



# March 2024 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](http://www.umcmv.com)

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

## Pondering on the Paha:

March 2024

# Pastor's Letter

### We Saved You a Place

Last night at Confirmation Class, we went through the vows the students will take at Confirmation. I explained to the students that this has to be their decision, and if they don't plan to come to church after they are confirmed, we should talk. I also told them this, "if you do drift from church, then start to feel awkward about coming back, please just come back. We will always be glad to see you! We will always be here for you!" That goes for anyone. If it's been a while, we are still here. Good things are happening! We would love to share the journey with you!

Easter is coming. It's a great day to begin again. Easter reminds us that our worst day is never our last day. Even death gets undone. Sorrow turns to joy. Hope springs anew. To be honest, we need to remember that. In a world that seems to be growing more calloused, and a nation that feels more divided, we need a hope that endures.

"We saved you a place" are some of my favorite words. It means I was expected and wanted. Someone was thinking of me and hoping I would show up. Friends, save a place for someone at church then invite them to brunch. If you're missing a friend who used to be in worship, give them a call. If you see a new face, across the aisle, make sure to include them as we pass the peace. Easter is coming! We've saved you a place!

You are loved, Pastor Vicki

### Thank YOU...

- To Warren and Denise for installing our new changing tables!
- To the anonymous donor who made them possible.
- To everyone who helped with the Cornell Concert, especially Clint Stanerson, Terry & Susan Pisarik, and Kristi Keast!
- To our Praise Team, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Karen Stoll for the consistently incredible music that we share every Sunday!



## **MARCH** Sunday Message Series:

### **Forgiveness**

We are in the middle of a message series called “**Total Forgiveness**”. If you’ve ever felt stuck in your spiritual life, as if you were meant to know more joy and be more faithful, a lack of total forgiveness might be part of the cause. We will explore the Bible’s understanding of forgiveness and why it is such a struggle, even for mature Christians.

### **3/3 Communion Sunday**

**Message: “How can I forgive myself?”**

Scriptures: Matthew 5:38-48, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

### **3/10 Message by Alison Dix - “Trust God?”**

### **3/17 Message: “How Can I Forgive God?”**

Healing service: Anointing with oil will be offered for those who want to receive.

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5, Isaiah 55:1-13

What do you do with a God who is confusing? What about all the evil in the world? Where is God when things fall apart?

### **3/24 Palm Sunday**

**Message: “The Party before the Passion”**

Scriptures: Psalm 24:1-10, Matthew 21: 1-11

How can you celebrate in the midst of suffering?

### **3/27 & 3/28 Stations of Jesus’ Life (for our Holy Thursday observation)**

As we prepare for Easter, we walk the stations of Jesus’ life. Let us journey with Christ as he makes his way to the cross. A great time to stop and reflect.

### **3/29 Good Friday -Tenebrae at First Presbyterian 7p.m.**

Tenebrae is a service where scriptures and songs relating to the cross are shared, and candles are extinguished as we remember the work of Christ.

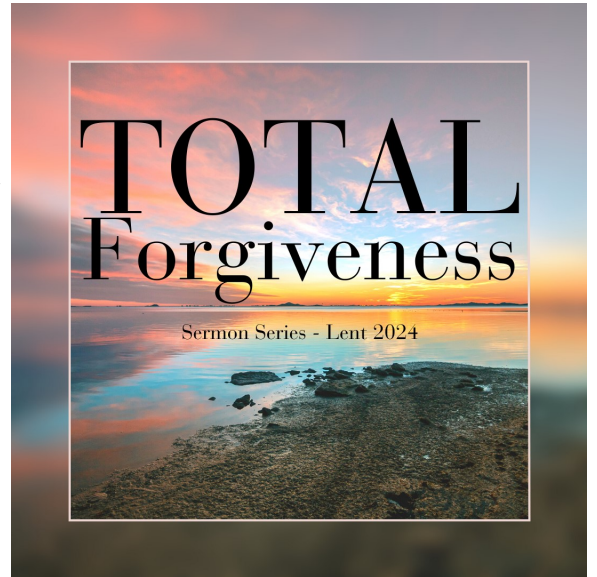
Three congregations are sharing this service: First Presbyterian, Seeds of Faith, and MVUMC.

