



Mount Vernon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar



Monday Thru Thursday

8:30 to 2:30

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

December 5

Leadership Team— after Worship

December 12

Caroling—TBA

December 19

**Potluck and White elephant gift exchange
After Worship**

December 24

Christmas Eve Service—5:30 pm

SBS Closed

December 25

Merry Christmas!

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	7,8
Special	10
Backpacks	11
Calendar	???

Coming Soon

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 2

Leadership Team

January 11

MVMW



December 2021 Leadership

Lead Usher
Mike Pyle

Audio/Visual
David & Lynn
McDonald

Offering Counters
Jean Duwe & Peggy Pyle

Kingdom Kids
Annette Hudson

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 now have 628 Best choice labels, up from the 580 we had in October. If we want to get the bonus by the end of the year, we're going to need to come up with a lot more labels. Please keep looking for Best Choice items and save the labels for us. Thanks to all who help with this project.

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.

A Note From Pastor Donnie

Dear Church,

Ho ho ho!

Santa Claus, gifts, Christmas carols, Apple cider, jingle bells, mistletoes, Christmas lights, decorations, family gatherings and all that stuff.

Christmas is a magical time of the year! So much so, that it's easy to forget the real reason we celebrate. But, the birth story of the Christ goes beyond magical. It takes us into a spiritual wonderland. In the retelling and remembering of the event we enter into the very heart of God. We see the intense desire of God to establish an intimate relationship with humans.

Philippians 2:6-7a (NLT) tells us,
"Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being...."

I understand why some Christians want to just remove all of the hoopla surrounding the holidays. And if, in so doing, it helps them focus more on the person of Jesus Christ, then good for them. However, for me, the beauty of the Christmas season reminds me of the beauty of Christ. I am reminded of the love of Jesus, who in order to attract me to himself, became like me, as a human, so that I could become more like him.

So, this Christmas season I purpose to let every decoration, every event, every Christmas Carol, every "Merry Christmas" greeting, bite of turkey and ham, green bean casserole, and piece of pie to remind me of God's heart for me!

Join me!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Donnie



Step By Step Wish List

Great Value leak proof plates	Whole milk
8 ounce cups	1% milk
Baby Wipes	Noodles
Paper Towels	Spaghetti sauce
Lysol spray	Alfredo sauce
Disposable gloves (large)	Snack foods
13 gallon trash bags	Canned chicken
Cheerios, Frosted Flakes	Hot dogs
Peanut Butter	Corn dogs
Jelly	Chicken nuggets
Small tortillas	Pizza rolls
Whole grain crackers	Fish sticks
Fresh or canned fruits and vegetables (apples, bananas, little oranges, raisins, frozen blueberries, carrots, cucumbers)	Lunch meats
	Cheese



Step by Step
will be closed

Friday, December 24th and
Friday December 31st.



Step By Step
Now Hiring

Please send resumes to
stepbystepfumc@gmail.com



Please keep the following
in your prayers:



General Prayer Requests

Ian McDonald

Those battling COVID-19
and their families

Cancer Treatment

Chris Atkinson

Health and Healing

Cassidi Baker

Jim Greene

Jean McDonald

Military

Nathan Harralson

Lt. Anthony Richardson

Landon Hull

Our people in the nursing homes:

Lawrence County Manor

915 Carl Allen Dr

Mt. Vernon

Wilma Wood

Lucille Newkirk

Reva West

Oak Pointe of Monett

1011 Old Airport Rd

Monett, MO 65708

Lonnie Baugh



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

Our November meeting was at the Panda House. We had 12 ladies present, with a special welcome to Phyllis Immekus and Marilyn Meyer back into our group. We collected all the Christmas gifts & checks for the Ozarks Methodist Manor. MVMW gave a group check of \$50 and received individual checks of \$210; making a total of \$260 cash donation. The gift donations were delivered to the Manor on Nov. 16th.

Other business was the motion to provide our SBS staff a Christmas luncheon. We also have many members making individual donations of food to SBS. The list of items needed has been in the bulletin the last several weeks; they are thankful for any donations. Thanks were given to all who helped with the Munchkin Maze. Esther Perryman had the devotion and volunteered to have the devotion again at our next meeting. Thanks, Esther.

