



## **JUNE 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:** I love it when a church comes together!

## Pastor's Letter

On June 26, 1999, I was a brand new UMC pastor, moving into the parsonage at Graettinger, Iowa. My first Sunday, I was so nervous that I sprinted through the sermon and we were done with worship in 35 minutes. That mini-message became a matter of much ribbing in the 7 years of ministry we shared together at the Graettinger church. This June marks 25 years of pastoral ministry. It is an honor and a privilege to a part of the work God is doing in the church.

Pastoral ministry is weird. I've had funerals and met with families to plan baptisms on the same day. I've left the ER after visiting with a bereaved family to go to a church picnic. I've been invited to visit newborns and have been in the room as saints have died. There's no other job quite like it. I get to share in the highs and lows of the church family, and it's an amazing journey.

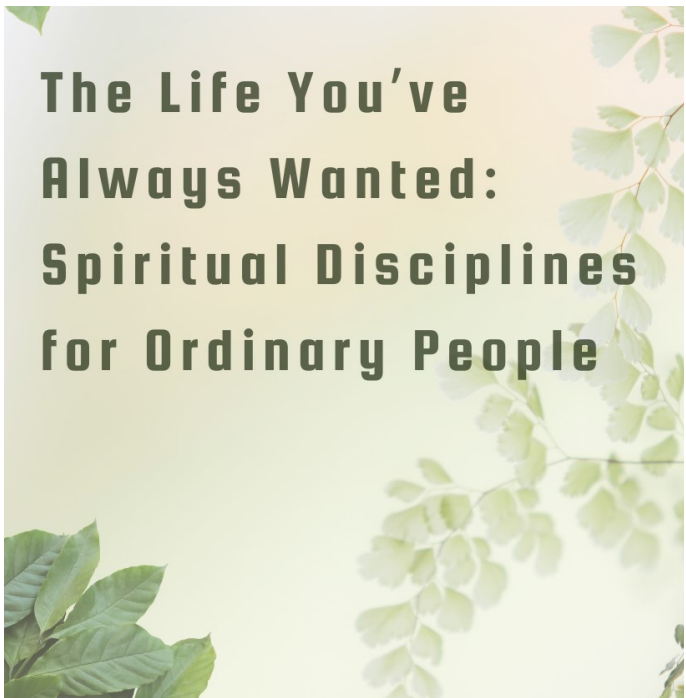
I grew up watching "The A Team". One of John Smith's sayings from that show remains in common use today: "I love it when a plan comes together!" Ministry, when it's not births, deaths, and emergencies, is about bringing a plan and a people together. It's been incredible to come together and do valuable ministry with our church. Whether in the Ed. Wing renovations, or youth ministries, or caring for a neighbor, or updating our landscaping – we are a church that comes together and gets things done. We've welcomed newcomers, helped our hungry neighbors, and cared for the hurting. I love it when a church comes together!

On June 16, last year, we moved into Mount Vernon. I arrived with high hopes. This church has exceeded my expectations. I'm so glad for the ways we have seen God at work and I can't wait to see what comes next!

Thanks for sharing the journey!

Pastor Vicki

# Message Series: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People



The Life You've  
Always Wanted:  
Spiritual Disciplines  
for Ordinary People

What are some practical ways we can follow Jesus? How can we grow a deeper faith life? How can I experience God's grace? During June, we will continue looking at Spiritual Disciplines using John Ortberg's book "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People," as a resource.

**6/2 Jim Baty preaches on the Spiritual Discipline of Creating a rule for life, Pastor Vicki on vacation**

**6/9 Clint Stanerson Preaches, Pastor Vicki at Annual Conference**

**6/16 Father's Day! Pastor Vicki preaches on the Spiritual Discipline of Receiving Divine Guidance**

**6/23 Kim Guardado preaches on the Spiritual Discipline of Suffering, Pastor Vicki on vacation**

**6/30 Pastor Vicki wraps up our series talking about the Spiritual Discipline of Secrecy.**

**FYI: Summer Worship times are changed- Traditional Worship service is at 10:15 AM for JUNE, JULY and AUGUST**

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.



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

The SPRC has begun interviewing for our new Christian Education and Youth Ministries Director! Please pray for their discernment and that the right candidate is hired.



