



Mount Vernon

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar



Monday Thru Thursday

8:30 to 2:30

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

- May 1 Leadership Team after Worship
Cash for Backpacks
- May 5-8 Men's and Women's Emmaus Walk
- May 8 *Happy Mother's Day!*
- May 10 MVMW at 11 am at the Panda House
Women of the Word at 6 pm
- May 23 Prayer Focus Group
- May 30 *Happy Memorial Day*
Office and 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
Backpacks	10, 11
Wedding Announcement	12
Calendar	13

Coming Soon

- June 5 Pentecost
Cash for Backpacks
Leadership Team
- June 11-12 Annual Conference in Branson
- June 14 Women of the Word
- June 19 Happy Father's Day
- June 27 Prayer Focus Group
- June 28 Women of the Word



May 2022 Leadership

Lead Usher
Volunteer Needed

Audio/Visual
David & Lynn
McDonald

Offering Counters
Sue Chappell
& Hope Morris

Kingdom Kids
Volunteer needed



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 846 Best Choice labels, up from 790 labels we had last month. We did not make our goal for this year, but we will continue into 2022. 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,

If you're not growing, you're dying!

I love gardening. So, springtime is an exciting time for me. Whenever we have a couple of sunny, warm days I'm always filled with anticipation for more consistent spring weather. For some of the plants that I grow from seeds it signals the time to get them started inside.

I noticed a couple of my plants sprouted fine grew a little bit, but then stopped growing. Within a couple of days, they were dead. So, I thought there's a principal here: "If you are not growing you're dying!"

While researching the topic of spiritual growth, I came across the following quote: (Spiritual growth) "involves three stages of development: the purgative stage, the illuminative stage, and the unitive stage". Say what?!

I almost stopped reading after this sentence, too! But stick with me it's gonna be good!

The first stage of growth emphasizes the salvation experience. You realize your need for a savior, put your trust in Christ, and begin to turn away from sin in obedience to God. My observation as a pastor is that a lot of people stay stuck in this stage. Don't be a rut sticker! Move to the next stage.

The second stage of growth is recalling all that God has done for you. There is an emphasis on God's extraordinary grace to forgive you of your sin, to accept you into the family, and a humility from realizing that you don't deserve any of it! All of this serves to increase your love, appreciation, and fondness of God. Keep moving. There's more good stuff to come!

Now, as you continue to seek God, worship God, and ask him to reveal his beauty to you; you begin to experience his presence, his love, and grace in ever increasing ways. Here, prayer becomes more contemplative, and virtue becomes more mature, almost heroic. You are willing to make great sacrifices for others and for the cause of Christ.

Final word-these stages of growth are not static. You may find yourself moving in and out of all of them as you continue your walk with God.

Walking the path of spiritual growth with you,

Pastor Donnie

Quotes and ideas are from <https://divinemeracy.edu/the-stages-of-spiritual-growth-and-freedom/>

**Step By Step
Child Development Center
is proud to announce the
graduation of
five Pre-K students on
May 19th at 5:30 pm.**

Corbin Baldwin
Kaden Bracht
Anson Choate
Bailey Evans
Tinley McClure



Step By Step
Now Hiring

Please send resumes to
stepbystepfumc@gmail.com

May 2022



We have one graduating senior this year. Trinity Stacy is a member of our Praise Team and the Youth group. She plans on attending OTC using her A+ program. Then moving on to attend Drury University working toward a teaching degree with a minor in music.

There is a box in the foyer for you to give her a card and wisdom. We will have a reception for her on Sunday, May 22nd after Worship.



Please keep the following
in your prayers:

General Prayer Requests

Family of Melba Carrington

Family of Lonnie Baugh

Ian McDonald

Those battling COVID-19
and their families

Cancer Treatment

Chris Atkinson

Health and Healing

Jim Greene

Jean McDonald

Military

Nathan Harralson
Lt. Anthony Richardson

Landon Hull

Lt. Jonathan Healey



Our people in the nursing homes:

Lawrence County Manor
915 Carl Allen Dr
Mt. Vernon

Wilma Wood
Lucille Newkirk



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 8 members at our April meeting at the Golden Plate in Sarcoxie. Thanks were given to Shirley for her donation of another book. Thanks also to everyone who donated eggs and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Our new business was the “Festival of Sharing.” We voted to donate a check to be used as needed. The collection for our Southwest Region will be at Hood UMC in Republic on September 17th, 2022. We agreed to not meet during the summer months, but we will have a get-together in August to finalize our Festival donation. Another motion was to make \$50 donation to the Diaper Pantry.

