



# The Epistle

June 2015  
Volume 2015-06



## Upcoming Events

- 6/7—Chocolate Stroll
- 6/8—BUNKO
- 6/9— Cancer Support Group
- 6/14—Healing Touch Circle
- 6/15—Session
- 6/29—Knitting Group

## Summer Reading List

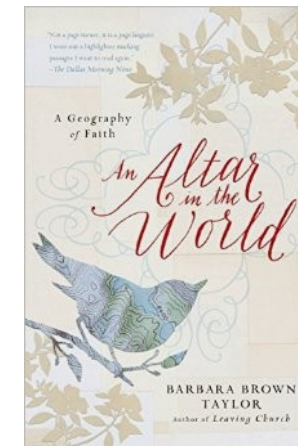
One of the many things people look forward to in summer is having time to read. A couple of weeks ago, I ordered this pile of books in anticipation of tending my mind and spirit more intentionally during June, July and August (even though I started reading some of them in May!).



So when, at the same time, I was trying to figure out what to preach on this summer, it occurred to me: what if we did a sermon series based on a book those who were interested in could read along with me?

It didn't take long to think of the book.

*An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor is, in many ways, the perfect book for a summer preaching series. In this book, Taylor encourages her readers to expand their understanding of where God is (hint: it's not only in the sanctuary!) and what God is up to (hint: it doesn't only happen in church!).



Taylor writes, "...my hope is that reading [these pages] will help you recognize some of the altars in this world—ordinary-looking places where human beings have met and may continue to meet up with the divine More that they sometimes call God."

In each chapter she pairs a practice with a religious idea or concept. For example, the practice of *paying attention* is paired with *reverence* and the practice of *living with purpose* is paired with *vocation*. Each Sunday, worship and the sermon will be inspired by a chapter, practice and idea, as well as a scripture reading (or two) that goes along with it.

Summer can get so busy that it is easy to be disconnected from church and worship. My hope is that by offering a sermon series on *An Altar in the World*, whether you are here in body or not, your spirit may be fed and you can feel connected to what is happening in our congregation.

One of my favorite lines in the book is this: *Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.*

It seems to me that this awareness of God in the world is exactly what summer should be about!

*Pastor Lori*

**First Presbyterian Church**

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**We're on the web:**  
[www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com)

Follow us on

Facebook:  
First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon



Twitter:  
FirstPresMV

The office hours are Tuesday through Friday mornings 9:30am until 12:30. pm

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Music Director:  
Damon Cole



# NEWS & Notes



**Bunko— Monday, June 8th, Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm**



**Cancer Support Group — Tuesday, June 9th, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm**



**TLC—Will not meet in June, next meeting Wednesday, July 8th, at Hallmark Care Center, Mt. Vernon, 1:30 pm**



**Healing Touch Circle, Sunday, June 14th, Community Room, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (by appointment only). To register for a spot, go to this website and follow the links: <http://mtvchc.wix.com/mount-vernon-chc>**



**Session Meeting— Monday, June 15th, Community Room, 6:30 pm**



**Knitting Group, Monday, June 29th, at the home of Connie Proffitt, 2:00 pm**



### Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube! Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search "FirstPresMV" at youtube.com
- Go to [www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV](http://www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV)



### Hey, Facebook Users!

Want another way to find out what's going on at church? Be sure to 'Like' *First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon* on Facebook!

We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.



## Highlights from May 18, 2015 Session Meeting

**PRESENT:** Don Burch, Carol Dillard, Paul Jerabek, Beth Simon, Amy Weber, and clerk, Rozanne Petrick and moderator Lori Wunder.

**ABSENT:** Becky Ahrens, Nate Willems, Sue Deibner, Stephanie West, Shelley Woodley, James Cannon, and David Taylor.

The meeting began with us watching a Nooma DVD on prayer, and followed by a prayer. The Financial Report showed April income at \$7960.16 and April expenses at \$11,535.74. An annual transfer of music funds will go into the budget soon. Lori reported that the Mount Vernon High School robotics team gave the church \$100 as a token of their appreciation for the use of our building.

Memorial funds in memory of Dorothy Ward were designated for the New Building fund in the amount of \$1075. 32 plastic folding chairs with cart have been purchased from Costco with Memorial funds. Old metal chairs and other broken chairs will be taken by Paul to Marion Iron Works. Session approved a \$500 financial gift (from mission funds from undesignated gifts) to Presbyterian World Mission to help keep mission workers in the field.