**Town Hall – Save the date: June 12, 6 p.m**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Join us for food, a time of table fellowship, and the latest news from our lay leadership!**

**What are our hopes for the future? What work has our lay leadership been doing? What's next?**

**It's going to be fun, informative, and hope-filled!**

**Everyone is welcome!**

## ***Church Council Corner: Administrative Council Update***

Thank you for reading this communication. Doing so is part of our plan for improving the transparency of operations and information in the church and you are helping us realize that. I want to express how thankful I am as your current Council Chair. This is my second time serving as chair and we are making a lot happen. You hopefully know of the church celebrations such as completing and paying off the Education Wing Renovation and our recent class of confirmands. Council set goals for this year of improving transparency (awareness); instituting a Covenant relationship for members; and, increasing the opportunities for building meaningful relationships. Nearly six months into our year, I am very pleased to report that our transparency analytics indicate success as we have added numerous town halls and see an increase in our readership. We have officially ratified a Covenant for the church and you will soon be seeing and hearing about it while receiving an invitation to participate. We now look ahead to strategies to continue our primary goal of building meaningful relationships in new ways. This particularly involves you. We want this church to remain a safe, reliable and faith-building hub for your life. Please watch for more and let me know what might make a difference for you.

Sincerely, Jim Baty, UMCMV Chair of Church Council.

## **Julian Johnston Scholarship—Deadline June 10**

College students who are entering either their junior or senior year at an accredited 4-year institution for the 2024-25 academic year and who are members of the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon are eligible for the Julian Johnston Scholarship award administered by the church's memorial committee.

Julian Johnston, a former Mount Vernon businessman, provided for this scholarship in his will as appreciation for money he received from this church to enable him to finish his education at Cornell. Dividends from his Chevron stock given to the church provide the funding for this scholarship. Awards may be \$500 or \$1000 depending on the number of chosen applications and the actual funds available

Applicants need to 1) fill out demographic information, 2) write a one-page letter describing the financial need and their career goals, and 3) provide a letter of recommendation to be considered by the evaluation committee. Application letters were emailed to our church members who were high school graduates in 2021 or 2022. Other eligible members may request application information from the church office. There is no age limit. Completed applications must be received by the church office by Monday June 10, 2024. Awards will be announced by June 28th.

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

#### ***Ed Wing Loan Update***

As of 5/14, the \$56,650 loan was repaid, and remaining contributions towards debt reduction were applied to replenish the Trustees window fund line item. Contributions of \$4,558 and an endowment distribution of \$4000, leave the the window fund short **\$4,571** of its original \$13,129 balance. We will continue to apply any contributions towards debt to the window fund, and will let you know when it is back to it's original balance.

#### **It's Summer!**

As of April, the general fund balance is **\$20,613**, which is about \$9,000 below the April 2023 balance. The good news is, the debt is all but behind us! Please remember, however, that giving does tend to drop off in the summer months. If you haven't looked into electronic giving, reach out to the office to get that set up.

Thank you for ***all*** of your support, financial or otherwise.

-Adam Krapfl, Finance Chair



## Lunch & Learn Book Study with Pastor Vicki

Tuesdays 11:30 am to 12:30

Common Ground Meeting Room

Continues through June 11th

Tuesday lunch study of the book "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People" from 11:30-12:30.

### Message Series: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People

What are some practical ways we can follow Jesus? How can we grow a deeper faith life? How can I experience God's grace? Tuesdays at lunch we will talk about tools for growing our faith as a church community. We will be using John Ortberg's book "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People," as a resource.

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>



### Giving to storm relief

If you are wanting to contribute to storm relief, feel free to give and put "Iowa Disaster Response" in the check description and at the end of June, we will send it in to the UMCOR offering to assist in storm clean up and rebuilding.



Or feel free to give online [Special Advance #223](#) Thanks!

Website for online giving: <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/lowaDisasterResponseDonations>

## Trustees Project List:

In addition to regular maintenance around the building our Trustees are looking ahead at potential projects and needs around our church. Some of the items include:

- Update landscaping on south side of Education Wing.
- Tuckpointing and structural work on the church.
- Replacing the east exterior banister. (Some parts are rusting through at the base.)
- Moving compressors/condensers closer to sanctuary. Right now, their lines get clogged, and the air movers can't work properly. This is an issue on the hot summer Sundays.
- Stained glass windows settling.
- Addressing moisture issues in the basement.
- Sidewalk work
- Updates at the parsonage (rotten windowsills, broken window, etc.)

Your faithful giving to the budget helps us accomplish projects that keep our building beautiful and safe! Thank you! Are you handy? Willing workers are always wanted to help the Trustees!