### **3/31 Easter Sunday**

Message: “Fear and Joy”

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-15

How does the resurrection of Jesus change things?



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 11 am**

**Online at 8:30 & 11 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.






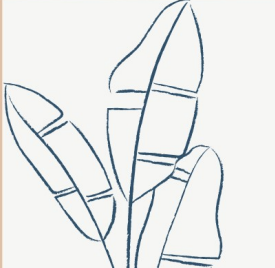


**Easter Sunday Services**  
**Sunday March 31**  
**Worship Services at**  
**8:30 AM & 11 AM**

**Stations of Jesus' Life**



As we prepare for Easter Sunday, we walk the Stations of Jesus' life.



Let us walk with Christ as he journey's to the cross...

**Stations of Jesus' Life**  
**will help you to reflect on his death**  
**and the coming of the Easter holiday.**  
**Wednesday March 27**  
**Noon to 6 pm**  
**Thursday March 28 Noon to 7 pm**

**Ecumenical Good Friday Worship**  
**Friday March 29 @ 7:00 PM**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon**  
**301 First St. SW, Mount Vernon IA**  
**52314**



Service of Tenebrae (which means "darkness")  
We will read through the last scenes of Jesus' life according to the Gospel of John, pausing along the way to sing, to pray, to sit in silence.

## UMCMV ENDOWMENT UPDATE

Our church has had an endowment for about 30 years. The endowment is a permanent fund, invested in a diversified portfolio, part of which is managed by the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. The principal of the endowment fund is never touched: only the income and appreciation from its investments is distributed for use by the church. These distributions can only be used for special projects or ministries that are not part of the church's annual budget. No distribution is made unless a positive annual return on the funds is achieved.

By the numbers:

Our endowment funds totaled about \$246,000 at the end of 2023.

Overall return on assets last year was about 4%.

Contributions to endowment since 2000 total about \$83,000.

Distributions from endowment since 2000 total about \$87,000, before 2023.

Prior distributions include \$28,000 toward the education wing renovations, given from 2017-2021, funding for parsonage renovations, various items of equipment, multiple roof repairs, a mission trip, and program materials for education, missions, discipleship and other ministries.

The majority of endowment gifts come from estates and memorials. However, anyone can give to the endowment any time. We accept cash, securities, annuity and insurance policy proceeds, and retirement plan distributions.

The Church Council has approved a distribution of \$6,000 from the endowment, based on 2023's positive return. See procedure for requesting a distribution on page 16 of this Circuit Rider.

What a blessing for our church to have this resource! And remember, a gift to endowment literally keeps on giving. Endowment is forever!

## Scrip Update

**Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! So far in 2024 we have raised over \$390 for the general operating expenses of the church! Put the order form/check in the collection plate or drop them off in the church office by the 15th of the month!**

Using Gary's cards is an easy way to raise funds for the church. For each \$100 Gary's card you purchase, \$5 will go to the church. These cards are always on-hand and available for purchase! Let Jackie Morrical ([morricalhome@gmail.com](mailto:morricalhome@gmail.com)) know if you would like a Gary's card!



# From Lament to Hope

## *A Lenten Study of the Psalms of Lament*

We are excited that so many are signed up for Bishop Kennetha's Lenten Study, *From Lament to Hope: A Lenten Study of the Psalms of Lament*.

Over four weeks, Bishop Kennetha will be exploring with us Israel's hymnbook and the psalms of lament that expressed their grief in the midst of trials. As we focus on events and trials that are impacting our own lives

and the world, we will see how the psalms can lead us to hope. In particular, we will pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and our own nation.

This study will have some slight differences from the conference-wide study in Advent. We will be inviting special guests to share with us on some of the topics we address to help strengthen our worldwide connection. Each evening will also have a time of personal reflection with a *Lectio Divina* exercise, instead of small group breakout rooms. *Lectio Divina* helps immerse us in the scriptures as we read through our psalm for each night with prompts that help us connect God's words with our lives. We encourage you to have paper or journal available for writing your own thoughts.