### DISCUSSIONS

Fellowship Hour is a concern. Lori and Rozanne will work together on some type of communication to the congregation in hopes of getting an active kitchen committee together to be responsible for supplies, etc. Session recommended using general budget funds and requesting donations. A painted wall "tree" was described by Lori for the Community Room. Local artist, Steph Abresch, will be contacted about doing the work. Memorial Funds would be used and Rozanne will contact some families about this project.

Lori reported that the SERI group has decided to use Maurice Foundation funds to offer a \$100 rebate on rain barrel purchases or installation to help Mount Vernon and Lisbon with stormwater management. The SERI group is also in favor of monarch butterfly gardens; Lori and Paul will work with Andy McCollum of Cornell College on possible native plants for our property.

A New Members Class will be held after worship on Sundays May 31, June 7, and June 14. Those deciding to join will be received into our congregation on June 21. She encouraged present members to also attend.





## Children and Youth News

This Year's VBS is  
Sunday, July 12 through Thursday, July 16  
6:00 - 8:35 pm at  
the United Methodist Church

Children 4 years old (by 7/1/15) through those entering 5th grade are encouraged to join our climbing team by registering to be a part of Everest VBS! (Preschoolers must be potty trained) Older kids are encouraged to

Cost is \$15.00 per youth (which includes a Everest VBS t-shirt and 5 Bible Buddies).

Register online at <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/MtVernonLisbonVBS/gpgs/Home.aspx> OR find the link on the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon Facebook Page.



## Fellowship Time: Help Needed!

Who can resist those trays of homemade treats and snacks that await us after worship each Sunday?

But treats, coffee, and juice aren't all fellowship time is about. It is about people having conversations and catching up on what is happening in one another's lives. It is about bringing generations together as children sit not just with other children but with other adults, as well. It is about welcoming visitors as connections are made and new friendships are formed.

In short, fellowship time is about building and strengthening community, and it is one of the most important things we do! For years, fellowship time has just sort of "magically happened" but now we need help.

Here's what you can do:

- Sign up with another individual or family to provide treats and help serve and clean up one Sunday a few times per year.
- Help stock the cupboards! We like to have cookies, crackers, cheese cubes, bags of apples, etc. on hand as back up.
- Take home one of the containers marked "Fellowship," fill it with treats, and return it to the freezer.

Thanks for your help!

# THANK YOU! CHOIR

Words can never adequately express our appreciation for what the choir contributes to our worship every week. We are so very grateful to have this committed group of people showing up more Sundays than not to bless us with their music:

|                    |                 |                |              |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Soprano</b>     | <b>Alto</b>     | <b>Tenor</b>   | <b>Bass</b>  |
| Wendy Dorn-Recalde | Elaine Bishop   | Ro Foege       | James Cannon |
| Kim Erlandson      | Connie Proffitt | Roger Johanson | Craig Engel  |
| Angie Paulson      | Dee Ann Rexroat | Bernie Paulson | Jay Gunn     |
| Naomi Saito        | Beth Riechers   | Allan Recalde  |              |

**THANK YOU**, also, to Kim Benesh, Jim Bonewald, Mary Palmer, Rehanna Rexroat, David Taylor, Marianne Taylor, and Seamus Taylor for singing with the choir at other times throughout the year.

And, of course, we thank the man who chooses the music and helps bring out the very best in the choir each Sunday, **Damon Cole!**

**CommunityHealth**  
FREE CLINIC  
presents



**Saturday, July 11, 2015**

**9:00am**

**Fay M. Clark Memorial Park**  
1200 North 18th Avenue  
Hiawatha, IA

**Entry Fees**

Registration includes an official t-shirt and giveaway

- ADULT (Ages 19 & Up)**
- Early Bird (ends June 1) - \$30
- June 1—July 11 - \$35
- YOUTH (Ages 6 - 18) - \$25**
- CHILD (Ages 0 - 5) - FREE**

Register today at:

[splashasmile.eventbrite.com](http://splashasmile.eventbrite.com)

Come out to Fay M. Clark Memorial Park on Saturday, July 11, 2015 to participate in the 3rd Annual Splash A Smile 5K Color Run/Walk.

This is a noncompetitive, family-friendly event to raise awareness and funds for the mission of the Community Health Free Clinic. 100% of the net proceeds fund the programs of the clinic.

