



## October 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 — Longing and Hope

## Pastor's Letter

September has been such a strange month. There's been all the excitement around the church as fall programming resumes. The Bell Choir and Chancel Choir are practicing. Children and Youth are everywhere. The hallways are filled with excited voices during Sunday School. I've been helping with our shared high school and middle school groups. The youth are asking such wonderful questions. I love watching them grow in their faith.

In all that joy, there is the background noise of national struggles, along with neighbors who are hurting. There's the ongoing crisis in Israel and Ukraine. I've listened to church members talk about their work to get out the vote, and stock SELCC's pantry. We are longing for a nation where the vulnerable are welcomed, protected, and valued. We are longing for a nation that follows our God's mandate to care for the least of these. We are longing for leaders who want to work together, rather than demonize each other. Our political system is broken, in that it pushes us to extremes, rather than cooperation. There are different paths that we do not take, in part because those in power are reluctant to give it up.

"In Longing and Hope" is the name of the community worship service the night before the election. (See details in this newsletter.) It's an apt description of this season where we realize that politics have revealed deep divisions in our country. I find myself longing for heated debates about tax codes! I find hope, when I look for it. In the people I work with. In our care for people who are hurting. In the children and youth of our communities. I look at them, and I long for a better world that is safe and whole.

One of my colleagues used to say, "work or prayer – usually the answer is in one or both of them." United Methodists are people of faith in action. I find I need both! I need to feel like I'm making a difference and I also need to have long talks with Jesus. I would add a third answer: community. We are called to walk with each other, even as we wait, in longing and hope. Thanks for walking with us!

~ Pastor Vicki



## **Message Series:**

On October 6th, we wrap up our “Why” series with a message about God’s love and a celebration of communion.

October 13-27, we will reflection on the Christian practice of generosity as we prepare to pledge to the 2025 budget. Pastor Vicki will share stories and scripture reminding us that the world becomes a better place, “Because We Give.”

## **Stewardship Campaign: Because We Give**

Join us for our annual Stewardship Campaign in worship beginning October 13! Your gifts keep the lights on, pay the staff, and make needed repairs. That might not seem terribly splashy, until you think of lives touched. The Mount Vernon Preschool that has been a part of our church for decades – we made that possible, together. The people experiencing hardships who were helped when Julie brought flowers and words of encouragement – this is because we give. The folks in crisis who need a gas card, or a grocery card – they get help with a measure of kindness and dignity

from Alison in the office – because we give. The unchurched family who needed a place for a funeral, found love and compassion here- because we were generous. In October, we will celebrate your generosity and offer a chance to make a pledge to our 2025 budget. We will consecrate these pledges in worship on October 27. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity! We live on a tight budget, made possible by a large base of skilled volunteers and generous hearts!

### **ACH: Making faithful giving easy!**

On October 13, 20, and 27, representatives from the Finance Team will be present in the foyer after both worship services to provide information and sign up sheets for electronic giving. ACH giving provides a base level of income for the church each month, even if the weather is bad or people are travelling. Our goal is to add 20 new ACH givers by the end of the year. Chat with one of our leaders for more information! Thanks!



United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon

2025 Financial Generosity Campaign



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](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.



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

# MV METHODIST KID & YOUTH MINISTRY

It has been a busy month in the Christian Ed wing this September! Maybe you heard we added a High School Youth Group to our ministry offerings? Or that we are averaging over 30- yes THIRTY Middle School kids at Rooted each Wednesday? Maybe you heard the 6th-8th grade class mentored the 1st-3rd graders in their first Cooking Rotation of the year at Sunday School, or you came to celebrate Family Sunday with us on September 29th? All of that and MORE happened in the month of September here at UMCMV. Our children's and youth programming is off to a wonderful start and we can't wait to see what October brings.

-Mandy Moellering



Sunday School has been "Diving" into the first few books of the Bible as we explore Creation and the story of Noah. Our teachers have been doing an incredible job of creating super fun and engaging lessons. Check out the pictures below for just a snapshot of what we have been learning, as well as our 6th-8th grade class with their new fridge for the Youth Room courtesy of Mel Steen and Alison Dix.

