



## **JULY 2024 *Circuit Rider* Newsletter**

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](http://www.umcmv.com)

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

### **Pondering on the Paha:**

John Pavlovitz in his book, "Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending" invites his readers to "remember how much is still worth fighting for. A rapidly heating planet being swallowed up by unchecked gluttony is worth it. A fractured nation teetering precariously on the edge of implosion is worth it. An American church that is poisoned with white supremacy and devoid of Jesus is worth it. The human and civil rights rapidly evaporating around us are worth it."

In July, we will begin a message series on Creating Community. We will explore the cause of divisions in our country, our community, and our homes. We will ask how we can become buildings of community in a culture that is focused on divisions. People are worth it. People matter. In John 17: 20-23, Jesus prays for the future church: "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me... I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." When we work together, it reveals Christ among us. Jesus promised his disciples that the world would know we are his followers by our love for each other.

Why is it so hard? How can we disagree with grace? How can we care for people who have become hard-hearted and closed-minded? I pray you join us this summer for this crucial series on Creating Community.

Pastor Vicki

**Pastor's Letter**

# Message Series:

July & August

## “Creating Community: Why can’t we just get along?”

In this 8-week series, we will address the stresses of living in community. Why are there so many arguments? Why are people so petty? Why am I afraid to confront them? Why is it so hard to get along? People have been fighting ever since Cain and Abel (and we all know how that ends). Even in the times of Jesus, the disciples fought and bickered. How can we have a healthier church community? How can we have

better fights with our loved ones? How can we avoid personal attacks even as we work on interpersonal conflicts? We will begin with scripture each week and add new tools to the relationship toolbox each week. This series begins July 7!

If you want to go deeper, I’d suggest “Crucial Conversations Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High” by Patterson and “Worth Fighting For” by John Pavlovitz.

### July 7: “Creating Community: Where do we even start?”

Isaiah 43:1-7, Jeremiah 29:4-14

### July 14: “Creating Community: Who is the Greatest?” (The Sin Problem)

Genesis 4:1-8, Luke 22:14-30

### July 21: “Creating Community: Can you hear me now?” (Listening)

Ephesians 4:25-32, James 1:19-27

### July 28: “Creating Community: What stories am I believing?” (Reflection)

Matthew 18:15-22, Psalm 139

**Creating Community:  
Why can’t we just get  
along?**



**A 8 Week Series on the stresses of  
living in community.**

**Why are there so many arguments?**

**Why are people so petty?**

**Starting Sunday July 7 @ UMCMV**

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



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 & 10:15 am**

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

**Our Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Our Vision:** Building a healthier faith community with trust, love, and empowerment.



### **Our missional priorities (goals) for 2024:**

- 1) Create and install a covenant for leadership.
- 2) Increase opportunities for meaningful relationships.
- 3) Improve transparency of governance.



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.

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](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net). She will be taking Thursdays as her Sabbath, except in dire emergencies.



## Thank you's:

To Brittany Booth and Denise Havill for cleaning up behind the scenes!

To our Trustees and Friends for their work on landscaping! It looks great!

To everyone who helped with the funeral and memorial open house. You are blessings!

To Kim Guardado, Clint Stanerson, and Jim Baty for filling the pulpit while Pastor was at Conference and on vacation!

To Kim Guardado, Jim and Julie Baty, and Renee Nydegger for attending Annual Conference!

To Barb Shepley and Julie Baty, for all their extra work behind the scenes this month!

To the fellowship hosts who bring treats and serve drinks on Sunday morning!



### **Kids and Families: join us in the Heritage Days Parade!**

We are looking for kids to help hand out water behind our float in the Heritage Days Parade! Contact Pastor Vicki to volunteer at 712-563-6094 or [vicki.fisher@iaumc.net](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net)

## **Christian Education and Youth Ministries Director Update:**

### **Welcome Mandy Moellering!**

Mandy Moellering lives here in Mount Vernon with her husband Mike, and three children (Max-21, Laila-19 and Spencer-15). Mandy is a pre-school educator at Bright Starts Christian Preschool in North Liberty, and comes to us having served as a Director of Children's Ministry for several years at FUMC of North Liberty. Mandy is passionate about teaching tiny humans about God's love, encouraging children and youth ministry through their participation in Worship and serving their neighbors. Mandy's favorite VBS song is "My Lighthouse", and her favorite mission trip was to aid flood victims in Greeley, Colorado. In her extra time Mandy enjoys Disney World, arranging flowers and theatre of all kinds!