Sessions will be held over four Tuesday nights (February 27, March 5, March 12, and March 19) on Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm. Join us for one or all!

These sessions will conclude with an invitation to move from Lament to Hope on Palm Sunday with a conference-wide time of prayer action for peace. Each year since 2002, the [Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace](#) hosts the Palm Sunday Procession for Peace. If you are in or around the Des Moines area, you are invited to come and join this ecumenical effort, which begins this year at Corinthian Baptist Church and will conclude at St. John's Lutheran Church that afternoon.

Wherever you might be, however, we invite you to gather either as a local church, an ecumenical group in your own community, or maybe even as a circuit, for your own Procession for Peace. We will be sharing an opening and closing litany that you might use in your own community for a palm procession. Gather together, join in prayer, and witness to your own neighbors, sharing signs and words that speak to our hope and longing for peace in the world. Share photos of your own group processing by emailing them to [communications@iaumc.org](mailto:communications@iaumc.org) or posting on social media and including #palms4peace.

To get a glimpse of what this might look like, check out this video from the event last year in Des Moines: <https://vimeo.com/815742893>

- **Session I** (February 27): ***Our Christian Faith and the Psalms of Lament, Psalms 22***
- **Session II** (March 5): ***The Psalms of Lament and the Absence of God, Psalm 88...Praying for Peace in Ukraine***
- **Session III** (March 12): ***Anger and Despair in the Psalms of Lament, Psalm 137...Praying for Peace in the Holy Land***
- **Session IV** (March 19): ***In Lament of the "Not Yet," Psalm 13 ...Praying for an end to the epidemic of gun violence***
- **Palm Sunday Worship and Action** (March 24): ***From Lament to Hope: Acting and Praying for Peace, Psalm 130***



# ED WING RENOVATION LOAN UPDATE

**Initial loan: \$56,650**

**January Balance: \$36,412**

**March Balance: \$29,332**

**Loan Renewal date: 4/10/2024**

We have made a lot of progress! Thank you to everyone who has contributed already. We appreciate you! We only have \$29,332 to go as of March 1st. Rather than renew this note, we would LOVE to pay it off!

We will be taking a special offering on Sunday, March 24th for additional contributions towards debt reduction.

## **Challenge:**

Between now and the loan renewal date, for each family/giving unit donating \$1,000 or more, an anonymous donor is committing an additional \$100 towards debt reduction. This is being offered as a challenge to the congregation to eliminate the debt as soon as possible!

Thank you to the anonymous donor, and thank you to all of you for your consideration.

-Adam Krapfl and the Finance Committee

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Worship Committee met in February to plan upcoming activities for Lent and Easter. Lenten services will center on the theme of forgiveness, and a prayer of confession will be included each Sunday. Pastor Vicki will lead a study on forgiveness on Tuesdays over lunch.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, we will have a palm parade in the sanctuary during service. On Holy Week, stations of Jesus' life will be set up. Brochures are provided for self-guided tours. These will be available Wednesday, March 27, after school through 8:30, and on Maundy Thursday, March 28, during the day. Readings and reflections on Jesus' baptism, ministry and Last Supper will be in the sanctuary. A labyrinth for personal prayer and meditation will be set up in the Common Ground. All are welcome to come and take part on their own time. Good Friday will be a joint service at the Presbyterian church with the Presbyterians, Seeds of Faith and our church participating. On Easter, we will have two services. Information about ordering lilies will be coming soon.

Looking ahead to summer, we will have two services, at 8:30 and 10:15. Most of the musicians in our Praise band are volunteers, and we really appreciate their dedication. Some adjustments to the band may be made during the summer to allow them some well-deserved time off!

# LUNCH & LEARN



## Lenten Study: Forgiveness

**Brown Bag and Bibles with Pastor Vicki on Tuesdays from 11:30 am-12:30 pm in The Common Ground.** Bring your lunch and join us on

Tuesdays during March for a deeper look at forgiveness in the Bible. How can we choose forgiveness? How can we forgive ourselves? How do we forgive God? Thanks!