On September 29th we will present Bibles to the children as part of our worship services. Those receiving Bibles are Lewis Micheel, Charlie Schaller, Clementine Barnes, Cecilia Rife, Ben Krock and Alex Stineman. It is always a joy to celebrate this special day!

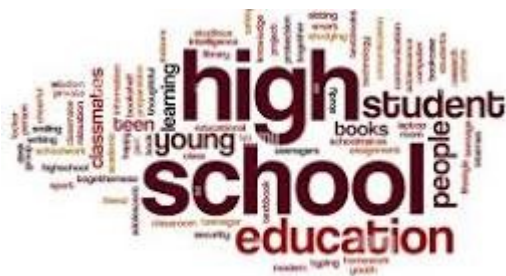
Speaking of celebrating- FAMILY SUNDAYS are here! Or as we have been affectionately calling them "Donut Days"! If you missed it this month- please plan to join us on October 27th from 9:45-10:45 for donuts and a church activity.





Rooted Youth Group kicked off our year at Bass Farms with a great night of games and fun. Since that time we are averaging over 30 kids on Wednesday nights who are ready to learn more and grow their faith. So far we have explored “Things we Wonder” and the story of Bartimaeus and speaking up for what we need. The students have submitted questions each week that help to define our lessons and curriculum. We continue to work through our Study/Games/Service and Create rotations. The pictures below show both our kick off at Bass Farms and one of our study nights with games! In October we look forward to a night hike at Palisades as well as some Pumpkin fun.

Rooted is open to all Youth in grades 6-8. Contact Mandy at [kid-min.mvmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:kid-min.mvmethodist@gmail.com) to get your student registered.



High School Youth group meets from 12:15-1pm on Sundays. We are currently doing a Bible Study on Jesus and the Outsiders from the book of Mark. October meetings will be at UMCMV and we always have snacks and drinks. Contact Mandy to get added to the HS Youth Group Remind thread to be reminded about Youth Group. The High School Youth Group is open to all students in grades 9-12.

## Council Corner

### Words from the Chair

Greetings, my friends. I am so very thankful for the gifts of grace and service that are evident in the leadership of this church. This past year has been an amazing one to participate with the various areas of ministry, committees, staff and our wonderful pastor. Together we have nearly completed all of our goals, establishing a new scripture-based covenant guide for our community; committing to improved ways of awareness (transparency) for all our work; and fostering an increase in the meaningful relationships available throughout this church family and outwardly to our community. We are in a season of discernment for our 2025 goals for the congregation and our leadership teams. Our work has just begun and it will culminate with a public statement and official action during the Charge Conference set for Sunday, November 17th. I am personally inviting anyone with a heart for this church and its future to come and join us. Our new District Superintendent will preside over us. We will be shepherded by Pastor Vicki. We will have collective moments to celebrate together, continue to vision and dream together, and step forward into the bold future God has waiting for us. — Jim Baty, Council Chair

### MUNDO UPDATE—10.2024



Praise the Lord! You may have heard some exciting news about Mundo's case being approved and then very quickly asked yourself, "What exactly does that mean?" First, thank you all for your support as we've navigated this lengthy and challenging process. Your prayers, your gifts, and your support, have all been felt as we've moved through this process. I'll try to outline these

steps for us all to understand a little better.

What happened? Mundo's I-601A was approved. This is basically the largest hurdle in the process. If we were describing this visually, I would tell you that we've crossed the summit of the mountain. We haven't made it to safety yet, but we know that the hardest part is done.

What's coming? Next is the visa application, DS-260. We have a few more documents to collect and this will get submitted. When the visa application is approved, he will be scheduled for a visit and interview in El Salvador. We don't know yet when this will happen, but hopefully this year. Mundo will be gone anywhere from 3 weeks to 3 months.

Then what? He comes home!

