



Mount Vernon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar

All in person activities are suspended
until further notice due to COVID-19



Monday Thru Thursday
8:30 to 2:30
Lynn McDonald
Administrative Assistant

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Facebook Live

Office & SBS Closed

December 25

Merry Christmas

Office & SBS Closed

December 31

SBS Closed

Inside this issue:

Meetings	1
Sunday Helpers	2
Note from Donnie	3
Step-By-Step	4
Youth	5
Joys & Concerns	6
Small Groups	7

Coming Soon

January 1

SBS Closed

January 5

Leadership Team

First United Methodist Church
Worship 9 am
Sunday School 10 am

Check Us Out Online!

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

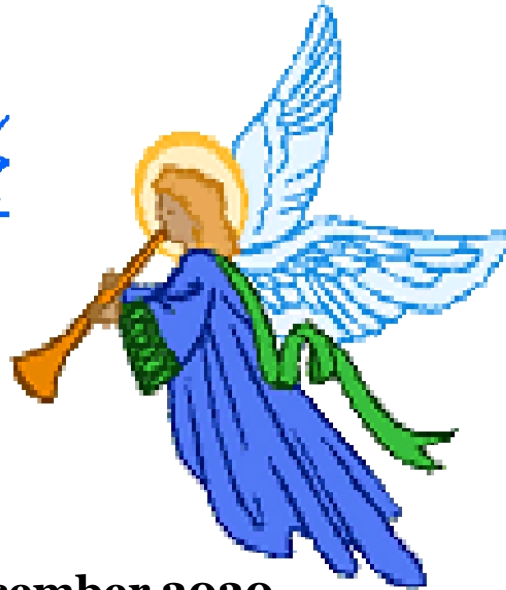
Save Your Best Choice!

We got 75 labels this past month.
So we need to try very hard to
get the last 100 labels needed for
our reward. Thanks to those who
find labels; let's try to get this
project finished before the end of
the year.

Since our Walmart doesn't offer
Best Choice products, if you can
get out to Aurora or Monett, they
have many of the Best Choice
items in the grocery stores. It
would be a good excuse to get out
of the house and go for a little
ride to get some needed groceries
for the label collection. Thanks to
everyone who has put the labels
in the basket in the entry.

Stay safe.

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.



December 2020 Leadership

**We have suspended all in person
gathering until further notice.
Please be in prayer to volunteer
for any of these special jobs in
the coming year when we can
once again meet in person.**

**Lead Usher
Operate the Presentation
Count the Offering
Bus Driver**

**If you have any questions
please contact the
Church office**



A Note From Pastor Donnie

Dear Church Family,

Today Annette and I unboxed our Christmas decorations - the Christmas tree, ornaments (most of our ornaments have a special meaning) and lights; the Christmas themed table cloth, kitchen rug and fancy jar of Christmas M&M's. With each one lifted out of their box it's like a spritz of season cheer released into the air. It's one of the things I love about Christmas! And it could go without saying that at the end of 2020 we could use some cheer!

However, what is commanding my attention right now are the manger scenes. One is made from Olive wood that Annette bought when she was in Israel, another is from Argentina, delicately carved from Palo Santo wood and tied together with string made of the Chaguar plant, and we have a couple that are of the ceramic type. All are beautiful. However, what is really incredibly awesome is the humility and grace of God in the Incarnation Event! What a demonstration of the love of God! God, through Jesus Christ, clothed Himself with humanity to live among us; to reveal Himself to us; to show us how to live through sorrow and hard times, as well as joy and good times;

My response is awe, adoration, praise, hope and indescribable feelings of wonder!

During this season of celebrating "Emmanuel, God with us", I pray that you will have an indescribable experience with God, who is still with us in all of our humanity.

Blessings,

Pastor Donnie

December Dates to Remember!



Step-By Step
will be closed on:

Thursday, December 24th
and Friday, December 25th
for Christmas

Thursday, December 31st
and Friday, January 1st
For New Years

December 2020



FUMC Youth

Grades 7-12

Meet at the Church

Wednesdays

Starting at 5:30 pm

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy to help us remember what Christmas is all about. He made a Christmas Candy Cane.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white for the purity and sinless nature of Jesus and hard candy to symbolize the solid rock foundation of the Church and strength of the promise of God.

He made it in the form of a "J" for Jesus and to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd.

He included red stripes to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life.