## 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).



# Education Corner



**Vacation Bible School**

Just Like Me!  
VBS is coming up  
June 30th - July  
3<sup>rd</sup> so get signed  
up today at

[www.tinyurl.com/  
vbs2024mvl](http://www.tinyurl.com/vbs2024mvl) !



## Financial Roller Coaster:

Our church wide survey in 2023 (the CAT) revealed that our church is in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in regard to giving. We are generous givers! This has been revealed recently by paying off our Education Wing and by our pledges to our budget. However, our generosity has a lot of ups and downs. Summer, especially, can be challenging for churches. What's the answer? Setting up electronic giving! Electronic monthly giving provides the church with a predictable income and also helps its supporters stay faithful in their generosity. **For more information contact the church office or Jackie Morrical.**

In addition to our regular bills, we have several Trustees projects that we hope to address in coming years. From challenges with the sanctuary air condition, to stain glass windows that need upkeep. Your generosity, in regular giving, and to meet special needs helps keep our church focused and growing! Your donations of time and skilled labor help keep our costs down. Thank you!

~ Pastor Vicki



## Welcome to new Members: Roger and Kally DeYoung!

### General Conference News:

Regionalization passed and now needs to be ratified by 2/3 of the Annual Conferences world-wide.

Removal of harmful language (incompatible, homosexual) was accomplished as were punishments for officiating at a same sex wedding or being in a same sex marriage. This is effective immediately.

We have a revised set of Social Principles!

For more information about the work of General Conference, check out the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0MIgpdq8Ng>

Articles: <https://www.umnews.org/en/>

Thanks to Jim Baty for his work as a General Conference Representative!

### Thank you's:

To Barb Shepley, for all of her work behind the scenes!

To Brittany Booth, for your work with our Children's ministries.

To Monte, Terry, Kevin, Warren, Tim, Denise, Mike and Karen, for your work on our grounds.

To Jim Baty for filling the pulpit and sharing your General Conference Joy!

To Jay, Fisher, Jackie, Linda, Diane, Janet, and Kevin for your work in the Tech Booth!

To our SPRC for their extra work during this time of transition.

### 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!



## Mission Committee June Update

As you move into your summer activities and get-aways, we are hoping some of those will include mission activities with the UMCMV.

Our bulk food drive for Southeast Linn Food Pantry (held in March, June, September, and December) is in the next few weeks. You will receive your letter in the mail with the pantry needs, an explanation of the process, and a return envelope. SE

Linn continues to see rising numbers of users for this essential service, and our church is a key supporter of this food supply. Thank you for supporting this important local project.

On June 28, our church is organizing a mission day to be involved with TRANSFORM WEEK with Matthew 25 in Cedar Rapids. Our team will do home repair, yard work, and painting in a low-income area of Cedar Rapids. The team will remain together all day, working on projects assigned to us through Matthew 25. Tools and lunch will be provided (although you may bring personal tools if you like). Adults, youth, and children (with an adult) are invited to join Kevin Woods, Marc Mohn, and Ron Coe, our leaders for this event. Call Alison at the office to let her know you would like to contribute and be a part of this team.

On Saturday, July 13, we are again celebrating our wonderful community as we participate in Heritage Days. The church is organizing our “Methodist Food Stand” and the Mission Committee is again organizing a pick-up and gator “float” for the parade. We’d love to have you join us to ride in the pick-up, walk in the parade, or pass out bottles of water to parade viewers to help to keep our active congregation visible in the community. More info on meeting times and apparel will be shared the last part of June in the mid-week update. Mark your calendars for this fun event!

We look forward to your involvement in several of these important events.

UMCMV Mission Committee

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

### **TRANSFORM 2024: Volunteer to be a home repair HERO!**

We as a Mission group will be serving this year as part of this great outreach in close by Cedar Rapids. Matthew 25 works to help many homeowners who face challenges that prevent them from being able to complete basic home maintenance or repairs. Matthew 25’s Transform program matches homeowners with community volunteers who can help complete home repair or landscaping projects that make both homes and neighborhoods safer, healthier, and more uplifted.

We are assembling a TEAM for FRIDAY JUNE 28 of mission workers to work on a project— let us know if you are interested. (Contact the church office to say you are interested in joining the team!)

# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>28</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 5:00pm Lions club training - Fellowship Hall / Youth Room / Library  6:30pm Evening book club, Ed Wing Table  7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>29</b> Alison out of office Pastor Vicki on vacation 10:00am Limited Church Office Hours 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>30</b> Alison out of office Pastor Vicki on vacation 10:00am Limited Church Office Hours	<b>31</b> Alison out of office Pastor Vicki on vacation 10:00am Limited Church Office Hours	<b>1</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>2</b> Guest Message by Jim Baty Pastor Vicki on vacation 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	<b>3</b> Alison out of office	<b>4</b> Alison out of office 11:30am Lunch & Learn: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>5</b> Alison out of office 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2024 Annual Conference- Des Moines	<b>8</b> 2024 Annual Conference- Des Moines 10:00am Baby Shower, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>9</b> 2024 Annual Conference- Des Moines Guest Message by Clint Stanerson 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	<b>10</b> Julian Johnson Scholarship Deadline	<b>11</b> 11:30am Lunch & Learn: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People, Common Ground Meeting Room 12:40pm Staff gathering / Meeting 6:30pm Missions meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00pm SPRC Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Town Hall, Fellowship Hall - join in the fun, food and find out what is happening! 6:30pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00am Garage Sale in Parking Lot, PEO / Fellowship Hall rain site 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>16</b> 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	<b>17</b> Alison Dix - Vacation 7:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	<b>18</b> Alison Dix - Vacation	<b>19</b> Alison Dix - Vacation 5:30pm Inclusion Team, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>20</b> Alison Dix - Vacation	<b>21</b> Alison Dix - Vacation	<b>22</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>23</b> Kim Guardado, Message Pastor Vicki on vacation 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary	<b>24</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation	<b>25</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>26</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary	<b>27</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation	<b>28</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation	<b>29</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>30</b> 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 10:15am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:30pm VBS - Potluck & Family Events - @ Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon Iowa						

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

### **Prayers for Healing:**

- For Jon Hartzler's brother, Chris, and his family. Chris is fighting brain cancer. Chris and his wife, Molly, have four children
- For Cathy Stoner, as she continues her recovery following knee replacement surgery
- For Linda Noll who has recently been diagnosed with 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 Ron Coe (and Ann) as he waits for his by-pass surgery, scheduled for June 6.
- For Lehman family as Fred is now receiving Hospice Care. We lift Fred and his entire family in our prayers during this time
- For the friends and family of Linda Noll, as they walk along side her as she deals with her recent 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 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
- For all participating in the Iowa Annual Conference, June 7th through 9th.

### **Prayers for our Nation and our World:**

- For all who are recovering from the recent tornado damage Nebraska and Iowa, especially Greenfield Iowa.
- 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

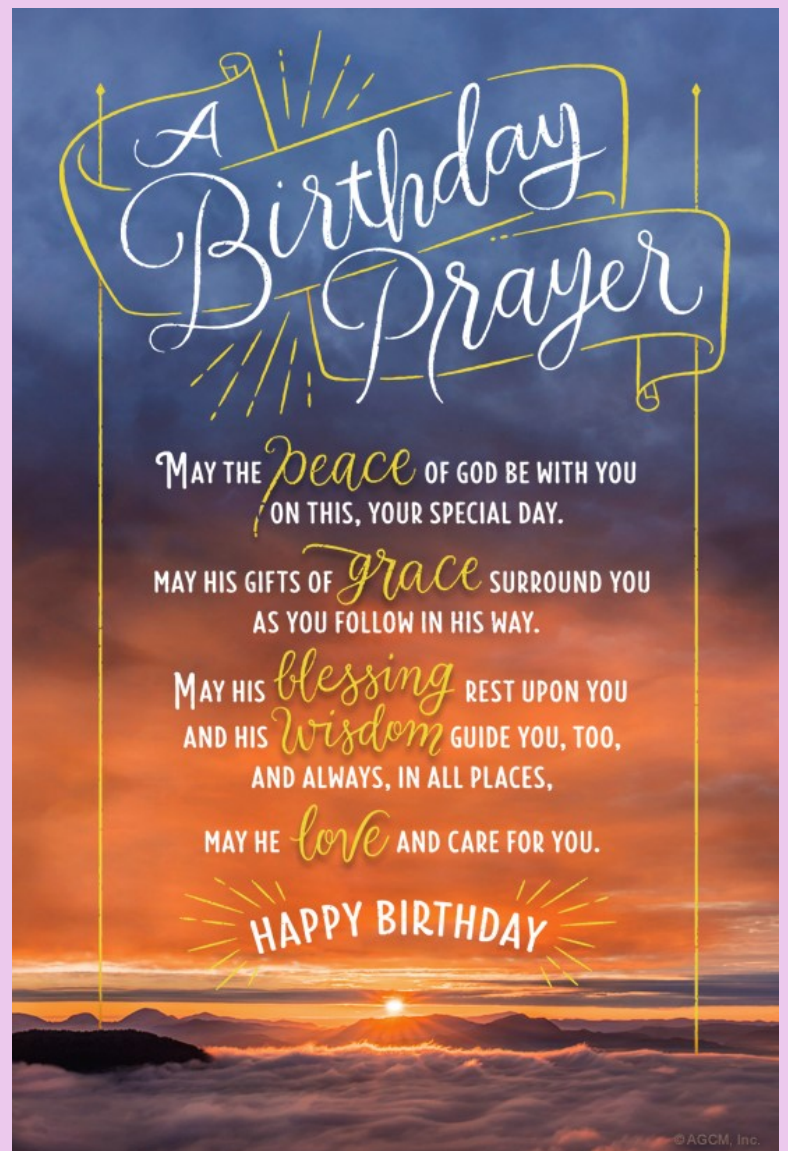
### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:**