We can't thank you enough for everything, from kind words to meaningful prayers. All of it means so much! As we continue this final phase, please continue your prayers. They all matter! Thank you for lifting us up over the mountain!

### Behind the Scenes

**Thanks to everyone who helped with the Gary Leopold memorial.**

**Thanks to our Sunday School and Youth volunteers!**

**Thanks to our Trustees and Building & Grounds Teams!**



People are longing for hope in a hopeless world. And we can offer them THE Hope of the world.

## **Longing and Hope: A service for community before the election**

**Monday, November 4, 6:30 PM @ Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, Lisbon**

Join the pastors and congregations of UMCMV, First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, and Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church as we gather for shared worship and fellowship the night before the election. Pastor Vicki will be sharing a meditation and communion will be offered. A special offering will be received to support SELCC. A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow.

### **Because we 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!



# TRUSTEES CORNER

Fall is here and so is cool weather. If the weather looks like it will be staying cool, we will be turning off the air conditioning in the Sanctuary. Trustees have been busy finishing up projects around the church and if anyone would like to help, please let me (Susan Pisarik) know or just want more info please ask.

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

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>



<b>Brock Barber</b>	<b>10/03</b>
<b>Griffin Barber</b>	<b>10/03</b>
<b>Matilda Hartzler</b>	<b>10/03</b>
<b>Logan Stanerson</b>	<b>10/04</b>
<b>Darin Swartzendruber</b>	<b>10/09</b>
<b>Bryan Woodward</b>	<b>10/09</b>
<b>Jamie Smith</b>	<b>10/11</b>
<b>Charlie Engelbrecht</b>	<b>10/13</b>
<b>John Engelbrecht</b>	<b>10/13</b>
<b>Kristi Keast</b>	<b>10/15</b>
<b>Rebecca Conrad</b>	<b>10/18</b>
<b>Brooklyn Sill</b>	<b>10/18</b>
<b>Allyson Rushford</b>	<b>10/20</b>
<b>Joey Watson</b>	<b>10/24</b>
<b>Jackie Engelbrecht</b>	<b>10/25</b>
<b>Jesse Schwiebert</b>	<b>10/25</b>
<b>Garet Swartzendruber</b>	<b>10/26</b>
<b>Andy Morrical</b>	<b>10/27</b>
<b>Miles Hartzler</b>	<b>10/29</b>

## October Birthdays

### Happy Birthday!





# Mount Vernon Community Preschool October 2024 Update

The preschool school year is off and running! The children have quickly learned our classroom routines and expectations. They are kind to one another, inclusive in their play and eager to learn! Children have enjoyed spending their time at preschool playing, reading, singing, dancing, cooking and making new friends.

As teachers we are blessed to have an amazing group of young children and families to work with every morning!

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

Preschool Contact Information: [mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mvcommunitypreschool@gmail.com), 563-321-0752



## LIFE GROUPS STARTING SOON

We are, once again, starting Life Groups within our church. We hope to start meeting in October. These are groups of 6-8 people who will meet on a regular basis to share life experiences and support each other with friendship and caring.

Those who have indicated they would like to participate will receive an email about starting date and time. Each group will then decide when and where they will meet and also how frequently, although it is suggested they meet weekly for the first month in order to establish some continuity.

Before Covid, there were numerous Life Groups within our congregation and fast friendships were formed which endure today. It seemed time to re-establish this activity.

It is never too late to participate in this venture. If you would like to find out more about this activity and perhaps even give this a try, please contact Ann Coe, 641-781-3308, Kim Guardado, 319-215-5334, or Babs Moore, 319-350-2885.



## Mission Committee October Update

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 had 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 had 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. Our congregation responded to this international outreach with a generous offering of over \$2500 which has been forwarded to Saint Joseph's Family in Haiti.

We have received orders for our quarterly bulk food donation to the SE Linn Food Pantry, and the food items are to be delivered on Oct. 2. SE Linn continues to be very grateful for our generous donations for this important community support.

