

September 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

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

Pondering on the Paha —

Pastor's Letter

We've seen a lot of heaviness in our world. I keep praying for Israel and the Occupied Territories. I pray for our country, for repentance and compassion to become normal. I pray for our communities, especially as school begins. It's the time of year where children shift into new routines, young adults are sent off to college, and parents wrestle with the hope and worry of all the changes.

Amid praying for a hurting world, have you noticed the joy around church lately? We've welcomed our new Children and Youth Ministries Director, Mandy Moellering. We celebrated Rally Day at Bass Farms. We welcomed the freshman class of Cornell College at Viva Mount Vernon. Around the church, floors are polished, Sunday School rooms cleaned, and the Preschool is getting busy.

As fall activities begin, I would encourage you to join an adult Sunday School class, if you are not volunteering elsewhere! Consider joining the Chancel or Bell Choir to be a part of some beautiful music, or help out with Sunday School or Youth Group. Grow in our community witness by joining the Diversity Team or the Young Adult Outreach Team. Find a place to grow your faith, and to give back to the community! Consider sharing in our joy, by participating through regular financial support. Everyone has something to give! We are making a difference, because of you! Come be a part of the joy!

~ Pastor Vicki

The Praise Team leads us in worship at Bass Farms. Photo by Jeff Schmatt.



Message Series: "Why? Questions from life's Valleys"

Starting September 15, we begin a four-week sermon series on "Why? Questions from life's valleys." "If this is how God treats the people he loves, I want nothing to do with him!" I have heard several versions of this in my years of being a pastor. In my younger years, I even said this a few times. When faced with tragic loss, where is God? This important series, based on the book by Adam Hamilton, will reflect on God's will during tough times. This would be a great time to invite a friend to come to worship. Worship will remain sensitive to the younger folks who attend. Limited copies of the book are available for \$13.

9/1 "Relationships are Everything" & Communion Sunday

Scriptures are Ephesians: 4:1-6 and Matthew 5: 21-26

Worship Focus: Peace is not the same as ignoring a problem.

Worship Question: How will I work to heal relationships this week?

9/8 Special Guest: Renee Dietrich speaking on mission work in Haiti!

A special offering will be received.

9/15 "Theodicy: Why do the Innocent Suffer?"

Scriptures are: Genesis 1:26-31, John 16:28-33, Lamentations 3

Worship Question: What questions do I have for God?

9/22 "Why do my prayers go Unanswered?"

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10, Matthew 26:36-39, 45-47, Luke 18:1-8, and Philippians 4:6-9.

Worship Question: What do I do when God is silent, or says "no / not yet"?

9/29 "Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?"

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Romans 12:1-21

Worship Question: What does it mean to say God has a plan?

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 Praise Worship

11 am Traditional Worship

Online at 8:30 & 11 am

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.



- 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. She will be taking Thursdays as her Sabbath, except in dire emergencies.



MV METHODIST KID & YOUTH MINISTRY



Hello United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon! I am so thrilled to be joining you as your new Director of Christian Education! I have lived here in Mount Vernon since 2015, and have most recently been the Children's Minister at First United Methodist in North Liberty. I am also a Preschool teacher, wife to Mike and mom to Max (21), Laila (19) and Spencer (15). You may know me as one of the florists from Blooming Acres, a worker at the Sweet Factory or through productions with Mount Vernon Community Theatre! My focus will always be making sure that our kids- of all ages, know how truly loved they are by God. I look forward to serving with the Sunday School and Rooted Youth Group teams in building connections, fostering relationships and growing faith with youth and families from our church and community.

Mandy Moellering, Christian Ed Director



Sunday School starts Sunday September 8, 2024.

Sunday School will kick-off on September 8th at 9:45am.

This year we look forward to "Diving into our Bibles" with our curriculum focused on working through the Bible from Old to New Testament. We will visit all our old favorites as well as some new stories and new people to grow our faith. Sunday School is for kids in PreK-8th grade and we have an amazing team of Teachers and Shepherds working with us this year! New for 2024-2025 are our Family Sundays! On the last Sunday of the month- there will be a Family Activity and DONUTS for all Sunday School families during the Sunday School hour. We can't wait to share the Sunday School learning with our families.

Please take a moment and register your children or family members for Sunday School at our link via our website, or by using this QR code.



(Pictured to the left:)

It was so fun to kick off the school year with Blessings of the Backpacks on Sunday August 18th!

ROOTED YOUTH GROUP

FALL KICK OFF BASS FARMS

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024
6pm- Drop Off/Dinner
6:30pm-Welcome/Prayer
6:45pm-Bass Farm Activities
8pm-Check Out/Pick Up

Bass Farms 840 Bass Lane Mount Vernon, Iowa

Please Register Online First Pres -Seeds of Faith-United Methodist Mount Vernon Rooted Youth Group will kick off on September 4th at Bass Farms! Please note the earlier start time of 6pm. This year we will be working on our four week rotation of Study/Service/Games and Create, and each church will take a month at a time for hosting. Registration is available on our website at

www.umcmv.com.