Order forms for Easter flowers will be in the bulletin Sunday March 3 and Sunday March

10. If you have any questions, or want to order a flower, it is \$15 and you can designate it Easter Flowers and send or submit it to the church office with the name of the persons you want it honor or in memory of. Thanks!

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>



These boots are made for "GIVING" TO SOLES 4 SOULS!



Our Missions Committee is again encouraging you to clean your closets and find unneeded shoes and boots to donate to this worthy project. Soles 4 Souls creates sustainable jobs and provides relief around the world, empowering people to break the cycle of poverty by reselling the shoes to build businesses and support their families.

LOOK FOR THE LARGE RED BOX in the upper entry and send a message of support to others in need. This will be a mission focus for our church in February ,March, and April. - UMCMV Missions Committee



# Mount Vernon Community Preschool Update: March 2023



The preschool year continues to be filled with fun and friendship. In February the children participated in many new game and art activities and learned new songs using sign language. The children continue to strengthen their relationships with each other through daily play and learning.



Registration for the 2024-2025 is in full swing! The Monday/Wednesday/Friday program is currently FULL, however, we are still accepting registration for the Tuesday/Thursday class.

Reach out to Ellen Mueller with questions! [mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com)



**Save the Date  
Confirmation  
Sunday  
April 21**

*“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”*

Psalm 37:5



Town Hall meeting, April 7, 2024

9:45 to 10:45 am

Jim Baty will discuss the current state of the United Methodist Church and all that will be coming up at the General Conference 2024.



## Sunday School

February has flown by! Our final lesson of this unit will be Zacchaeus (does anyone remember the Zacchaeus song?). After that, we will be focusing on Lent and learning about things that happened to Jesus, like the washing of the feet, praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Palm Sunday, among other things. Then, of course, there's Easter! Our new unit Faith Word will be **Remember**, which means "To think about and not forget our faith". Our unit Bible Verse will be Luke 22:19c: "Do this in remembrance of me".



Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
And a wee little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For the Lord he wanted to see.

And as the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree  
And He said, "Zacchaeus you come down  
For I'm going to your house today!  
For I'm going to your house today!"





# Rooted Youth Group

The end of January and all of February have blurred together, they went by so fast! We are looking forward to talking about prayer and the visit to the Observatory coming up!

REMINDER: there is NO youth group on March 13<sup>th</sup> because of Spring Break.

**For info on camps: please check out these links:**

United Methodist camps - Wesley Woods (Indianola) and Okoboji (Spirit Lake)

Website: <https://iaumc.org/camps>

Presbyterian camp - Camp Bear Creek (Wyoming)

Website: <https://bearcreek.camp/>

Lutheran camp - Ewalu (Strawberry Point)

Website: <https://ewalu.org/>

There is financial assistance available as needed; financial situations will NEVER keep one of our kids from attending. Some camps may be affiliated with specific denominations but kids do not have to be part of that denomination to attend the camp they're interested in. We have multiple leaders/youth who have attended or worked at these camps and all recommend attending!

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

### February

2/28 Prayer

### March

3/6 Astronomy (at the Observatory)

3/13 **NO MEETING (Spring Break)**

3/20 Service project

3/27 Thoughts on Holy Week

Please contact Veronica or Pastor Vicki to volunteer at 319-895-6286. Regular youth leaders and helpers are always welcome.

Thank you!

Also, did you know we are on social media?

You can follow our pages at <https://www.facebook.com/UMCMVRooted/> for Facebook and <https://www.instagram.com/rootedumcmv/>

for Instagram! These pages will include updates and pictures.

Get Rooted Youth Group text notifications by subscribing through Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/hgk7he>





## Mission Committee MARCH UPDATE

Your Mission committee hosted a very successful Mission focus on Sunday, February 11 featuring Aaron Amundsen from Willis Dady Center in Cedar Rapids. Aaron spoke and shared a power point during both church services, during which offerings were taken for the Willis Dady Center. Over \$2,028 was collected for this community support service in Cedar Rapids. Following the second service, Renee Nydegger and Mike Kraigenbrink served their award-winning chili to hungry church members while Aaron answered questions about the Willis Dady services.