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 serving 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, Babs Moore & Ann Coe

### ***Scrip Case Study – Gary's Foods***

We all need groceries and many of us purchase some or all at Gary's Foods. For each \$100 gift card sold, Gary's contributes \$5 back to the church.

If I purchased \$200 in gift cards each month for Gary's that would be a \$10 contribution. Over a year's time that would be \$120!

If ten people did the same it would be \$1200. If fifty people did the same it would be \$6000. See how quickly the contribution can add up for the church?

What is in it for Gary's? They get the \$\$ up front and don't have to pay any credit card fees. They also expand their sales as more folks may choose to shop there to utilize the Scrip Program.

Remember, orders of any size help the bottom line. Please consider using Scrip and THANKS to Gary's for being a participant!

# United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon Calendar October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Chapel meeting room 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	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, MV First Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am Cornell Convocation for Homecoming 2024 - Sanctuary 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>6</b> UMCOR World Communion Sunday 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 9:45am Sunday School using Kitchen 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Chapel meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:00pm Bell Choir practice 7:00pm SPRC Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	<b>9</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 1:05pm Get to know your bibles- 3rd Graders - 4/5th Sunday School Classroom & Youth Room 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, MV First Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary	<b>10</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation	<b>11</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation	<b>12</b> Pastor Vicki on vacation 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>13</b> Generosity Campaign week 1 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 9:45am Sunday School using Kitchen & Fellowship Hall 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:30pm Spaghetti Supper, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Cub scouts, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Chapel meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:00pm Bell Choir practice 7:00pm Church Council Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, MV First Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>20</b> Generosity Campaign week 2 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 4:00pm Cub scouts, Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Trustees Committee Meeting, Chapel Meeting Room	<b>22</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Chapel meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 4:00pm Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall 5:00pm Bell Choir practice 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, MV First Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary	<b>24</b> 9:00am DCOM, Common Ground Meeting Room & Chapel Meeting Room	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00pm AA / Al-Anon Meetings
<b>27</b> Pledge Sunday, Generosity Campaign week 3 8:30am Praise Worship, Sanctuary 9:45am Family Sunday Activity-Bible Walk Fellowship Hall 11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary 12:00pm Girl Scouts Halloween Party- Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Women's Group, Common Ground Meeting Room 4:00pm Cub scouts, Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>29</b> Pastor Vicki out of office 9:30am Women's Bible Study, Chapel meeting room 1:00pm Staff Meeting, Common Ground Meeting Room 5:00pm Bell Choir practice	<b>30</b> Pastor Vicki out of office 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group, MV First Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Praise team practice, Sanctuary 7:30pm Chancel Choir practice, Sanctuary	<b>31</b> Pastor Vicki out of office		

**Our UM Bishops Speak about Political Violence and Authoritarianism:** <https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/umc-bishops-denounce-political-violence-authoritarianism-18654241>

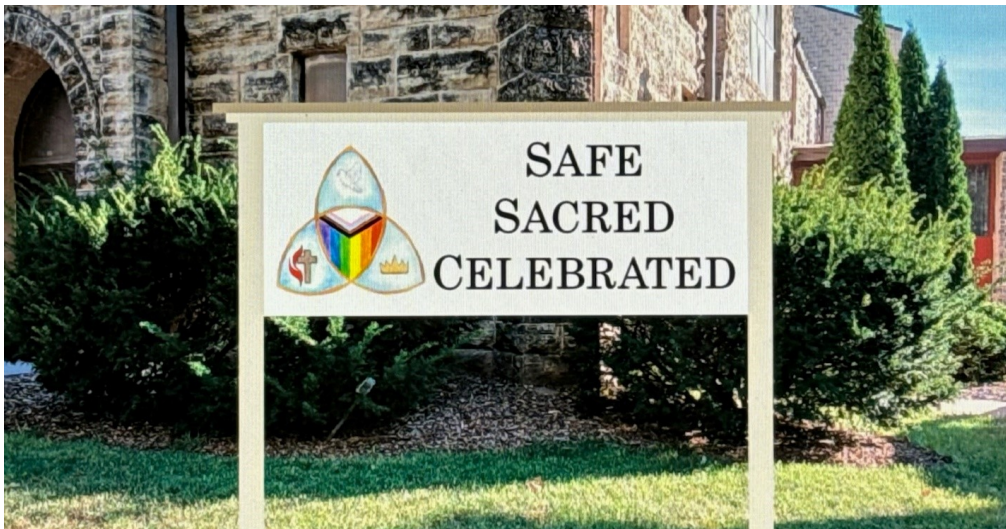
**Young Adult Outreach:** Would you like to be part of events geared towards reaching out to our college age students in our area? Contact Pastor Vicki for more information on how to help! (vicki.fisher@iaumc.net)