Ann Knott gave our devotion from “Seedbed” about becoming an “elder” from 1 Peter 5:1-5.

Our **next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10th, at the Panda House at 11 am.** Esther will have the devotion continuing her study of the 23rd Psalm.

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

The Mustard Seeds

Planting seeds in faith

The Sunday morning Small Group Bible Study known as the MUSTARD SEEDS has a new study.

“The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi” by Kathy Lee Gifford

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

(Spoiler alert:) You may hear some chattering and laughing.
Not disrespectful, just having fun.

Check it out!



Women of the Word (WOW)

We are changing the day and time we meet to the
second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm.

Come join us in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, May 10th and May 24th.

Our study is:

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

Prayer Focus Group



The Prayer Focus Group
meet on the fourth Monday of the month for focused
prayer for our church, the ministries God has given us
and the people He has called to fulfill them.

In between our meeting times, Pastor Donnie will
contact each prayer group member with any additional
prayer focus and with prayer encouragement. If you
would like to know more or believe God is calling you
to a prayer ministry, please contact Pastor Donnie or
come visit one of our meetings.

The next meeting is
Monday, May 23rd at 6 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.

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, May 1st, 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 last “Cash for Backpacks” collection brought in

\$383.72!!

This is equivalent to nearly 19 complete backpacks!!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Backpack and School Supply Program

Registration Form – Please Print Clearly

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER OR A CONTACT NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CHILDREN'S FIRST AND LAST NAMES

GRADE

The First United Methodist Church
is providing free grade appropriate supplies to Mount Vernon School children (PreK-12th grade).

Please Register **before August 1st**
(Registration is Required).

Return the above form to the HOPE CENTER, or by mail to:

First United Methodist Church

P.O. BOX 108

Mount Vernon, MO 65712

--or in person to First United Methodist Church on HWY V

--Call 417-466-2459 (church) or 417-466-3070 (HOPE)

--Or by email to office@mtvunited.org

Backpacks must be picked up at

First United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 13th between 9 AM – 11 AM.

A couple is shown in a romantic embrace outdoors. The man is wearing a dark jacket and the woman is wearing a striped shirt. They are standing on a gravel path near a body of water, with trees in the background. The text of the wedding invitation is overlaid on this image.

Please join us
For the wedding of
Shaelea Shepard

And

Luke McKinzie

Saturday June 4, 2022

4:30pm

Industrial grove

1024 state road AA

Fair grove, Missouri 65648

Reception to follow

Please RSVP at

Theknot.com/MeetTheMckinzies

May 2022



**Cash for Backpacks
May 1st**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Cash For Backpacks Leadership Team after Worship	2 Backpack Registration Begins	3	4 SBS Chapel at 10 am Youth at 5:30 pm Bible Study at 6 pm	5 Men's and Women's Emmaus Walk	6 Men's and Women's Emmaus Walk	7 Men's and Women's Emmaus Walk
8 Mustard Seeds after Worship Men's and Women's Emmaus Walk	9	10 MVMW at 11 am at Panda House WOW at 6 pm	11 SBS Chapel at 10 am Youth at 5:30 pm Bible Study at 6 pm	12	13	14
15 District Superintendent Alice Fowler speaking Dinner after Worship	16	17	18 SBS Chapel at 10 am Youth at 5:30 pm Bible Study at 6 pm	19 Step By Step Graduation at 5:45 pm	20	21
22 Praise Team at 8 am Mustard Seeds after Worship	23 Prayer Focus Group at 6 pm	24 WOW at 6 pm	25 SBS Chapel at 10 am Youth at 5:30 pm Bible Study at 6 pm	26	27	28
29 Praise Team at 8 am Mustard Seeds after Worship	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office & SBS Closed	31	1 SBS Chapel at 10 am Youth at 5:30 pm Bible Study at 6 pm	2	3	4

**Happy
Birthday!**

3 Austin Belanger
 4 Gabriel Grace
 7 Lynn McDonald
 8 Marge Jones
 Steve Jones
 12 Peggy Pyle
 16 Brooke Seymour
 22 Joel Grace
 24 Gavin Earnest
 26 Patti Robb
 29 Logan Belanger



2 Tom & Robin Tate
 18 Dustin & Nicole Morris