



Mount Vernon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar



Tuesday thru Friday

8:30 to 2:30

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

August 1-2

Day Camp at DRC

August 3

School Supply Distribution at 9 am

August 7

Wednesday Night Bible Study

begins at 6:30 pm

August 13

Leadership Team at 6 pm

August 14

School Prayer Walk at 6 pm

August 19

Caps For Kids

August 24

Super Splash Saturday at noon

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Coming Soon

September 2

Labor Day

Step By Step Closed

September 10

Leadership Team at 6 pm

September 15

Ann Knott's 80th Birthday Reception
at 2:30 pm



August 2019

Leadership

Lead Usher:

Mike Pyle

Audio/Visual Technology:

David & Lynn McDonald

Offering Counters:

Ann Knott & Peggy Pyle

Bus Driver:

Volunteer Needed

Children's Sunday School

Danielle Tabor

Check Us Out Online!

Check out our homepage at
www.mtvunited.org and leave
us a message!

Save Your Best Choice!

Thanks to all who brought in Best Choice labels. We got our 1,000 labels and sent them in to get \$60 this month. **Yeah !!!** We sincerely appreciate all who make the effort to shop for Best Choice items and snip the labels off. A special shout out goes to our own Step by Step and Mark's DRC church. who both sent envelopes of labels. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

Judy Kitchen

Please make sure the number underneath the barcode starts with "70038", these numbers denote the Best Choice brand. You are appreciated and you are helping fund the education of our children.

Mark's Message

THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

I am reading the book of Luke this week for my New Testament reading and I came yesterday to the parable of the man who had a fig tree in his vineyard that did not bear fruit. (read Luke Chapter 13 vs.6-9) Now, we all know that Jesus often taught in parables. Some of them are very straight forward and clear, and others are not. The parable that I am speaking of this morning deserves further study because it is a wonderful lesson for our lives and a wonderful example of the love God has for us.

In the story the owner of a vineyard has a fig tree that has not put forth any fruit in three years. The owner had faithfully checked on the tree each spring to see if it would produce, but finally had grown frustrated at the tree's failure. So, in his frustration he goes to the steward of his vineyard (his farm manager) and says CUT THIS TREE DOWN!! It doesn't produce anything so it's not worth the soil it uses! But then comes the steward who says Yes, Lord, but let me tend, and water, and fertilize the tree for one more year. Then if it bears fruit, fine, if not we'll then cut it down.

What do you think that means? Well let's put ourselves in the story. In this parable we are the fig tree and Christ is the steward, and God is the owner of the vineyard. We are the tree that God comes to (with hope) time after time to see if we are bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. God is the only one that has judgment over us. He alone determines if we are bearing fruit, and if the fruit we are bearing is worthy. But the parable also tells us that God's patience with us is not infinite, because our lives are not infinite. We only have this brief existence to serve God, to bear fruit, to be what we can be with Christ living in us. We, like the fig tree will eventually be cut down. The Bible says that the Lord increased King Solomon's days because he was righteous and asked for wisdom. Should God then not shorten our days if we live a fruitless life in iniquity?

But friends, we are also stewards with Christ. We are called by Christ to tend each other. We are called by Christ to seek out that brother or sister that is not bearing fruit, to tend them, to feed them with the Word of God, to lead them to the Water of Life, and to make sure they put down roots in the fertile soil of the family of God. So go forth this day and be fruitful. Be a good steward, and tend you're your brothers and sisters in Christ so they may be fruitful as well.

Almighty God, we know you are the vineyard owner and we are your servants. We know that you teach us in many ways. You show us that we can bear fruit, even after being barren for many years. That all things are possible with You in our lives. Lord make us fruitful in the Spirit and in works for Your Kingdom each day. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Have a great day!

Yours in Christ,

Mark

Our last water day for the summer will be
Thursday, August 1st.



The Mt. Vernon School District will begin class on
Thursday August 15, 2019.

Step By Step will have some additional openings for the one
and two year old classes at the end of August,
date to be announced.

We will also have openings in our Pre-K class available for 4-6
year old children beginning August 5th. If you are interested in
more information, please speak with Jessica.

Step By Step's fall curriculum will start
Tuesday, September 3rd.



Emmaus

Our local Emmaus Reunion group is meeting on Wednesdays at 11 am at the Church. We encourage anyone who has attended or who just wants some information to come and find out what Emmaus is all about.

Sunday Evening Bible Study

Our Bible Study is called "Momentum: Pursuing God's Blessings Through the Beatitudes" by Colin Smith. This study is designed to help us get "unstuck" and build momentum toward a more godly life. We meet at 5 pm for the Study and enjoy a potluck dinner at 6 pm. All are welcome to join.



Back to School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for our students. As they begin this school year, help them to use the talents and gifts you've given them to do their very best.

May they listen to their teachers with respect and open-minds. Help them to be honest and to always seek the truth. Help them to be kind to everyone at school, and to serve others as they would like to be served.

Help them to make good friends and be a good friend to someone in need. Lastly, help them to remember that You're always with them and that You'll never leave their side.

May they love You and follow You with all their hearts, soul, and strength. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!



Youth

Sunday Morning Study

Starting after Worship

The Book of Acts

Youth

Mission Schedule

August 6 Convoy of Hope
at 5:30 pm

August 11 Ronald McDonald
House (TBA)

Annual School Prayer Walk

Wednesday, August 14th
at 6 pm
Beginning at the
Elementary School

Do you surf the web? Have a Facebook page? Like us on Facebook or you can get an update on what is going on at Church on our website:

www.mtvunited.org

If you would like to announce an event you can email the church office at:

office@mtvunited.org

or drop off your item in the "website/social media" mailbox outside the church office.

Way-to-Go

Do you need a way to go? If so, there may be an answer to your dilemma! Our transportation ministry assists in transporting church members to such places such as doctor appointments, the grocery store, or to other nearby places. There is no cost for this service.

However, a minimum of 48 hours notice is required. For more information, or to schedule a ride call Ann Knott at 417-466-8575.



August Happenings

Super Splash Saturday

August 24th

From Noon to 3 pm

At the First United Methodist Church

Water Slide

Water Balloon

And More

Bounce House

Hot Dogs

Chips

Drinks

Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult

We Need You

Check out the volunteer sign-up sheets for 2019 on the shelf at the coat rack in the foyer. There are still opportunities to:

count money
usher
operate the PowerPoint
drive the bus.



MVMW Mt. Vernon Methodist Women



TO: ALL LADIES of the CHURCH

Our ladies have helped with the Backpack Program and are attending the Miller Methodist's last service on August 4th. We have had several joint meetings/lunches with these ladies and want to welcome them to join our MVMW.

Also, in August we are doing lunch with a couple of our ladies in Care Facilities. Watch for the dates and times.

We are also preparing for the Festival of Sharing Gathering in Republic on September 20-21. We've always done the "Personal Hygiene Packs," but this year we decided to do the "MO Women's Prison Pack" which involves a \$10 donation for specific items which the Festival Office buys in bulk (cheaper & insures correct items). The second pack we picked is the "MO Paper Products Pack" which includes: 3 wrapped packages of toilet paper with 4 double rolls each; 2 rolls paper towels (good quality); and 2 (large rectangle boxes) facial tissue. I will put up a poster showing these 2 requests, and you may bring items and/or cash for the packs. These items need to be turned in by Sunday, September 8th, as we will pack them at our September 10th meeting.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Judy Kitchen