### Scrip Update

Thanks to all those who have participated in the Scrip Program! So far in 2024 we have raised over \$1,421 for the general operating expenses of the church! Orders are due the 15th of each month. Please put your order form/check in the collection plate or drop them off in the church office.

### 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!



### Inclusion Team News: Getting the word out

We have often looked at the rainbow steps of First Presbyterian and discussed how we can make a similar witness for affirming our LGBTQ neighbors. The team is working on a special sign for the front yard that lifts up our identity as an affirming congregation. This sign will include a place where season placards can be hung below. This picture is one mockup of what the sign might look like. For more information, or to contribute to this contact Kim Schwiebert at [pk.schwiebert@live.com](mailto:pk.schwiebert@live.com).

**New Banner:** Thanks to Jackie Morrical and Barb Shepley for the wonderful new banner in our sanctuary! It is based on our Chalk the Walk art work from earlier this summer, and is absolutely beautiful!

# New Church Directory!



There is a growing consensus that we are long-overdue for a new church directory. But what should a photo directory look like in 2024, given the broad range in age, abilities and desires of our congregation?

We have decided to create a directory with the following goals in mind to maximize participation and accessibility:

- Offer a professional photo session, provided free of charge by Rubicon Photography
- Allow members to submit electronically a photo and contact information
- Provide the resulting directory in printed and secure digital forms

Please take a minute to select one of the options below to have your family represented in this photo. We will collect photos through November 4th, and we will let you know when the directory starts taking shape!

## Schedule a photo session:

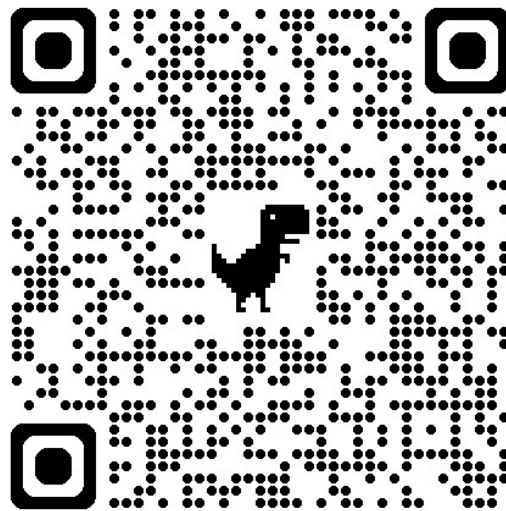
10/24-10/27, photo sessions will be offered during the weekday and over the weekend. Schedule using the sign-up genius below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F44AFA72AA31-51718224-church>

## Submit my own photo:

If you have a photo you'd like to use, use the QR Code or link below to submit your family's photo and contact information right now!