We decided not to have a meeting in December; rather, to take part in the celebrations the church has set up. Our next meeting will be the second Tuesday in January. We will meet at **Panda House on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 11am.** Please join us if you can; we always have a fun and informative time & a delicious meal.

Merry Christmas to all!

The Mustard Seeds

Planting seeds in faith

There is a Small Group Bible Study every Sunday following morning worship.

It is called MUSTARD SEEDS.

Adults of any age are invited to go to room 103 down the east hall and join in. It's OK to come any time because the study is informal. (Spoiler alert:)

You may hear some chattering and laughing. It happens a lot! Not disrespectful, just good fellowship!

Check it out!

♡ If a Tiny
Virus can do
this much
Damage.....
imagine what
a Mustard
Seed of Faith
can Do.... ♡



Women of the Word (WOW)

The Women of the Word group will meet one more time this year, on December 6th at 6:30 to watch the wrap up video to the Galatians study by Beth Moore.

We will come back with a new study in February.

“Defiant Joy: What happens when you are full of it” by Candace Payne.

Prayer Focus Group



The Prayer Focus Group
will not meet in December.

The next meeting is
Monday, January 24th at 5 pm.



We have an Emergency Food Pantry. We are stocked and ready to help anyone who might need something to eat. If you know of anyone who might need this service please let them know we are here. We have pre-made bags for singles, couples, and families.

The pantry is open Monday through Thursday
8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Caroling

Church family ,
Last year some of us went caroling and had such a good time we want to do it again!! Our plan is to go on December the 12th. We plan on going out to eat first and then driving around singing songs to members and friends that could use some good cheer!! Geoff will accompany us on his ukulele! If it is raining on that day, however, we will have to cancel. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up as it will help us plan.

Thank you, Pastor Donnie



Christmas Party

Dear church family,

Let's have a Christmas party this year! It will take place on Sunday, December 19th right after church. We will have a potluck sitting around the round tables in the sanctuary similar to the way we did the Easter celebration. After we eat, we have two games planned for all age groups. The first game is called "Dirty Santa." If you desire to play, then, each person, including children, must bring a wrapped gift. These can range anywhere from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Game rules will be explained at the game.

The next game we have planned is the Saran Wrap game. Again, rules will be explained at the party. You don't have to bring anything for this game. After the games are over, we will have a surprise visitor! Make plans to attend now and invite a friend!

Backpack Ministry

We are basically starting from scratch fund wise for our Backpack ministry. We received a \$4000 grant from the Mt. Vernon Area Community Foundation that brought our funds to \$4785. I will be writing another grant in the spring through the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. I am estimating a budget of \$6500 for next year, considering cost increases and an increase in the number of students served.

To meet this budget we are going to need to do some fundraising. We have started “Cash for Backpacks”.

On the first Sunday of each month, December 5th, we are asking you to donate your loose change (checks and bills will happily be accepted). All funds will go to the Backpack Ministry.

This ministry is very close to my heart and I hope yours!
Your support is greatly appreciated.

Jean Duwe



Thank you for your generosity, our first “Cash for Backpacks” collection brought in

\$89.18!!

This is equivalent to
3.5 complete backpacks!!

DECEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 SBS Chapel—10 am Bible Study—5 pm Youth—5:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Leadership Team after Worship Cash for Backpacks Collection	6 WOW—6:30 pm	7	8 SBS Chapel—10 am Bible Study—5 pm Youth—5:30 pm	9	10	11
12 Praise Team—8 am Caroling—TBA	13	14	15 SBS Chapel—10 am Bible Study—5 pm Youth—5:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Praise Team—8 am Potluck Dinner, White Elephant gift exchange after Worship	20	21	22 SBS Chapel—10 am Bible Study—5 pm Youth—5:30 pm	23	24 Candlelight Service 5:30 pm SBS Closed	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 Praise Team—8 am Mustard Seeds 10 am	27	28	29 SBS Chapel—10 am Bible Study—5 pm Youth—5:30 pm	30	31 SBS Closed	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>



5 Hunter McKinzie
 10 Esther Perryman
 Amanda Campbell
 11 Les Crider
 14 Kitty Crider
 15 Rita Duncan
 23 Shelley Mosley
 28 Emily Horrell



15 Donnie & Annette Hudson
 29 Jim & Shirley Greene