## June—Worship Assistants

### *Sunday, June 7th - 9:30 am – Worship & Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

Liturgist: Charles Halsey  
 Greeters: Donna Coleman-Bedker & Paula Kamerling  
 Ushers: Don Burch & Paul Jerabek                      Bell ringer: Usher Selects  
 Candle lighter: Teddy Bonewald  
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey  
 Communion: **Volunteers Needed**

### *Sunday, June 14th - 9:30 am – Worship & Birthday Blessing*

Liturgist: Joe Mulinex  
 Greeters: Carol Daly & Mary Clare Coulter  
 Ushers: Stephanie & Greg West                      Bell ringer: Usher Selects  
 Candle lighter: Ava Willems  
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey

### *Sunday, June 21st - 9:30 am – Worship*

Liturgist: Marianne Taylor  
 Greeters: Lynn & Shelly Woodley  
 Ushers: Ann & James Cannon                      Bell ringer: Usher Selects  
 Candle lighter: Emmy Willems  
 Nursery: **Volunteer Needed**

### *Sunday, June 28th - 9:30 am – Worship*

Liturgist: Charles Halsey  
 Greeters: Elaine Bishop & Susan Brust  
 Ushers: Phyllis & Bill Hodina                      Bell ringer: Usher Selects  
 Candle lighter: Jaidyn Burge  
 Nursery: Hannah Garvey



#### **First Presbyterian Church**

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*Presbyterian Epistle Volume #2015-006. Editor: Deb Klopp*

*Each Sunday, "Weekly Announcements" containing the most current information of dates,*

## *Worship in June*

On May 24 with Pentecost Sunday, our time with the Narrative Lectionary came to an end. We hope that another year following the biblical story from beginning to end (at least of the pages of the bible) helped you to grow in your understanding of how all the stories fit together, not only in God's story but our own stories as well.

For the summer, we're starting off with a two-part series on the Trinity, inspired by a question about the Trinity, why we even have it and why it matters.

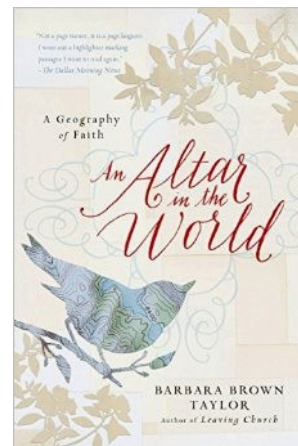
### **May 31 – Why Do We Have the Trinity? Part 1**

Selected verses from Exodus 3, John 1, Matthew 28, 1 Corinthians 2

### **June 6 – Why Do We Need the Trinity? Part 2**

Scriptures: Genesis 18 and Ephesians 4:5-6

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



Then, in June, July and August, our worship services will be shaped by chapters from Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*.

\*\*If you would like a copy of the book ordered for you, please let Pastor Lori ([lewunder@gmail.com](mailto:lewunder@gmail.com)) or Deb in the office know (895-6060 or [mvfirstpres@q.com](mailto:mvfirstpres@q.com)). Cost is around \$13. (Also available for Kindle)

### **June 14 – Waking Up and Paying Attention!**

Chapter 1 (The Practice of Waking Up to God – Vision) and Chapter 2 (The Practice of Paying Attention – Reverence) *June Birthday Sunday*

### **June 21 – We Belong to Each Other**

Chapter 6 (The Practice of Encountering Others – Community) *Reception of New Members*

### **June 28 – All of Me**

Chapter 3 (The Practice of Wearing Skin – Incarnation)





**New Members' Class  
Sundays , June 7, June 14**

**11:00-Noon in the Community Room**

If you are interested in joining more formally in the life of First Pres Mount Vernon, or just want to learn about what a Presbyterian is, please join us for this series of classes.

**June 7 – Presbyterian 101**

**June 14 – What First Pres Mount Vernon is All About**

To sign up or for more information, talk with



**This Week: Saturday, June 6th**



An annual stroll up and down Mount Vernon's main street to sample and purchase chocolate products from local and regional vendors. Will be held on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and First Presbyterian Church is participating.



**Come as You Can  
Cook Out  
Sunday, August 16**

5:00-7:00pm at the Wunder-Bonewald's  
(230 Scobey Road NW)

- Grilled entrée, beverage and table service provided
- Please bring a dish to share if you can (if not, just bring yourself!)
- Lawn chairs and games are welcome additions

**Everyone is welcome!  
Come as you can for a time of food  
and fellowship!**

**Mount Vernon Community Blood Drive  
June 23rd, 2:00-6:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church**



Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon will again be the site of this year's community blood drive. The date is Tuesday, June 23rd from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is the provider of blood products and serviced to patients at Mercy Medial Center and Unity Point - St. Luke's Hospital.