Our February Mission outreach has also included delivering Meals on Wheels to the Mount Vernon Community and organizing a Mission of Hope meal that will be served on March 4 at the mission. Volunteers are still needed for the Mission of Hope food preparation (Sunday, March 3 in the church kitchen) and serving (Monday, March 4 in Cedar Rapids). Contact the church office or Arlene Sand at 319-360-9985 if you can assist with this important ministry to the food insecure in the Cedar Rapids community.

Our large red box has been filled and 40 pair of footwear delivered to the Soles 4 Souls storage location. The red box continues to be inside the alley entry area and will be in place thru April, serving as our collection location for unneeded shoes and boots of all sizes. This national and international organization offers both needed footwear for recipients and opportunities to provide income for families in need. Let's fill the box several more times!

Two future mission opportunities will be shared with the congregation in the near future. We hope to have a summer mission project at **Matthew 25** in Cedar Rapids, and an all-church response to the United Methodist Church **Ingathering** in the fall. Watch for more details soon.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 in the chapel. We invite you to join us as we reach out to our community through our mission projects. - Karen Stewart, Chair

## Council Chair Message

Greetings Siblings,

The month of March has leapt upon us like the lion it professes to be, and with it the chance for me to update you on the joy coming from Council. I hope you are enjoying the Council Corner we have created with brief updates from each of our areas of ministry. This is a major part of our effort to improve the reliability of governance and the transparency from our leadership. As your current Administrative Council Chair, I have been filled with gratitude for the progress being made on our 2024 goals as well as our continued growth as a church. Last month (January) many of you were involved in our latest town hall session, where we continued to discuss our vision of the future and find interests and passions. Some of you attended the first Leadership Development moment offered by Pastor Vicki and I've been enjoying the times with several others of you in the Tuesday Brown Bags and Sunday School. All four of these are examples of yet another goal, creating more meaningful relationships through intentional engagement opportunities. Simply put, we are exhibiting a church on the move, a church holding passion for all persons and a church inspired. My challenge is that whether you have or have yet, keep searching, keep striving, keep challenging...come and let down your heavy burdens.

Peace to you, Jim Baty



# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Emily Martyka Senior Recital - 1:00 PM Sanctuary 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
3 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 9:45am Sunday School using Kitchen 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 12:00pm Prep for Mission of Hope lunch 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	4 11:00am Mission of Hope Lunch - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 6:30pm Entre Nous Book Club Meeting - Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall	5 11:30am Lenten Study on Forgiveness: Lunch & Learn, Common Ground Meeting Room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Evening book club, Common Ground Meeting Room	6 5:30pm Bell Choir practice 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 6:30pm Middle School & HS Youth Group, Fellowship Hall 7:30pm Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary	7 6:30pm Financial Peace University Class, Balcony Classroom	8	9 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
10 Alison Dix, Guest Sermon UMCOR Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	11 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall	12 11:30am Lenten Study on Forgiveness: Lunch & Learn, Common Ground Meeting Room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall	13 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary	14 6:30pm PEO Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	15	16 Nancy Thomas Memorial service 12 to 1 pm Visitation, 1 pm Services, 2 -3 pm Reception, Fellowship Hall 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
17 SE Linn Bulk Food Offering 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall 7:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	19 11:30am Lenten Study on Forgiveness: Lunch & Learn, Common Ground Meeting Room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Missions meeting, Chapel Meeting Room 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:30pm SPRC Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	20 5:30pm Bell Choir practice 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary	21	22	23 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
24 SE Linn Bulk Food Offering 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Confirmation - Mentor meetings, Fellowship Hall 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:30pm Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship hall	26 11:00am Luncheon Funeral for Doris Bacher, Fellowship Hall 11:30am Lenten Study on Forgiveness: Lunch & Learn, Common Ground Meeting Room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 40, Fellowship Hall	27 12:00pm Maundy Thursday - Stations of Jesus' life 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary	28 Maundy Thursday - Stations of Jesus' life 5:30pm Bell Choir practice	29 7:00pm Good Friday Worship, Mount Vernon First Presbyterian Church	30 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
31 Easter Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room						

