

ENTRANCE¹

GATHERING

Welcome to a time of reunion, respite, and renewal.

GREETINGS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Christ, the light of the world, is with us!

Praise the Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

3056. Jesus, the Light of the World

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

In the Light is life for all people.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The Light is present, even here, even now.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

So, let us heed John's call: that all who call on the Light, who call on the name of Christ Jesus, have the power to be children of God.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.

¹ Cover art: "The Holy Family" by LucasSoutherton (2022). Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License.

<https://www.deviantart.com/lucassoutherton/art/The-Holy-Family-908577407>.

² From "Call to Worship," written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2024. Adapted by Rob Adams.

HYMN

246. Joy to the World

249. There's Song in the Air

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:3-4,13-14

*Blessed be God, who blessed us
with every spiritual blessing.*

RESPONSE

71. Gloria Patri

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Incline Thine ear to us,

and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-9

"The light shines in the darkness"

MESSAGE

PEACE & OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks
for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN

251. Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CANDLES

BLESSING

Carry the light of Christ into a world filled with darkness.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. (*2 Cor 13:14*).

Go in peace.

Every Day With Jesus

Congratulations! Today is the final day of “Every Day With Jesus,” our Bible reading plan for 2024.

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|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan 5,365 | ,Malachi 1:1-4:6, | Psalms 150:1-6, | Proverbs 31:30-31, | Revelation 22:1-21 |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

In Search of Wisdom

In 2025, we will focus on the Book of Proverbs. Inspired by Joyce Meyer’s *In Search of Wisdom*, for 31 Sundays we will consider each book of Proverbs, in turn. Books are available in the narthex or you may purchase them on Amazon.

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|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| Jan 19 | Prov. 1 | Apr 27 | Prov. 12 | Aug 03 | Prov. 21 |
| Jan 26 | Prov. 2 | May 04 | Prov. 13 | Aug 10 | Prov. 22 |
| Feb 02 | Prov. 3 | May 11 | Prov. 31 | Aug 31 | Prov. 23 |
| Feb 16 | Prov. 4 | May 18 | Prov. 14 | Sep 07 | Prov. 24 |
| Feb 23 | Prov. 5 | Jun 08 | Prov. 15 | Sep 14 | Prov. 25 |
| Mar 02 | Prov. 6 | Jun 15 | Prov. 16 | Sep 14 | Prov. 26 |
| Mar 09 | Prov. 7 | Jun 22 | Prov. 17 | Oct 05 | Prov. 27 |
| Mar 23 | Prov. 8 | Jun 29 | Prov. 18 | Oct 12 | Prov. 28 |
| Mar 25 | Prov. 9 | Jul 20 | Prov. 19 | Oct 19 | Prov. 29 |
| Mar 30 | Prov. 10 | Jul 27 | Prov. 20 | Oct 26 | Prov. 30 |
| Apr 06 | Prov. 11 | | | | |

Ministry & Discipleship Opportunities

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|---|-----------------|
| Helping Hands: Soup, Crackers, TP, \$\$ | Today! |
| Noisy Offering for Champaign County Human Society | Today! |
| Sausage Sale! | Today thru 1/17 |
| Sausage Delivery | 1/17, 1/18 |
| SPPRC Meeting | 6:30 p.m. 1/8 |
| Church Council, | 6:30 p.m. 1/15 |
| UWF Meeting | 1/22 |

Recent and Upcoming Birthdays:

Mary Kae Sherman

For more information about these and other activities, check your email for *This Week at Mt. Vernon*. If you don't receive *This Week at Mt. Vernon*, please let us know.

Do you prefer using an electronic version of the bulletin? You can view this week's bulletin at <https://tinyurl.com/4h8tzuyyp>. If you use the electronic version, please let Pastor Rob know.



God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:
Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught
Learn together of God's love and grace
Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents
Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.
To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob ([217-751-4400](tel:217-751-4400), pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).