

**Sunday Worship - July 26, 2026**

*July Birthday Blessings*



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

***Paying Attention to Signs, Synchronicities,  
Our True Purpose & Peace***

**1 Samuel 20:1-2; 12-17**

**1 John 4:7-8; 11-13**

**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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (© Teri Peterson)

Leader: In this holy space, God speaks.

**All: To young and old together, God's word comes alive.**

Leader: In this holy space, we listen.

**All: Wondering together what God will do.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER (© Teri Peterson)

Leader: Here we are, O God.

You brought us together today,  
and we pray now that you would quiet our minds and hearts,  
help us to truly be here in this moment,  
that we may hear what you have to say.  
Give us the courage to stick with you,  
to keep listening even if the message is hard,  
and to commit to your way every day, not only today.  
Amen.

HYMN #721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore / *Tú has venido a la orilla*  
lead by Erin Lane

1. Lord you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

2. You know so well my possessions,  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor.

### Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling have spoken my name,  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.  
By your side I will seek other seas.

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos  
sonriendo has dicho mi nombre,  
en la arena he dejado mi barca,  
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

## \*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Leader: With the promise of God's endless grace, let us confess together how we have lost our way, or turned away:

**All: God who speaks,**

**we admit that sometimes we don't want to hear.**

**God who calls,**

**we admit that sometimes we are too afraid to answer.**

**God who is always present,**

**we admit that sometimes we act like you're far away and silent,  
because it lets us off the hook.**

**God who demands justice and compassion,**

**we admit that sometimes we keep out of things,  
choosing not to get involved**

**because we don't want to rock the boat or put ourselves on the line.**

**God who does a new thing,**

**we admit that sometimes we prefer to hold on to the way things have always been.**

**God who gives gifts and tasks to young and old,**

**we admit that sometimes we don't want to give up our control to the next generation.**

**God who listens,**

**we admit that sometimes we aren't sure how to speak,  
how to ask, how to pray for a difference.**

**Forgive us, God who loves.**

**Forgive us for how we have failed,**

**and teach us to live faithfully as your people. Amen.**

(© Teri Peterson)

## *Time of Silence*

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, hear this good news:

God is always finding new ways to reach out to us, and never gives up on us.

God continues to call, and to reconcile the whole world to God's self.

Trust that you have been brought near today, and from that closeness, go to live:  
forgiven, loved, and free.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

(© Teri Peterson)

## RESPONSE #750 Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil (repeat twice)

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours ; victory is ours through God who loves us.

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## DISCOVERY TIME Welcoming Our New Student Neighbors

### SCRIPTURE

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

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

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

### **1 Samuel 20:1-2; 12-17 (CEB) Jonathan and David's friendship**

David fled from the camps at Ramah. He came to Jonathan and asked,  
"What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father  
that he wants me dead?"

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan said to him, "No! You are not going to die! Listen: My father doesn't do  
anything big or small without telling me first. Why would my father hide this from me?  
It isn't true!"

<sup>12</sup> Then Jonathan told David, "I pledge by the Lord God of Israel that I will question my  
father by this time tomorrow or on the third day. If he seems favorable toward David, I  
will definitely send word and make sure you know.

<sup>13</sup> But if my father intends to harm you, then may the Lord deal harshly with me, Jonathan,  
and worse still if I don't tell you right away so that you can escape safely. May the Lord be  
with you as he once was with my father.

<sup>14</sup> If I remain alive, be loyal to me. <sup>15</sup> But if I die, don't ever stop being loyal to my  
household. Once the Lord has eliminated all of David's enemies from the earth,

<sup>16</sup> if Jonathan's name is also eliminated, then the Lord will seek retribution from David!"

<sup>17</sup> So Jonathan again made a pledge to David because he loved David as much as himself.

## 1 John 4:7-8; 11-13 (CEB) Love and God

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love.

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit.

## REFLECTION

Dr Rev Catherine Quehl-Engel

## HYMN #300 We Are One in the Spirit

1. We are one in the Spirit  
we are one in the Lord (2)  
and we pray that all unity  
may one day be restored:

2. We will walk with each other  
we will walk hand in hand (2)  
and together we will spread the news,  
that God is in our land: *(Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

And they'll know we are  
Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love!

3. We will work with each other  
we will work side by side (2)  
and we'll guard each human dignity,  
and save human pride:

*Refrain*

4. All praise to the Father,  
from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus,  
God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit,  
who makes us one: *Refrain*

## SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER 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

Leader: There are many ways to offer ourselves, our resources, our lives to God and the way of God. We do so in response to God's abundant love and provision.

## OFFERTORY

*Offerings may be placed in the basket located at the back of church  
or given online at [www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com)*

*We are grateful for all the ways you support our mission and ministry! Thank you!*

## \*HYMN #426 Listen God is Calling

Refrain: Listen, listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy. Joy.

1. Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news  
that he came to save us and set us free. Refrain

2. Let none be forgotten, throughout the world.  
In the triune name of God, go and baptize. Refrain

3. Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,  
walking in your precepts, led by your Word. Refrain

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**ALL: Gift-giving God, day by day, hour by hour,  
we bring you what we can offer:  
our time and talents, our gifts and attention, our finances, our very selves.  
We pray that what we offer with love and hope,  
you will magnify and multiply for the work of your love in the world.  
Amen.**

## HYMN #726 Will You Come and Follow Me

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown?  
Will you let my name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown in you,  
and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded man see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen?  
And admit to what I mean in you,  
and you in me?

## \*JULY BIRTHDAY BLESSING & BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

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

Dr Rev Catherine Quehl-Engel Guest Preacher  
Beth Simon, Liturgist  
Erin Lane, Song leader and Discovery Time  
Gerald Gerber and Scott Larson, AV System  
Pat Hogan, Coffee Hour Host

## **First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:**

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