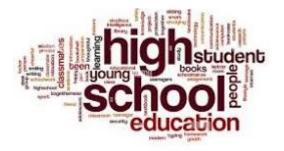
Any questions- please reach out to Mandy at kid-

min.mvmethodist@gmail.com.



More fun pictures from Blessing of the Backpacks!





ATTN: High Schoolers!!

Please join us for an interest meeting for High School Youth Group

Sunday September 8th at 12:15pm @ First Presbyterian Church of MV

Because you Give:

We can hire great staff.

Our building is a hub for community gatherings.

We host a vital preschool.

We make a difference.

We help hurting neighbors.

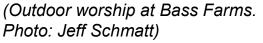
We share God's love.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry together!

(Church representatives give away cookies, church information, and stickers at Viva Mount Vernon. Photo: Jeff Schmatt.)



Thanks to all who attended, helped, played, and welcomed at Bass Farms this past Sunday— it was a great success!





Children and Youth Ministries Director, Mandy Moellering, teaches the kids some new moves at Bass Farms.

(Photo: Jeff Schmatt)

Welcome our New Choir Director: Lu Higgins!

"Hello! I am so excited to be joining the United Methodist Church as the choir director! I just graduated from Cornell College and currently reside in Cedar Rapids with my partner Beckett, our dogs Snoopy, Bucket and Morgan, and our cat Matilda. I am originally from Norwalk, IA but fell in love with Cedar Rapids while I was in college. I love reading, spending time with my family, and everything about outer space!"



We can't wait to welcome him this September!

Custodian Hired:

The SPRC has announced the hiring of Jeff Schmatt as our Church Custodian. This position is for 10-12 hours a week. Because Jeff is a part of our church, it might be tempting to offer him suggestions on areas that need cleaned. Please keep in mind that Jeff does have a detailed list developed by our SPRC and Trustees. We are so glad to have Jeff with us, and thankful as well for those who help with a lot of volunteer cleaning to keep this church looking good. Thank you for picking up after yourself when you are hosting a meeting or group!

Thank you's

Thanks to Brittany Booth for cleaning up the Sunday School rooms and Supply Closet!

Thanks to Kevin Woods for mowing our very challenging grounds, plus working in the sound booth!

Thanks to Denise Havill for sprucing up the Common Grounds!



Thanks to Judy Hartman for your leadership with the Bass Farms Potluck!

Thanks to our Praise Team for sharing your gifts at Viva Mount Vernon and Bass Farms! You braved the heat and brought wonderful music!

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the children and youth of our church!

Thanks to our Trustees for locking up each night!

Thanks to everyone who volunteers to keep the grounds looking nice!

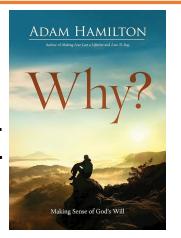
Thanks to Barb Shepley, for taking care of hundreds of details.

Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki

Tuesdays 11:30 am to 12:30

Common Ground Meeting Room

Lunch Study: "Why" Lunch Study begins Tuesday September 10, from 11:30-12:30 in the Common Ground meeting room. Bring your lunch and join us for this four-week study.



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 (or QR code)

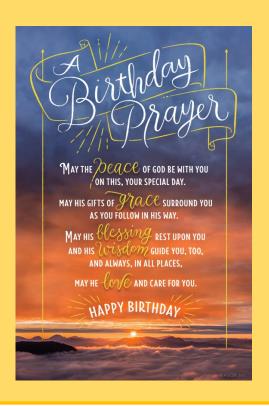
https://bit.ly/UMCMVonlinegiving



Bob Meeker	09/01
Willa Turner	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
Bill Micheel	09/26
Susan Pisarik	09/30
Roger Raiber	09/30

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday!



TRUSTEES CORNER

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

- · Have repaired the black railing outside the east door off the annex.
- · Sprayed around the outside of the church and parsonage for bugs.
- · Ed Wing floors, class rooms and enter areas, have been waxed.

Air Conditioner for the Annex, Common Ground and Fellowship Hall has been turned off due to mechanical issues please keep all doors closed to these rooms so they can stay cool. We put a window air conditioner in the common ground to get by for the rest of the warm weather.

If you should open any windows or plug in any fans in the church, please shut them off 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, Mary Jane McWilliams, Mundo Guardado, Monti Marti, Loren Hoffman and Jay Currie

Mount Vernon Community Preschool September 2024 Update

We are thrilled to be continuing the mission of UMCMV and opening our doors to almost 40 preschool children and their families this school year - YEAH! The registration numbers have once again allowed us to have two classes of preschoolers. 25 children on Monday-Wednesday-Friday and 13 on Tuesday-Thursday. Over half of these families are returning from last year or with a younger sib-

ling - WOW! We are blessed to have families that continue to trust the preschool as their child's first experience with school. It is an honor!