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

### **Prayers for Healing:**

- For Jon Hartzler's brother, Chris. Chris is dealing with a recent brain cancer diagnosis and is awaiting biopsy results. Chris & Molly have 4 children & are in need of our prayers
- For Randy Preston, a friend of Kristi (and Craig) Keast, who suffered a stroke on Feb 20th, prayers for healing and a positive path forward
- For Jim Baty's father who is dealing with major health issues
- For Minor Dix (Alison's father) as his recovery from hip replacement surgery continues
- For David Van Cleve and his eyesight, as he continues to recover from surgery
- For all who are dealing with Covid and flu illnesses
- For our friends and family members who are fighting the battle against cancer or other health issues

### **Prayers for Comfort and Strength and Safety:**

- For the family and friends of Pastor Clive Cook (Sandy Sill's father) who passed away on February 23rd
- For Amy Conrad's college roommate, who is dealing with the sudden death of her husband. Prayers for Amy's friend and her two children as they are grieving
- For the Craig Arians family and friends of the family, as they deal with the sudden loss of Craig's son, John
- For the family and friends of Sue Nost, as they continue their journey of grief
- For those concerned with health issues
- For all who are struggling: emotionally, physically or spiritually

### **Prayers for Transition:**

- For all teachers, students and administrators, prayers for a safe and positive semester
- For all college students during their Spring semester
- For the leaders of UMCMV as they continue to work on behalf of our church
- For the United Methodist Church, the Iowa Conference & our Mount Vernon congregation

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

- For all who have had lives impacted by the trauma of gun violence
- For the people of Israel and Palestine; Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers
- For families and communities devastated by natural disasters
- For people caught in the tragedies of war in Ukraine and Russia; Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers
- Prayers for peace for all humanity

## Lift Up these Prayer Requests throughout the week... (continued)

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Joy:

- The Cornell Choral concert held at the church on Saturday evening, Feb 24th, was a joy for all who attended
- With joy we recognize Maxine Havill's 96th birthday. Happy Birthday to Maxine!!!
- Much thanks for all of our Trustee members and other volunteers who have helped recently with the needs of our beautiful church building. Your work and efforts are much appreciated
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives, and also take comfort that He knows the yearnings of our hearts
- For the all the learning and leaning into forgiveness that is happening in our congregation



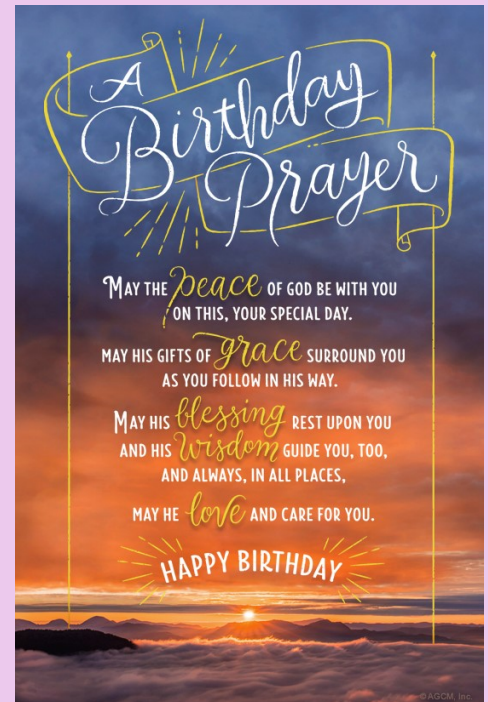
UMCOR Sunday – March 10, 2024

**This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.**

Brian Bothell	03/02
Melissa Kahl	03/03
Jase Jaspers	03/06
Vaughn Jace Havill	03/07
Klayton Kahl	03/08
Suzette Kragenbrink	03/09
Ann Coe	03/10
Kamryn Kahl	03/13
Ira Kraus	03/13
Jan White	03/13
Christine Flavin	03/15
Ryley Hoffman	03/15
Kellen Johannigmeier	03/15
David Wise	03/16
Jon Hartzler	03/17
Charlie Schaller	03/17
Mick Snodgrass	03/19
Dan Stoner	03/19
Alex Briesemeister	03/20
Anna Croghan	03/20
Mary Jane McWilliams	03/20

