



Mount Vernon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar



Tuesday thru Friday

8:30 to 2:30

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

December 3

Leadership Team at 6 pm

December 6

SBS Christmas Program at 5:45 pm

December 10

MVMW at 10 am at the Red Barn

December 23

SBS Closed

December 24

Christmas Eve Service at DRC at 5:30 pm

Office & SBS Closed

December 25

Merry Christmas

Office & SBS Closed

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January 1

Office & SBS Closed

January 7

Leadership Team at 6 pm

January 15

All Church Visioning Meeting at 6:30 pm

Coming Soon

December 2019

Leadership

Lead Usher:

Jean Duwe

Audio/Visual Technology:

David McDonald &
Emily Horrell

Offering Counters:

Ann Knott
& Hope Morris

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 for all the labels turned in this month; we got almost 200. That seems like a lot, but it's a long way from 1,000 which we need to turn in. I would like to suggest that as you shop for items on our Christmas Advent calendar, you might look for Best Choice items. I know our Walmart does NOT carry Best Choice, so you might use one of the grocery stores in Aurora or Monett. Happy shopping and Merry Christmas.

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.

Wow! December already.... where does the time go? Remember when you were a kid and you thought that Christmas would never ever get here!? What happened?

I have a question for you this evening. Now be honest...Do you eat fish sticks? I would like to say that I only dine on the finest freshest catch of the day flown in at the peak of flavor from Nova Scotia...or something like that; but I can't. As I write these words I'm eating a highly nutritious meal of fish sticks and french fries (brain food, you know!). This poor fish has been caught, skinned, gutted, de-finned, ground-up, mashed, bleached, mixed with chemicals, chopped, formed, breaded, deep fried, frozen, and re-heated in a 350 degree oven for approximately 15-20 minutes. It's not even recognizable as a fish! If there was no picture and label on the box we wouldn't know what we were eating!

And as I munch away I think about this poor fish and how he probably had intentions of going to the best schools (pun intended), swimming in the best circles, and making a big splash in the ocean jet-set....kind of like a lot of Christians I know. We have such wonderful intentions (yes, I said "we") for service and prayer and living the life God calls us to live. But then something hooks us, or we get caught up in a net of lies and deceit. And all of a sudden we find ourselves....frozen. Unable to do anything for the kingdom of God.

Now you're saying, "Mark, this analogy doesn't work because the fish is just a hapless victim. He can't help being caught!" Guess what friend... neither can we! Without the love and grace and power of Jesus Christ we're already caught. We've got "Mrs. Paul's" stamped on our forehead and we're headed for the Devil's freezer! Only belief in Christ, only trust in our Almighty God, can prevent us from spending eternity in a place that none of us ever wants to be.

Lord, You call us to be set apart. Not of this world. Help us to have the strength and courage to swim against the current when need be. Help us to always be focused on You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mark

December's Dates to Remember:

Step BY Step's Christmas Program will be
Friday, December 6th at 5:45 pm.

Please join us for a night filled with Christmas songs sung by the Step By Step children followed by holiday fellowship around Christmas cookies and hot cocoa. We hope to see you there.

Step BY Step's Kids Christmas Party will be on **Tuesday, December 17th**. It will be Pajama Day!!! We will play Christmas games, have a Christmas snack and watch a Christmas movie on the big screen.

Step BY Step will be closed **Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, December 25, 2019.**

Step BY Step will also be closed **Wednesday, January 1, 2020.**



Emmaus

Our local Emmaus Reunion group is meeting on Mondays at 5:30 pm at the Church. We encourage anyone who has attended or if you just wants some information to come and find out what Emmaus is all about.

The Mustard Seeds

We are beginning a new study:

IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON WATER,
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT.

We meet every Sunday morning in room 103 right after morning worship. If you have children, there is an excellent Sunday School for them to learn valuable lessons about Jesus while we fellowship and share ideas.



Sunday Evening Small Group

The Sunday Evening Small group has a new name: The Sonshine Group. The Sonshine Group meets Sundays at the Church at 5 pm for study and finishes up with a potluck dinner at 6 pm. All are invited to come and enjoy the Word and fellowship.





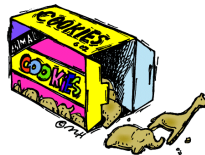
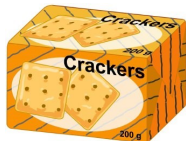
**Youth
Sunday Morning
Study**

Starting after Worship

The Book of Acts

College Student Care Packages

We are gathering items for care packages to send to our 7 college kids before their finals. Items need to be here before Tuesday, December 10th. Items could include: hot chocolate packages, snacks, candy, ramen noodles, gift cards to places like Subway.



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.

December Happenings

Reverse Advent Calendar



December 1	box of cereal
December 2	Peanut butter
December 3	stuffing mix
December 4	boxed potatoes
December 5	macaroni and cheese
December 6	canned fruit
December 7	can of spam
December 8	canned tuna
December 9	dessert mix
December 10	jar of applesauce
December 11	canned sweet potatoes
December 12	can of chicken
December 13	canned beans
December 14	box of crackers
December 15	instant rice
December 16	package of oatmeal
December 17	package of pasta
December 18	spaghetti sauce
December 19	chicken noodle soup
December 20	canned soup
December 21	can corn
December 22	can mixed vegetables
December 23	can carrots
December 24	can green beans

Support our Food Pantry

While our food pantry is small and serves as an Emergency food pantry, we have served an number of people from the community this year. Some passing through and others have run out of food until their checks come in. Whatever the need we are here for anyone who needs food. Our MVMW group maintains the food pantry but we are getting low on supplies again. We are asking that each person bring items suggested on the reverse advent calendar. There are a few items that tend to go quickly that are not on the calendar.

These items include:

all types of canned meat, boxed meals (homestyle bakes, hamburger and tuna helper, etc) snack sized crackers, fruit cups.

We Need You

We now have a sign-up for Worship Volunteers for 2020!!! We need your help to make Worship time successful.

Please sign up to:

count money
usher
operate the PowerPoint
drive the bus.



MVMW Mt. Vernon Methodist Women



TO: ALL LADIES of the CHURCH

In November, we had a wonderful visit to Ozarks Methodist Manor in Marionville. We took gifts to be used for the residents in the Skilled Nursing Facility, visited some residents, and were treated to a delicious lunch in the dining room (courtesy of Pam Jenkins for our years of giving to the Manor).

We will be helping with the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 28th, at the high school, by providing desserts. Next event is the SBS Christmas Program on Friday, December 6th, at 5:45 p.m. where we help provide cookies.

Our **December meeting** will be Brunch at the **Red Barn on Tuesday, December 10th, at 10 a.m.** We'd love to have you join us.