## JULIAN JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Five students have been awarded Julian Johnston Scholarships of \$500 each for the 2024-25 academic year.

Anna Hoffman is a senior 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 or pursue a PhD in economics. She is the daughter of Loren and Jennifer Hoffman.

Isabelle Krapfl is a senior 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 along with a minor in Art. Isabelle plans to attend graduate school to obtain a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology.

Anna Nydegger is a senior 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.

Lauren Swartzendruber is the daughter of Darin and Angela Swartzendruber. She is a junior at St. Ambrose University. Lauren is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

Tessa Baty is a junior at Carthage College. Tessa is working towards a degree in English and a minor in Communications. She is the daughter of Jim and Julie Baty.

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 27th year the Memorials Committee has offered the scholarship.

A certificate and check will be awarded to each of the scholarship recipients during the July 28th worship services.

### ***Finance Committee Update***

*The Heritage Days Food Booth is one of our largest fundraisers of the year. Please consider using [the signup genius](#), or call the church office to sign up to be a part of this effort. As of now, we have 33 of 58 volunteer spots open, about half of the donations remaining, we still need 4 10x10 tents.*

*In other news, our Ed Wing is nearing a year old. With winter months behind us, we are showing a \$4000 reduction in our utilities over last year. This represents over a 15% savings. It's very exciting to see an investment in our facilities pay off in such a visible way.*

***-Adam Krapfl, Finance Chair***

## **NEW !!!! Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki**

**Tuesdays 11:30 am to 12:30**

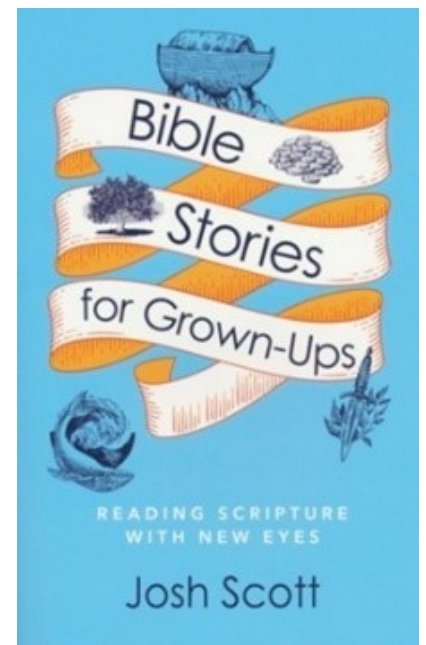
**Common Ground Meeting Room**

**Starting July 9 for 8 weeks**

**New Study: Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes by Josh Scott**

Join Pastor Vicki on Tuesdays over lunch as we look at some of the most famous stories in the Bible. This seven week study begins July 9 and will meet on Tuesdays in the Common Grounds from 11:30-12:30. Books are \$18.

**RSVP to [vicki.fisher@iaumc.net](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net) by July 4.**



How to contact United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

Office Phone # (319) 895-6286

Email: [alisondix@umcmv.com](mailto:alisondix@umcmv.com)

Website: [www.umcmv.com](http://www.umcmv.com)

[ONLINE GIVING LINK \(or QR code\)](#)

<https://bit.ly/UMCMVonlinegiving>



**Congrats to Alison Dix on Completing Licensing School! Alison is now eligible to be assigned a church, if she desires and as openings arise! Congratulations!**

**A note from Alison: Thank you for all the care and support you have given me through this process– and I will probably need your prayers to continue to support and help me in the waiting!**

### **Scams:**

Pastor Vicki, Bishop Kennetha, and our church will never ask you to buy gifts cards. There are a number of email and text scams out there. Thanks for your generosity through electronic giving, on-line giving, mail in gifts, and Sunday offering!

# TRUSTEES CORNER

We would like to give everyone an update on what is happening around the church. Below are a few bullet points:

- The landscaping of the south wall has been completed.
- The updates per the State of Iowa regarding the boilers has been completed.
- The boilers (heat) have been turned off.

