



# Mount Vernon

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### December 2022 Leadership

Lead Usher  
Volunteer Needed

Audio/Visual  
*David & Lynn  
McDonald*

Offering Counters  
Volunteer Needed  
& Volunteer Needed

Kingdom Kids  
Volunteer Needed

Transportation  
Volunteer Needed



Please be in prayer  
for the following:

### General Prayer Requests

**Cancer Treatment**  
*Robin Tate  
Chris Atkinson*

**Health and Healing**  
*Nick Tate  
Jim Greene  
Jean McDonald*

**Military**  
*Nathan Harralson  
Lt. Anthony Richardson  
Landon Hull  
Lt. Jonathan Healey*

*You're  
Invited!*

### December Events

- 4 Christmas Party and Potluck after Worship
- 6 Caps for Kids
- 20 Caps for Kids
- 23 Step By Step Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 pm
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 26 Office and Step by Step Closed

### Upcoming Events

*January 8* Discernment and Leadership  
Team meeting. More information to come.

### Wednesday Activities

SBS Chapel at 10 am  
Youth at 5:30 pm

**NOW  
OPEN**

8:30 - 2:30  
Monday - Thursday  
Lynn McDonald  
Administrative Assistant

*A note from*  
**PASTOR DONNIE**

Dear Church Family,

This month we focus on the awesome event, so many years ago, when God became a human. For Christians world wide this a joyous and blessed event filled with encouragement and hope for the future - both in this life and the life to come.

But it was not so across the world during the time of Jesus birth. If you believed in a god or gods, him or her (or it) becoming a human was scandalous. A god or gods were always “beyond” humanity. Any god that became a human was disgraced. They must have done something in the “god-world” to get demoted and kicked out. The gods were always unapproachable, exacting allegiance through fear and intimidation. And if there were some who were benevolent, they lacked power to administer it at their discretion.

Gods in most modern religions are the same way. I think it is because all of those gods are creations of the human imagination, and we know, by instinct, that we are not god-material. We are not god-material. (Repetition for emphasis) So, it stands to reason that we would never think about God being so humble in His great power and powerful love for us that He would become one of us.

Yet, that is exactly what He did - by His own design, His own desire, and His own pleasure. “For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

Zephaniah 3:17 NLT

And this is in the “mean ol’ Old Testament”!

From the New Testament we are given this truth:

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.”

Colossians 1:15, 17, 19-20 NLT (emphasis mine)

So, this Christmas, as you celebrate the birth event know that God was pleased to come as a human and is still pleased to live among us!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Donnie

## CAPS FOR KIDS

Caps for Kids is a ministry in which we make all cotton surgical caps for kids. They are donated to Mercy Kids in Springfield.

There are jobs for all levels from cutting circles, cut elastic, run the elastic, and sewing the caps.

Caps For Kids will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Come and join us on Tuesday, December 6th and 20th!

## Mustard Seeds

### Planting seeds in faith

The Sunday morning Small Group Bible Study known as the MUSTARD SEEDS is studying:

"Revelation: Extravagant Hope"

by Margaret Feinberg

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 might hear some chattering and laughing.

Come and check it out!

## Women Of The Word!

The Women of the Word group are taking December off. We will meet again in January to discuss our next study.

## MVMW!

### Mt Vernon Methodist Women

TO: ALL LADIES of the CHURCH:

Our November meeting was cancelled due to weather and absent members.

But, we were able to complete our

November project - the Ozarks Methodist Manor. Our ladies collected 6 large bags of items for the Manor's

Christmas gifts and \$350.00 for providing haircuts and perms, etc. and other items needed. The Manor was very thankful for our donations.

**Our December meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday, December 13 at 11 am at the Red Barn.**

Judy will have the devotions. All ladies are welcome to join us. A Very Merry Christmas to all!



### The Prayer Focus Group

The Prayer Focus Group meets 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, December 26th at 5 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.