<https://forms.gle/sg6ZpobaFEw3aAqM7>



## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Prayers for Healing:**

- For Andrea Giegerich (formerly Andrea Hallier) who continues to need healing prayers for her incision following a C-section delivery
- For our family and friends who are struggling with mental health issues
- For our friends and family members who are facing physical health battles

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

- For the family and friends of Gary Leopold, as they grieve. Gary passed away on September 8th
- For the family and friends of Joe Scallon (father of Amy Scallon Geis) as they are in the midst of grief. Joe and two lifelong friends were victims of a plane crash on September 6th
- For Mark McAndrews and his wife Deena, as they live daily with the health issues that come with ALS
- 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 productive school year
- For all college students during 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 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 God's love will reach all the world

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

- With joy we welcome our new Director of Children and Youth Ministry Programs, Mandy Moelling
- 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 started to serve as our church custodian and Lu Higgins has started his position of choir director
- With thankful hearts we praise God for the blessings in our lives, and also take comfort that He knows the yearnings of our hearts

## Automatic Electronic Giving (E-GIVING)

We would love to automate your giving and help you to have it automatically withdrawn from your bank account each month. This is called ACH giving and it helps to stabilize our support and gives us regular income that is automatically deposited into our general fund to be used to pay bills & salaries.

To set this up, you just fill out a form with your electronic banking information to allow us to withdraw your pledge each month on the 5th of the month. If you still want to write a check for special offerings or other projects, that is totally allowed. We appreciate you considering setting up Electronic GIVING to the United Methodist Church of Mount Vernon so that we can continue to do better at budgeting and collecting pledged support. All month long in October, we will be talking about how you can support your congregation, and this update on Electronic Automated Giving is just one of the ways we are trying to do better!

### 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](mailto:pk.schwiebert@live.com).

## Autumn Months



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. - *Author Unknown*

## Congrats to our students receiving their NEW Bibles this Sunday!

Lewis Micheel

Charlie Schaller

Clementine Barnes

Cecilia Rife

Alex Stineman

Ben Krack



Join the fun of the yummy annual Spaghetti Supper! We will kick off our Stewardship campaign with a special gathering to celebrate all who support our church. Come & ENJOY!

Sunday October 13 @ 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

We need your donations for our Annual Lord's Portion Auction!

Contact the church office with your contribution to this fun event!

Plan to attend and ENJOY!



**Sunday November 3**

**Lunch begins @ Noon in Fellowship Hall**

**Auction after everyone is served!**



## All Saints Day: November 3



Please join us for worship on November 3 as we take time to grieve with hope those who have gone before us. Part of our celebration will include the processing of a memorial bell banner. You can hang a bell on this banner in memory of a loved one. Bells and the banner will be available at the church starting October 27th. We will also have lighting of candles during worship.

### Prayer for the Election Year of a President

God of mercy, our nation is in a time of great transition.

With all of the injustice and fear in our world today, we ask you to inspire us and guide us as we participate in the upcoming presidential elections.

We seek a government that upholds and protects human rights and justice for all its citizens, regardless of race, class, gender, or religion.

Move and inspire us by your presence among us in the most vulnerable in our society. For their tears are your tears, their pain is your pain, their suffering is your suffering.

In gratitude for the right to vote, we pray.

- Anna Misleh

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Social Media Volunteers Wanted:** Social media savvy? We are looking for volunteers to help our church expand its reach on social media, specifically Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok. Contact Pastor Vicki for more information [vicki.fisher@iaumc.net](mailto:vicki.fisher@iaumc.net).

**11 o'clock Sound Booth Help Wanted:** We'd like to train a couple more people to run the PowerPoint and the soundboard for this service. Contact the office if you'd like to learn more.



Next Sunday October 6 is World Communion Sunday

We will collect a special UMCOR offering for support of World Communion efforts around our globe!

Thank you for your support of these efforts!



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 ... ..Lu Higgins  
 Choir Accompanist .....Deb Forbes  
 Custodian ..... Jeff Schmatt  
 Event Coordinator..... Barb Shepley  
 Financial Secretaries .....Tim Legore &  
 Jackie Morriscal  
 Treasurers . . . . . Mike Kragenbrink  
 Alison Dix



**World Communion Sunday  
 Sunday, October 6**

**Spaghetti Supper  
 Sunday, October 13 @ 5:30 PM  
 Fellowship Hall**

**Pledge Sunday for Stewardship  
 Sunday, October 27 @  
 Both Worship Services**