Air Conditioners are on in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Common Ground and Fellowship Hall. Please keep all doors closed to these rooms so they can stay cool. If you should open any windows or plug in any fans in the church, please shut them or unplug them when you leave the room, if you are not able to do that, please ask someone else too.

A reminder to shut off Lights in rooms when you are done using them thanks.

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

Susan Pisarik — Chair  
Kevin Woods, Co Chair  
Kristi Keast Secretary

Warren Havill  
Mundo Guardado  
Loren Hoffman

Mary Jane McWilliams  
Monti Marti  
Jay Currie



## Inclusion Team: Join us!

The United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon has a small team working on growing our message of inclusion. We hope to focus on training, education, signage, messaging, and out-

reach. To learn more, contact Kim Schwiebert at [pk.schwiebert@live.com](mailto:pk.schwiebert@live.com).



# Mission Committee

## JULY Update

Summer is here, and with it are some different opportunities that we invite you to consider as your time allows. These Mission experiences give us chances to reach out to others, connect with those in our congregation also involved in the project, and be inspired to grow and develop as Christians in our busy lives. Please consider being involved in something beyond our traditional church activities this summer.

On Friday, June 28 we have a UMCMV team participating in the Matthew 25 Transform week in Cedar Rapids. Home repairs, yard work, painting, and clean up will be done for those who cannot do these tasks themselves. On July 1, our church is serving a meal at the Mission of Hope center in Cedar Rapids. Those who participate find a daily meal gives them a stable, nutritious diet in spite of their low income.

On Saturday, July 13 our committee is again organizing a Heritage Day parade float for our church. Participants can walk or ride in an open vehicle, waving and passing our water or the parade observers. Let the office know if you'd like to be involved, and we'll share more information.

Vacation Bible School, Summer church camps, and Sunday services all help us grow in our faith and Christian commitment during a break from our school year activities. Enjoy your summer experiences as part of the UMCMV.

Your Mission Committee

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



### Help Wanted:

**Choir Director:** 14-16 hours a month, 9 months of the year. The choir shares in worship 3 times a month. Please contact Pastor Vicki at [vicki.fisher@iaumc.net](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net) for more information.

**Custodian:** 8-12 hours a week, including weekend hours. Please contact Pastor Vicki

for more information at [vicki.fisher@iaumc.net](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net).



# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> Mission of Hope lunch prep-Kitchen 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 5pm VBS - Potluck & Family Events - @ Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon Iowa	<b>1</b> 11:00am Mission of Hope Lunch - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 1:00pm VBS -- Afternoon of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon Iowa	<b>2</b> 1:00pm VBS -- Afternoon of Fun - Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon Iowa	<b>3</b> 1:00pm VBS -- Afternoon of Fun - Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon Iowa 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>4</b> Church offices closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>7</b> 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki-Bible Stories for Grown Up, Common Ground meeting room 7:00pm Church Council meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Diversity Team, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Youth Group Planning Meeting, Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lis-	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Heritage Days Food Booth prep, Kitchen & Fellowship hall	<b>13</b> Heritage Days Food Booth Fundraiser 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>14</b> 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Christian Education planning meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room  7:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	<b>16</b> 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki-Bible Stories for Grown Up, Common Ground meeting room	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>21</b> 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki-Bible Stories for Grown Up, Common Ground meeting room	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>28</b> Awarding Julian Johnston Scholarships at worships 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki-Bible Stories for Grown Up, Common Ground meeting room	<b>31</b> 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings

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

### Prayers for Healing:

- For Pat Sorgenfrey currently at St. Lukes Transitional Care, recovering from a recent fall. Prayers of healing for her leg
- Prayers for Ron Coe (and Ann) as he continues to recover from heart surgery over the next few months
- Continued prayers for Truman Jordan as he continues to recover from knee replacement surgery
- For Mark McAndrew who fell and suffered a head injury. Prayers for Mark (and his wife Deena) as he continues recovery at the rehabilitation hospital in Coralville
- For Jon Hartzler's brother, Chris & family. Chris is fighting brain cancer. Chris and his wife, Molly, have four children
- For Linda Noll who is receiving treatment for brain cancer
- For our family and friends who are struggling with mental health issues
- For our friends and family members who are brave every day, facing their health battles