Teachers for this year are Ellen Mueller, Sherry Grunder and Stephanie Whisner.

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 or 563-321-0752





Mission Committee September

Our committee is back in full swing for the fall, anxious to keep the congregation updated and involved in this important outreach in our church.

On Sunday, September 8, we will have a guest speaker at both services, updating us on the country of Haiti and its ongoing struggles. Renee Dietrich, sister of Denny Dietrich of Gary's Foods, has been working for many years as the Secretary/Treasurer of Friends of Saint Joseph's Family, a grassroots organization that ministers to disadvantaged youth in Haiti. Renee has lots of information, slides, and materials that will help us be informed and involved with

this neighboring country torn apart by violence, poverty, and lack of education.

Between services, Renee will hold a Q & A session in the Common Ground to answer any questions you may have. Following each service, an opportunity to contribute to Saint Joseph's Family will be available.

Our Mission committee is hoping to organize a Service Sunday for the spring and we're looking for volunteers to help make this great event happen. Please contact Alison if you'd like to be involved.

Our committee is open and welcoming to anyone interested in participating in this vital role in our church. Leave your name with the church office if you'd like to be contacted about our next meeting.

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



St. Joe's Haiti Mission Work:

As we begin this fall, we welcome Renee Dietrich to share about her international mission work so that we as a congregation can reach out to the world internationally to show our love and support with learning and giving a special offering of support.



St. Joseph Family Organization run Wings of Hope, our home for children and adults with physical and mental challenges. It is located in Jacmel, Haiti. There are 33 residents. It provides a home, three meals a day and 24/7 medical care. Wings has on-site education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, life skills training, arts programs and many other enrichment opportunities.

They also have Lekòl Sen Trinite, our tuition-free school in Jacmel, Haiti. LST has classes from a three-year preschool/kindergarten program through ninth grade. Last year LST educated 220 students. Because of their family circumstances, these are students who would not be able to go to school if it were not for LST. The students are also served a hot meal each day. For some of them it will be their only meal of the day. Besides academic classes, LST also offers afterschool tutoring, karate, cooking class and classes art, dance, drumming and music.



United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs- day	Friday	Satur- day
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanc- tuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	Closed	11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki- Book of 1 John - Common Ground meeting room 12:45pm Staff Birthday gathering	6:00pm Youth Group, Bass Farms Hwy 30 W 7:30pm Choir prac- tice, Sanctuary	Vicki - online training		8:00pm AA / Al- Anon Meetings
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Renee Dietrich - Guest Message 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanc- tuary 12:15pm HS Youth Group meeting, First Pres Church of MV 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room		11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki- Why? Book series - Common Ground meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 7:00pm SPRC Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Seeds of Faith Lu- theran Church, Lis- bon 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary			8:00pm AA / Al- Anon Meetings
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanc- tuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	7:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom - Amazing Collection 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki- Why? Book series - Common Ground meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:00pm Bell Choir practice 7:00pm Church Council Meeting, Common Ground	6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Seeds of Faith Lu- theran Church, Lis- bon 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary			8:00pm AA / Al- Anon Meetings
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:00pm Diversity Team, Common Ground Meeting Room 6:00pm Young Adults Outreach - Common Ground Meeting room		9:30am Women's Bible Study, Balcony Classroom - Amazing Collection 11:30am Lunch & Learn with Pastor Vicki- Why? Book series - Common Ground meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 3:00pm Youth Group Planning, Fellowship Hall 5:00pm Bell Choir practice 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground	Pastor Vicki - online 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Seeds of Faith Lu- theran Church, Lis- bon 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary		Leader- ship training Pastor Vicki - online	8:00pm AA / Al- Anon Meetings
29 3rd Grade Bibles - at both worship services	30					
8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Bible Bingo- Fellowship Hall, Family Activity Time 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanc- tuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 4:30pm Missions Long Range Plan- ning meeting & Team meal, Babs Moore Home						





Adult Sunday School Classes Starting September 8th

Adult Danforth Sunday School Class (In Balcony)

As fall begins, and routines resume, the Adult Danforth Sunday School class is planning our fall emphasis. Helen Danforth was a Cornell professor and church member who followed social issues and raised their awareness in others. We try to do the same in our Sunday morning classes. We meet from 9:45 to 10:45 in the balcony classroom by the 4th level elevator entrance, sharing leadership and topic selection among the class members. We'd love to have you join us, beginning September 8, for our fall discussion of Christian Nationalism in our country.