Please keep the following
in your prayers:



General Prayer Requests

Ian McDonald

Cancer Treatment

Chris Atkinson

Health and Healing

Jim Greene

Jean McDonald

Holly Wright (Ann Knott's
Granddaughter)

Military

Nathan Harralson

Lt. Anthony Richardson

Landon Hull

Lt. Jonathan Healey

Jacob Lamkins

Our people in the nursing homes:

Mt. Vernon Place Care

1425 S Landrum St

Mt. Vernon

Shawna Woolsey

Lawrence County Manor

915 Carl Allen Dr

Mt. Vernon

Wilma Wood

Lucille Newkirk

Oak Pointe of Monett

1011 Old Airport Rd

Monett, MO 65708

Lonnie Baugh

COVID-19 restrictions may be relaxing for most of us, our nursing home residents are still on lockdown. So why not drop a card off to our Nursing facility members. If you would like an updated directory contact the Church office.



If anyone needs anything during this time of uncertainty you can call the Church office or contact Shelley (417-366-0296) or Geoff Mosely (417-366-0283).



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.

MVMW Mt. Vernon Methodist Women

TO: ALL LADIES of the CHURCH



We had 11 ladies at our Nov. meeting when we went to Sarcoxie to the Golden Plate restaurant. The items for the Marionville Methodist Manor were collected; we had several large bags of gift items and a total of \$175.00 cash to be used as needed (much of it for the salon). Due to the lockdown at the Manor, we could not visit there, but the gifts were delivered a few days later, and they were very much appreciated.

We had planned a Christmas meeting in December, but due to the closure mandate, we will not be having a December meeting. A big Thank You to all the ladies who have supported MVMW projects during this past year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stay well and we'll see you when we can. Our love to you all.

The Church has new software

Recently the Church purchased a new software called Servant Keeper. One of the perks to this software is that we have the opportunity for a digital directory, with pictures!!

What is so great about that, you ask? Well, you can edit your own family's info. You will be able to upload your own family pictures (instead of having to use generic church taken pictures) and be able to update information like phone numbers, address, etc. Sometimes it takes the office a while to get updated information. Plus, the directory is at your fingertips whenever you may need it. You will also be able to keep track of your giving!! Don't worry, only you can see your giving information. And you can control what information is available to your Church family as well.

Soon you will receive an email from the Church inviting you to participate. All you will need to do is click the link and follow the prompts.

So keep an eye out for this email in December.



Dear Church Family – do you remember when you were having a baby (or some other life event) and your church family did something nice for you? I remember and it was such a blessing. I really want to bless our little family Paul and Shyann Jones. They will be welcoming little John Paul Jones to their family sometime around December 20th. She said the only thing they needed was bibs, burp rags, and binkys. I'm pretty sure they could always use diapers also. If you can bring any of these items by **Sunday, December 6th**. You may bring them to church on a Sunday or drop them by the church office during office hours. Donnie and I will deliver them.

Thank you so much!!!!

Love, Annette

Reverse Advent Calendar

While our food pantry is small and serves as an Emergency food pantry, we have served a number of people from the community this year. Some passing through and others have run out of food due to COVID-19. 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.



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| December 1 | box of cereal |
| December 2 | Peanut butter |
| December 3 | shelf milk |
| December 4 | boxed potatoes or instant mashed potatoes |
| December 5 | macaroni and cheese |
| December 6 | canned fruit |
| December 7 | can of spam or sausages |
| December 8 | canned tuna |
| December 9 | dessert mix |
| December 10 | hamburger helper |
| December 11 | canned stew |
| December 12 | canned chicken |
| December 13 | Banquet Complete Meals |
| December 14 | box of crackers |
| December 15 | instant rice |
| December 16 | jelly |
| December 17 | package of pasta |
| December 18 | spaghetti sauce |
| December 19 | soup mixes |
| December 20 | canned soup |
| December 21 | can corn |
| December 22 | can mixed vegetables |
| December 23 | canned ham, corned beef, etc. |
| December 24 | can green beans |



Join our Caroling Caravan

Church!!! Even though this year is so weird, and especially because this year is so weird, LET'S GO CAROLING!!!!!! Let's meet on Sunday afternoon, December 13th at 4:00. If you know of someone that would benefit from this, and doesn't live too far away, please let Lynn know! Geoff will accompany us with about 10 carols. We can give people the gift of our presence and our song. Unfortunately, if the weather is bad, we don't have a rain date, so pray for good weather! Everyone just drive your own vehicle and we can social distance outside!! I cannot wait!!

Annette Hudson