### Prayers for Comfort and Strength and Safety:

- For the family and friends of Dennis Murphy (brother to Jody Stewart and Cheryl Studt). Dennis was a beloved by our church community and passed away on June 7th. We lift his loved ones up in prayer during this time
- For the friends and family of Linda Noll, as they walk along side her as she deals with her cancer diagnosis
- For Jon and Maggie Hartzler as they support Jon's brother through his battle with cancer
- For all who are grieving
- For those concerned with health issues
- For all who are struggling: emotionally, physically or spiritually

### Prayers for Transition:

- For all teachers, students, and administrators to have a refreshing and blessed summer vacation
- For the leaders of UCMCV 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 have been impacted by the flooding in Iowa, Lord, please be with each one affected and let them feel your presence in their lives
- For the war between Israel and Hamas to come to an end, and for those who have lost their lives, have lost their loved ones and who fear for their lives
- For the residents of Greenfield, Iowa, as they work hard to recover from the tornado that devastated their community
- For all who have had lives impacted by the trauma of gun violence
- For peace for all nations; Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers
- Prayers that love will spread across this world, that God's love will reach all the world

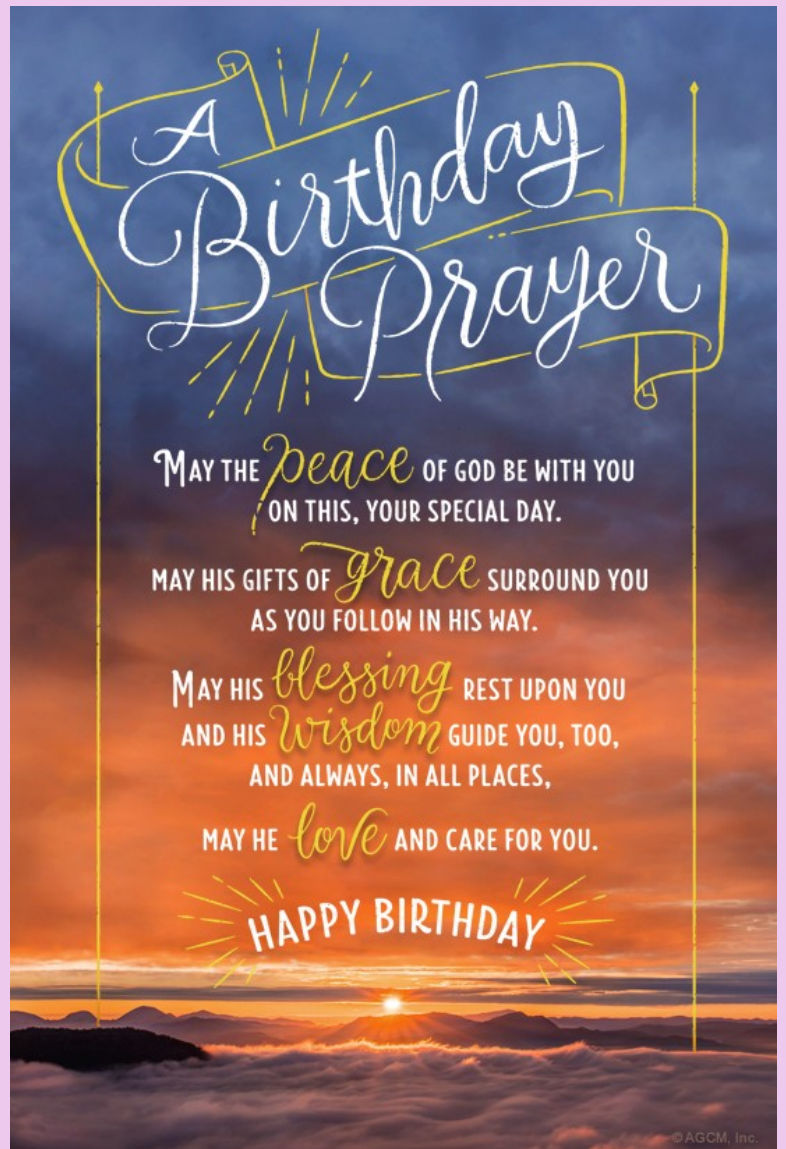
### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- With joy we celebrate the anniversary of one year in ministry with Pastor Vicki and Fisher, we have been blessed by their presence in our church
- We give praise that Ron Coe's heart surgery and Truman Jordan's knee surgery were both successful and they are both now working on recovery
- With thankful hearts we praise God for our blessings & take comfort that He knows the yearnings of our hearts