WELCOME BACK TO FAITH FOCUS

As the fall schedule returns to normal, you are invited to consider changing things up this year and treating your-self to some intentional faith formation and exercise. The Chapel Class, many know this as "Pete's Chapel Class", will return to meeting each Sunday just off the Common Ground hallway. We will begin with Adam Hamilton's study of the Lord's Prayer for a few weeks. We will then enter a time of learning from Psalms and the practice of sharing these Psalms with each other in new ways. You don't need experience or knowledge of anything to participate. You only need a combination of curiosity, love and/or the interest in community as we will all learn together from the very foundation of Christian history and prayer.

For more information, please reach out to Jim Baty (pga12b@batys5.com) or Julie Baty (juliebaty@umcmv.com).

Third Grade Bibles

3rd Grade bibles will be given out on Sunday September 29— if you think you have a student who might have missed getting a BIBLE their year, or you weren't attending here their 3rd Grade year, we would love to include them. Please contact Mandy Moellering our Kids Ministry Director and she will be sure to include them!

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays 9:30 to 11 am—Starting Tuesday Sept 17th

"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

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Healing:

- For Andrea Giegerich (formerly Andrea Hallier) who needs healing prayers for her incision following a C-section delivery
- For Ralph Jordan who is dealing with health issues & has an upcoming surgery
- 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 Mark Hollingsworth (cousin to Judy Hartman) as they grieve the loss of their loved one
- For Mark McAndrews and his wife Deena, as they live daily with the health issues that come with ALS
- For the friends & family of Linda Noll, as they walk along side her & Steve during this time
- 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 for a positive and encouraging start to the new school year
- For all college students as they begin their Fall semester, and for families too, as they
 make adjustments and support their college students
- 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 our nation, prayers for peace, unity and compassion
- 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 all who are recovering from the tornado damage in Nebraska and 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 joy we welcomed Cornell freshman to Mount Vernon on Saturday during their welcome to Mount Vernon event. And we joyfully look forward to welcoming back our returning Cornell students who attend worship services
- With joy and thanksgiving we welcome our new Director of Children and Youth Ministry Programs, Mandy Moellering
- We are thankful for all the volunteers that help keep our church clean, well maintained and welcoming to others.
- We are thankful that Jeff Schmatt has been hired as our church custodian and Lu Higgins has been hired as choir director, both beginning in September
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives, and also take comfort that He knows the yearnings of our hearts



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 outreach. To learn more, contact Kim Schwiebert at pk.schwiebert@live.com.

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, mailed in giving, and Sunday offering!



WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

A Life Group is a small group from our church family that gets together informally on a regular basis to share their ups and their downs of the past week or weeks. They are

meant to form closer friendships and to encourage each other in their daily lives.

Does this sound like something you might enjoy? The groups will be forming during September and if you'd like to know more about them or perhaps even join one, please give Ann Coe, 641-781-3308, Kim Guardado 319-215-5334 or Babs Moore, 319-350-2885, a call and we'll take it from there!

There will also be a form on the back of Sunday's 'attendance sheet' in the bulletins for you to indicate your interest.



SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Spaghetti Supper!

We will kick off our Stewardship campaign with a yummy gathering to celebrate all who support our church. Come and ENJOY!

Sunday October 13 @ 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Lord's Portion Auction!

Sunday November 3 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall

We will be starting to request donations soon as well—think about fun things you want to donate!





Back to School:

Please continue to pray for the teachers, staff, and students as they go back to school in the coming weeks. We are so very thankful for all our educators and support staff, for bus drivers, and cafeteria staff! You make a difference!

Care Ministry

Dear Church,

Even as September arrives, my flowers are still blooming and I love to share them with as many in our church community as possible.

Do you know of someone who would enjoy a bouquet? Or would you like one delivered to your door? Let me know!





I believe that flowers make everything better and they surely display the beauty of God's amazing creation. Feeling low? Let me know. Have something special to celebrate? Let me know that too! I'm here to love and care for our congregation through all of the ups and downs that we all experience. And, for the month of September I'll continue doing so with beautiful flowers from my gardens.

With love and care,
Julie Baty
Congregational Care Coordinator





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 Coordina	tor Julie Baty
Office Manager	Alison Dix
Nursery Care	Melissa McNeese
Director, Adult Handbell Choi	rKristi Keast
Organist	Karen Stoll
Chancel Choir Director	Lu Higgins
Choir Accompanist	Deb Forbes
Custodian	Jeff Schmatt
Event Coordinator	
Financial Secretaries	Tim Legore &
	Jackie Morrical
Treasurers	Mike Kragenbrink
	Alison Dix

Starting This Sunday, Sunday, September 1, 2024

Worship Times
8:30 am Praise Worship
11 am Traditional Worship

Sunday School starts
Sunday Sept 8

Rooted Youth Group—Wednesday Sept 4 @ Bass Farms