## Reverse Advent Calendar For SBS

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 27: Cereal               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 15: Corn Dogs         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 28: Peanut Butter        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 16: Chicken Nuggets   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 29: Jelly                | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 17: Leak proof plates |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 30: Small Tortillas      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 18: Pizza Rolls       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 1: Whole Grain Crackers  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 19: Fish Sticks       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 2: Baby Food             | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20: Lunch Meats       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 3: Plastic Spoons        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 21: Cheese            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 4: Fresh or Canned Fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 22: Apple Sauce       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 5: Whole Milk            | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 23: Pancake Mix       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 6: Noodles               | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 24: 8 oz. cups        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7: Spaghetti Sauce       | <u>Additional suggestions</u>                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 8: Alfredo Sauce         | Paper Towels, Baby Wipes,                           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 9: Snack Foods           | Lysol Spray, 13-gallon trash bags                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 10: Plastic Forks        |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 11: Fresh or Canned Veg. |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 12: 1% Milk              |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 13: Canned Chicken       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 14: Hot Dogs             |   |  |



Thank you for your generosity with our "Cash For Backpacks" collections. Our November "Cash For Backpacks" collection brought in \$29.25.

Our next Cash for Backpacks collection is  
Sunday, December 4th.

We are planning to continue the Cash for Backpacks collections on the first Sunday of every month. Now the work begins in preparing for next year. We plan to apply for the Methodist Foundation but we still need your help to make this a successful ministry.





# CHRISTMAS

## Party

### Come and join us for food and fun!

Sunday, December 4th we will have our Christmas party and potluck dinner after Worship. The format will be like last year. Worship will be at the normal time, but we will have the round tables set up in the sanctuary. After the service we will eat then have a gift exchange game. If you do not want to participate in the gift exchange that is no problem. You can have fun watching the chaos! If you do want to participate, choose a gift around \$10-\$15 (it can be a serious or funny).

Also, if you have an idea for something else (and you would like to lead it) let me know. The game will be for all age groups. Keep that in mind when purchasing a gift.



I want to thank my Church family for all the prayers, support, texts & gifts that they have showered me with during this trial. You will never know how surprised & honored that I was when I walked into church & everyone had shirts on to support & cheer me on!!!! A special thank you to Sandy & Peggy for putting that together along with the generous monetary gift from my church. Also, the youth group, gave me a beautiful basket filled with some of my favorite things, pioneer women cups, tea, a beautiful blanket, a plant & some killer socks to keep me warm☺!

Our church may be small in numbers but it is mighty in Love, Kindness & Generosity!  
I love you all so very much & am truly blessed with having you in my life.

Thanks Again  
Robin Tate

Happy  
**BIRTHDAY**

2 Joel Belanger II  
5 Hunter McKinzie  
10 Esther Perryman  
Amanda Campbell  
11 Les Crider  
14 Kitty Crider  
15 Rita Duncan  
23 Shelley Mosley

Happy  
Anniversary

15 Donnie & Annette Hudson  
29 Jim & Shirley Greene

# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Cash for Backpacks  Christmas Party/Potluck after Worship	5	<b>6</b> Caps for Kids at 6 pm	<b>7</b> SBS Chapel at 10am  Youth at 5:30 pm	8	9	10
<b>11</b> Praise Team 8 am  Mustard Seeds after Worship	12	<b>13</b> MVMW at 11 am	<b>14</b> SBS Chapel at 10am  Youth at 5:30 pm	15	16	17
<b>18</b> Praise Team 8 am  Mustard Seeds after Worship	19	<b>20</b> Caps for Kids at 6 pm	<b>21</b> SBS Chapel at 10am  Youth at 5:30 pm	22	<b>23</b>  SBS Closed	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm
<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas!</i>  Worship at 9 am	<b>26</b> Prayer Focus Group at 5 pm  Office Closed  SBS Closed	27	<b>28</b> SBS Chapel at 10am  Youth at 5:30 pm	29	30	31