

**Sunday Worship - June 14, 2026  
June Birthday Blessing**

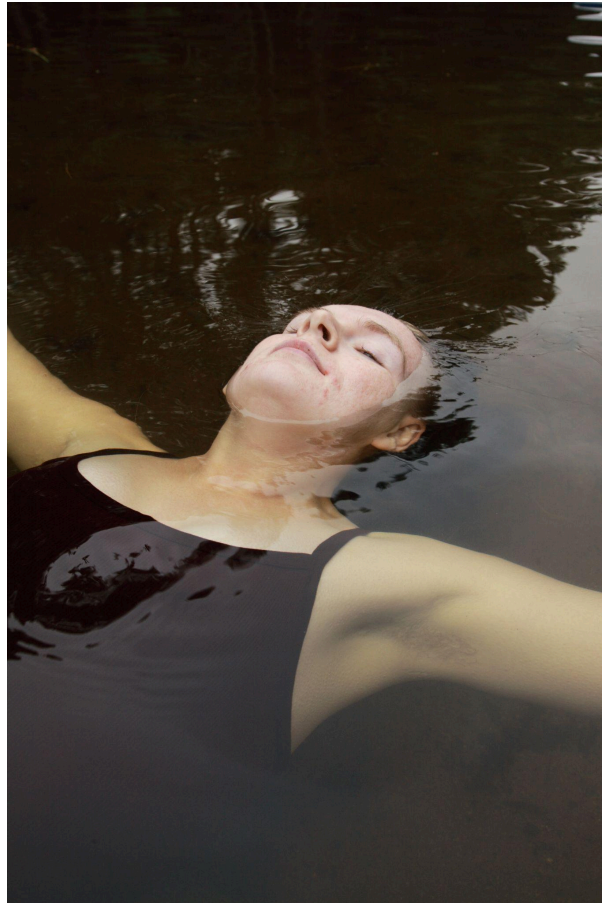


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**The Great Church Chill Out - Week 3  
SHED EXPECTATIONS**

Text: Psalm 62:1-8

**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa**

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –  
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

# Welcome to Worship

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have come from ballgames and yardwork

**All: We come with sunburns and bug bites**

Leader: We come with minds on things other than God

**All: We come in the midst of over-scheduled lives and under appreciated efforts**

Leader: We come tired and stressed and sometimes barely holding it together

**All: But we are here. We made it.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God, just as we are.

**All: Let us worship God together.**

## \*SONG Come, Let Us Worship God

Ray Makeever

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

**ALL: Come, let us worship God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

**ALL: Come, let us worship God.**

Leader: Welcome everyone

**ALL: Welcome everyone**

Leader: to the love of God.

**ALL: to the love of God.**

Additional verses: Rest for the weary...

Food for the hungry...

Hope for the children...

## \*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

L: The world says: Do more. Be more. Get more. Make more.

But God says: You are my beloved, and with you I am well pleased.

The world gives approval only when we achieve.

God offers love from the beginning, simply because we are.

Let us make our confession to this God of Grace together:

**ALL: Holy God,  
You know that trying to live up to others' expectations  
is like running a race with no finish line.  
And yet we so often find ourselves trying to do exactly that.  
Rather than keeping our eyes on you and your desires for us,  
we continuously compare our lives to our neighbors',  
or worse, to curated and commodified lives on social media.  
Instead of listening to your still, small voice of loving kindness,  
we tune in to the voices urging us to do more to gain approval,  
while scolding us that who and how we are is not enough.  
Forgive us when we believe our life is "good"  
only when it meets requirements placed on us by the wider culture.  
Forgive us when we serve the world's expectations  
rather than trusting in you and the way of Jesus.  
Help us to lay down our heavy loads and unending to-do lists  
and instead, trust in your grace and goodness.  
We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Time of Silence*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Beloved people of God:

In Christ, we are a new creation, and we are freed from the world's expectations.  
Believe this good news and place your trust in God alone.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE #48 Rain Down**

Rain down, rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you.**

**DISCOVERY TIME**

## SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

**People: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Psalm 126:1-3 (Common English Bible)

Leader: Only in God do I find rest;  
my salvation comes from him.

**All: <sup>2</sup>Only God is my rock and my salvation—  
my stronghold!—I won't be shaken anymore.**

Leader: <sup>3</sup>How long will all of you attack others;  
how long will you tear them down  
as if they were leaning walls or broken-down fences?

**All: <sup>4</sup>The only desire of this people  
is to bring others down low;  
they delight in deception.**

**With their mouths they bless,  
but inside they are cursing.**

Leader: <sup>5</sup>Oh, I must find rest in God only,  
because my hope comes from him!

**All: <sup>6</sup>Only God is my rock and my salvation—  
my stronghold!—I will not be shaken.**

Leader: <sup>7</sup>My deliverance and glory depend on God.  
God is my strong rock.  
My refuge is in God.

**All: <sup>8</sup>All you people: Trust in him at all times!  
Pour out your hearts before him!  
God is our refuge!**

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the  
Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

## HYMN #837 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1: What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2: O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim  
way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to  
day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

3: What have I to dread, what have I to  
fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so  
near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

## SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Everything we have is a gift from God,  
and our offerings are a way of acknowledging God as the giver.  
Whatever and whenever we give is a vital part of our response to God  
and helps us connect our love for God with our life of discipleship.

Let us pray together:

**ALL: May we commit ourselves, Lord God, once again looking ahead to this week:  
to find ways to serve,  
to find ways to give,  
to find ways to use our abilities in bringing about change for justice and peace,  
to find ways to use our whole selves in bringing about your Kingdom.**

**Amen**

\*SONG Wherever I May Wander

1. Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.  
God made the great high mountains, And made the wide blue sea;  
God made the sky where airplanes fly; God made the world, and me.
2. Throughout the whole creation I see God's loving care  
For everyone in every land, God's children everywhere.  
Wherever I may wander, Wherever I may be,  
I'm certain of my Maker's love; God's care is over me.

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*All are welcome in the Social Hall (lower level) to enjoy coffee, juice, treats and conversation.*

Thank you to the following people for helping with our service this morning:

Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV Crew  
Rita Swales, Coffee Hour

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor  
Cristina Galán, Office Manager  
Rebecca Nickles, Music Director  
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer  
María Seda, Nursery  
Maryjayne Gerber, Custodian