- With grateful hearts we celebrate a positive General Conference and the progress that was made for our church to move forward
- We celebrate all of our graduating seniors
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives, and also take comfort that He knows the yearnings of our hearts

# June Birthdays

**Happy  
Birthday!**

Josephine Barnes	06/01
Hannah Bray	06/04
Alison Dix	06/04
Dixie Raiber	06/04
Levi Dausener	06/05
Kaedynce Hanson	06/06
Tena Pratt	06/06
Kristin Stewart	06/08
Cassidy Reinken	06/13
Tim Reynolds	06/13
Ann Booth	06/14
Becky Woodward	06/14
Isabelle Krapfl	06/19
Nathan Stewart	06/20
Payton Schwiebert	06/24
Doug Shannon	06/25
Warren Havill	06/27
Mae Krapfl	06/30



## TRUSTEES CORNER

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

- The plan is to finish up working on the landscaping of the south wall this month
- Taking care of the updates per the State of Iowa regarding the boilers.
- The boilers (heat) have been turned off.
- Not planning on turning on air unless needed, will have Johnson Control come in and check out the mini splits in the sanitary.
- If you should open any windows or plug in any fans in the church, please shut them or unplug them when done using them.
- Landscaping Group has been busy at work outside. It is really looking good!

Like what has been stated in the Trustees always have projects that need to be down if you would like to help, please give your name to anyone on the Trustees.

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

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, Mary Jane McWilliams, Mundo Guardado, Monti Marti, Loren Hoffman and Jay Currie

## Scrip Inventory Available

If you need a last minute gift or are planning a trip to Gary's and forgot to put a card on your last Scrip order – just contact Alison in the church office. Many times there are gift cards on-hand and your request can be filled immediately. Cards currently in stock include: Gary's, Casey's, Arby's, KwikStar, Red Robin, Hardee's, Papa Murphy's, BWW, Panda Express, and iTunes. If there are additional cards you would like, just place your order on the next date (15th of the month). You will always receive your cards within a week of the order.





# 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>



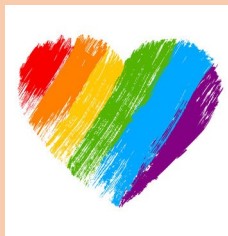


United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon  
 304 First Street SW  
 Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***United Methodist  
 Church  
 of Mount Vernon  
 Staff***

Senior Pastor . . . . .	Pastor Vicki Fisher
Praise Team Director-....	Clint Stanerson
Christian Education Director & Director of Youth Ministries...	
Congregational Care Coordinator	Julie Baty
Office Manager/Newsletter . . . . .	Alison Dix
Nursery Care . . . . .	Melissa McNeese
Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .	Kristi Keast
Organist	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Kit Currie
Choir Accompanist	Deb Forbes
Event Coordinator.....	Barb Shepley
Financial Secretaries .Tim Legore &	Jackie Morriscal
Treasurers . . . . .	Mike Kragenbrink Alison Dix



**Worship Times-  
 Summer**

**8:30 AM Praise Worship**

**10:15 AM Traditional  
 Worship**