# June 2015

*Worship Every Sunday 9:30 am*



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                               |
|--|--|--|---|----------|--------|--|
|  | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4        | 5      | 6<br>10:00-4:00<br>Chocolate<br>Stroll |
| 7<br>9:30 am Worship<br>Communion<br><br>Sunday Evening<br>Meal Program,<br>1st Pres. in CR                                | 8<br>Office Closed<br><br>6:00 BUNKO<br>Fellowship Hall                          | 9<br>7:00-9:00 pm<br>Art Class,<br>Community<br>Room<br>6:30 Cancer<br>Support Group<br>Fellowship<br>Hall     | 10  | 11       | 12     | 13                                     |
| 14<br>9:30 am Worship<br>Birthday Blessing<br><br>2:00 pm—4:00 pm<br>Healing Touch<br>Circle, Community<br>Room (by appt.) | 15<br>Office Closed<br><br>6:30 pm<br>Session,<br>Community<br>Room              | 16<br>7:00-9:00 pm<br>Art Class,<br>Community<br>Room  | 17<br>10:00-4:00<br>Quilting Group,<br>Fellowship Hall<br>(Connie<br>Boettcher) | 18       | 19     | 20                                     |
| 21<br>9:30 am Worship  | 22<br>Office Closed  | 23<br>7:00-9:00 pm<br>Art Class,<br>Community<br>Room<br><br>2:00-6:00 PM<br>BLOOD<br>DRIVE<br>Fellowship Hall | 24  | 25       | 26     | 27                                     |
| 28<br>9:30 am Worship  | 29<br>Office Closed<br><br>2:00 PM Knit-<br>ting Group @<br>Connie<br>Proffitt's | 30<br>7:00-9:00 pm<br>Art Class,<br>Community<br>Room  |   |          |        |  |



In 2006, two brothers began Matthew 25 to help strengthen and elevate neighborhoods on the west side of Cedar Rapids. When those neighbors needed help recovering from the 2008 flood, Matthew 25 partnered with other organizations to empower people to rebuild 25 blocks and renew their neighborhoods – Block by Block.

Using our neighborhood organizational and community development skills, Matthew 25 has grown today into a stable, committed organization that is a leader in finding a neighborhood’s potential and building on it.

- **Neighborhood Building** includes organizing multi-block sustainable reinvestment in targeted neighborhoods through simultaneous new home construction, home restorations and public policy advocacy
- **Cultivate Hope** includes growing pesticide- and herbicide-free produce at an urban farm and five school gardens
- **Youth Empowerment** includes providing reading buddies during the school year and Groundswell, a neighborhood gathering space and youth arts venue

**VOLUNTEERS** make all of these things happen. Let’s help Matthew 25 out this summer! [Note: Volunteers must be Grade 6 or older; younger children may participate with a parent in attendance.]

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in doing the following work (check all that apply):**

Rehab a House                       Landscaping Project

Home Repair                               Vegetable Gardening

**I am available on (check all that apply):**

Thursday, June 11 8:30-4:00     Saturday, August 22 8-12



Deb Klopp is working in the church office Tuesday through Friday afternoons 12:45 pm-3:45 pm until June 12th. She will resume her normal morning office hours 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on June 16th.

During this time Pastor Lori will be in the office most mornings but it would be best to call first to make sure she is available.



- 3—Deidre Dragon
- 4—Ava Willems
- 5—Cliff Kaplan
- 5—Dixie Mackie
- 5—Beth Riechers
- 8—Joey Recalde
- 9—Catherine Quehl-Engle
- 9—Victoria Riechers
- 10—Ebe Boettcher
- 10—Sadie Halsey Helgeson
- 10—Allison Moore
- 10—Kayden Pendergrass
- 14—Shirley Thumm
- 16—Ben Recalde
- 19—Teddy Bonewald
- 21—Margie Davies
- 21—Gail Halsey Bertram
- 22—Helen Meeks
- 22—Stanley Watkins
- 23—Kristina Minor
- 23—Joel Pendergrass
- 28—Roger Johanson
- 29—Joey Crowley
- 29—Carlena Minor
- 30—Larry Hotz

*Please contact the church office if we missed your birthday.*