## March Birthdays Happy Birthday!

Janet Ault	03/21
Brittany Ferguson	03/21
Owen Rushford	03/21
Lillian Hotz	03/22
Michael Briesemeister	03/23
Anna Hoffman	03/23
Josie Bothell	03/24
John Gee	03/25
Michael Woods	03/25
Samantha Zehms	03/30
Eleanor Kraus	03/31



## Endowment Distribution

Our endowment funds earned a modest return in 2023. In accordance with our endowment policy, the Endowment Ministry Team requested, and the Church Council approved, a distribution of \$6,000 from the endowment. Endowment distributions must be used for special projects or ministries that are not part of the church's annual budget.

The Church Council will act to approve one or more specific uses of this year's distribution at its meeting in April. In order to be eligible to receive funds from the endowment, the Council agreed on the following procedures and asks everyone wishing to request funds to follow them:

1. All the UCMCMV program ministries (Missions, Education, Evangelism, Youth, Stewardship, Worship, Memorials, Membership Care, Peace/Justice) and administrative ministries (Trustees, Staff Parish, Finance, Lay Leadership) are eligible to request funds from the distribution.
2. If there is a request or idea for use of the funds from an individual in the congregation, it must first go through one of the program or administrative ministry teams above.
3. All requests must include the following:
  - a. name of the project/program/event, etc. to be funded with this distribution
  - b. name of the Council member or committee making the request
  - c. description of what outcome is expected
  - d. estimated cost
  - e. availability of other funding sources if full funding from endowment is not possible

All requests should be sent to Alison Dix in the church office by April 12. The requests will be presented to the Council at its April meeting for discussion and a vote for selection.

## TRUSTEES CORNER

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

- The motor in the Mechanical room off the kitchen has been replaced and doing well
- Baby Changing Tables are being put in 4 of the bathrooms
- Counter tops in the Pre School are being put in
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Automatic Door off the parking lot has been fixed

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





NANCY THOMAS  
MEMORIAL  
@ U M C M V

MARCH 16, 2024

12 PM VISITATION  
1 PM SERVICE  
WITH RECEPTION  
FOLLOWING

*in  
loving  
memory* 



**Pray for General  
Conference: General  
Conference is April 23  
-May 3, 2024**

General Conference is the worldwide gathering of United Methodist delegates that occurs every four years. This will be the first General Conference since 2019 when the modified traditional plan was passed, increasing the penalties for officiating at same sex marriages and strengthening discriminatory language against gay people. Since General Conference 2019, several Annual Conferences, including Iowa, have refused to enforce these changes. The Iowa UMC is a safe place to be a married gay pastor and to officiate at same-sex weddings. Please pray for General Conference, that delegates might find a new direction for the UMC.

Upcoming District Town Hall with Bishop Kennetha

Save the date for Pictured Rocks District upcoming Town Hall meeting with Bishop Kennetha. The focus of our gatherings will be on our mission, vision, and core values at the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present at each of these district gatherings for a time of teaching, and together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another.

PICTURED ROCKS DISTRICT (our district in IA Conference)  
Sunday March 10, 2024

2:00pm - 4:00pm at  
Waverly, Trinity UMC

1400 West Bremer Ave. Waverly, IA 50677



**Sunday March 10**

**MOVE YOUR CLOCKS 1 HOUR  
AHEAD!**



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 McNeese
Director, Adult Handbell Choir . . .	Kristi Keast
Organist	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Kit Currie
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



**Spend Easter Sunday at  
 United Methodist Church  
 of Mount Vernon  
 Sunday March 31  
 Worship Services at 8:30 AM & 11 AM**