with, but rest assured, we all have struggles.

Often it is a conversation with another that leads me to some comfort of knowing I am not alone and I don't have to figure things out on my own. Not only do we have community to come along side of us, but as people of faith we ultimately know we are truly never alone, as the Holy Spirit abides with us always.

Let's join in community and share our thoughts, concerns and wisdom with one another. As Care Coordinator I plan to facilitate a variety of "Wisdom Wednesdays" where we can come together and gain comfort and support from one another while also gaining wisdom about topics of interest. As a community of faith, we will join together to address hard topics and be reminded that we are not alone in our journey.

The first "Wisdom Wednesday" will take place on **October 4th**. The first topic we will be addressing and learning more about is **grief**. If you or a loved one is dealing with grief, or you want to learn more about how to support others through their grief, please join us. As I strive to meet the needs of all schedules, the same content will be provided at two different times on the 4th. Join in at 2:00 or 6:30 PM. We will be meeting in the balcony classroom, signs will be posted to help guide you.

I look forward to joining you in discussion and the opportunity for us to encourage one another.

With love and care, Julie Baty, UMCMV Care Coordinator

Mount Vernon Community Preschool Update: September 2023

Back to preschool! We are thrilled to be continuing the mission of UMCMV for the 58th year and opening our doors to almost 40 preschool children and their families this school year! While classes are just getting underway, we are so thankful that we were able to start on time.

The classrooms look amazing thanks to the hard work from the construction teams and church members who made it all possible.

Thank you especially to Jim, Jeff, Kevin, Susan, Alison, Jamie, Joe, Alex, Seth and the team at Night Shift. There are others who I am forgetting to mention but I greatly appreciate all the time and help these individuals took out of their days to plan, communicate, support and provide muscle for the various projects that were being completed. You all made the process so much easier on the preschool and for that we are grateful!



Teachers for this year are:

Ellen Mueller, director and lead teacher on M/W/F and T/Th.

Sherry Grunder, lead teacher on M/W/F and T/Th

Stephanie Whisner, teacher on M/W/F

We appreciate your prayers for the children, their families and the teachers for a safe and healthy school year.

Preschool Contact Information: mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com, 563-321-0752





A Note of Thanks:

To everyone who is helping with the renovation and memorial projects!

To everyone who has volunteered to help with our children and youth programs!

To everyone who made worship at Bass Farms possible!

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

Reaching Cornell College Students and Young Adults

Do you have a heart for strengthening our connection to Cornell College, or for reaching out to young adults in general? We are in the early stages of forming a team to begin intentionally connecting! Give me a call, email or text if you want to be a part of the planning or the actual events!

From Pastor Vicki: Nominations season begins!

Friends, we are about to enter the season where leaders are recruited to serve the church in the coming years. What do I look for in key leadership roles? I look for people who are faithful, available, and curious. Faithful- are they faithful in attendance and giving? If they were on a committee before, did they attend the meetings? Available- are they physically able to attend? Do they have time in their schedule for this commitment? Curious – are they **teachable**? Are they good listeners? Can they learn from people they disagree with? Are they growing? If you have an interest in serving on Staff/Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, Worship, Education, Missions, Memorials, Endowment, or any other capacity, please let me know and I will pass your name onto the Nominations Team when they begin to meet. Thanks

Resources for growing your faith:

YouVersion Bible app: This app can read the Bible to you and provides several versions of the Bible for your devotional reading. You can adjust settings so it reminds you to spend time in the Scriptures.

Lectio 365: This offers short devotionals twice a day that can either be read to you or that you can read.

Bibleproject.com This website offers a mess of videos that provide historical and cultural context as they overview different books of the Bible.



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 |

CELEBRATE • DEER
God Creates the Earth

2023-2024
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF MOUNT
VERNON
SUNDAY SCHOOL

**STARTING SUNDAY SEPT. 10TH
SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH
SCHOOL**