# JULY Birthdays

**Happy  
Birthday!**

<b>Dorothy Rilett</b>	<b>07/01</b>
<b>Jacob Stewart</b>	<b>07/01</b>
<b>Jim Wallace</b>	<b>07/02</b>
<b>Matt Stewart</b>	<b>07/03</b>
<b>Maggie Hartzler</b>	<b>07/09</b>
<b>Cathy Stoner</b>	<b>07/09</b>
<b>Florence Reinken</b>	<b>07/11</b>
<b>Chad Conrad</b>	<b>07/14</b>
<b>Marilyn</b>	<b>07/15</b>
<b>Cot Graber</b>	<b>07/19</b>
<b>Luke Rushford</b>	<b>07/22</b>
<b>Seth Rushford</b>	<b>07/22</b>
<b>Marj Whitley</b>	<b>07/22</b>
<b>Kay Graber</b>	<b>07/23</b>
<b>Preston Johnson</b>	<b>07/24</b>
<b>Jay Currie</b>	<b>07/29</b>





# Education Corner



## Vacation Bible School

Just Like Me! VBS starts this Sunday!

Sunday's evening is for EVERYONE! A POTLUCK Gathering @ 5 PM to 7:30 Pm

And then Monday through Wednesday July 1st - July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Are from 1 to 4 pm each day.

@ SEEDS OF Faith Lutheran Church in Lisbon Iowa on Business Hwy 30—just past Dollar General

There is still time to sign up today at [www.tinyurl.com/vbs2024mvl](http://www.tinyurl.com/vbs2024mvl) !

Donate to help save a child's life- he needs a Bone Marrow Transplant!

Per Jim Baty: Please think about assisting me in this effort! I have set up a GoFundMe fundraiser for this little boy, Kato Killian from Uganda. He is the nephew of one of the delegates that I've mentioned in my reports. They are desperately seeking funding to help him survive sickle cell anemia. <https://bit.ly/4cdcJZ2>

### Save Kato's Life

Together for Kato Killian: Help Kato Get the Life-Saving Bone Marrow Transplant He Needs

Kato, a precious 5-year-old, has been diagnosed with Sickle Cell Disease, a genetic disorder that affects hemoglobin production. His only hope for a cure is a bone marrow transplant, which is possible with your support.

The Goal: **\$50,000** for a Life-Saving Operation in India by December







# Vacation Bible School



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



First Presbyterian Church



Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church

## JOIN US FOR VBS THIS SUMMER!

- When:** Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30pm (multi-generational)  
Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4pm
- Where:** Seeds of Faith, 798 Brenneman Lane, Lisbon
- Who:** Pre-K (must be potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade as of Fall 2024
- Registration:** Requested but not required by June 16<sup>th</sup>

<https://tinyurl.com/vbs2024mvl>





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  
 Kid’s Ministry & Director  
 of Youth Ministries.....Mandy Moellering  
 Congregational Care Coordinator ..... Julie Baty  
 Office Manager.....Alison Dix  
 Nursery Care . . . . .Melissa McNeese  
 Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .Kristi Keast  
 Organist ..... Karen Stoll  
 Chancel Choir Director  
 Choir Accompanist Deb Forbes  
 Event Coordinator..... Barb Shepley  
 Financial Secretaries .....Tim Legore &  
 Jackie Morriscal  
 Treasurers . . . . . Mike Kragenbrink  
 Alison Dix

**Creating Community:  
 Why can't we just get  
 along?**



**A 8 Week Series on the stresses of  
 living in community.**

**Why are there so many arguments?**

**Why are people so petty?**

**Starting Sunday July 7 @ UMCMV**

**Join us for Worship!**  
**Invite a Friend!**