

CONNECTION @VMUMC



Pastor Cathy's Corner

Dearly Beloved,

September 2026

Grace and peace to you, Van Meter UMC Family! As we turn the page on our calendars from August to September, the last few weeks of summer slide into fall, we celebrate the start of a new school year, and the unofficial end of summer with outdoor activities like end-of-the-season camping, boating at the lake, fishing a favorite pond, or inviting family and friends over for the long Labor Day weekend. Now as the seasons change, it seems the pace of our lives may also shift just a bit.

Students, parents, teachers, and school staff are adjusting to new routines and new situations. With no less than 4 family members who teach or work in schools, like many families, my family members have left behind summer routines and schedules, and started the new school year with all its hopes and dreams of the future.

Gardeners and farmers have already experienced failures and successes this season. Now the pace quickens as gardeners are busy preserving the bounty of the garden, and assessing the effects of too little or too much rain, and guesstimating the start of harvest.

This turn from summer to fall also signals a return to, a recommitment to growing in our faith. Wednesday night Jesus and Me (JAM), and youth group begin meeting again after taking the summer off. We all agree that it is important for children and youth to learn about God and grow in faith.

How about adults? Did you take the summer off from being actively engaged in growing in your faith? Are you feeling that something is missing? Maybe God is nudging you to re-engage in growing and maturing in faith.

God calls us to be intentional, to gather together in small groups, to be accountable to each other, as we read God's word, talk about what it tells us about the character of God, who we are in relationship to God, and how God calls us to live. In Paul's letter to the early Christians in Rome, the apostle wrote about the need for Christians to continue learning and growing in faith: "Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder." (Rom 12:11 Msg)

September 2026

Pastor Cathy's Corner

Continue.....

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and on fire for God! Come back to Sunday worship, the Sunday morning adult discussion group (starting Sept 13), one of the women's groups, or start a men's group. Come back to get refueled and refreshed. Come back to dig into God's Word, to nurture your faith and your soul in community, to be accountable to God and each other, so that you are prepared to humbly serve God with your whole life and become the person God has created you to be!

In Christ's gracious love, Pastor Cathy



COMING SOON

Chancel Choir & Praise Team

Chancel Choir will begin normal rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 9th @ 7 PM and will begin singing for the morning Service on Sunday, Sept. 27th.

Praise Team will join our Morning Service on Sunday, Sept. 20th and continue to be with us on the 3rd Sundays of the month when possible. There is always an open invitation for anyone who would like to join either group either vocally or instrumentally.

If interested please contact Mike Cooper at church or call 515-201-4200. All are welcome to help in musically uplifting our Sunday Services with their talents.

Exercise
YOUR
FAITH

A silhouette of a person running on a path towards a large cross in the background.

MONDAYS AT 1:30
starting sept 14th
IN THE OVERFLOW SPACE

All are welcome

- 30 MINUTES** OF VIDEO LED, LOW IMPACT WALKING EXERCISES (NO FLOOR WORK).
- FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS *on healthy living.*
- CLASS IS **FREE**, EASY TO FOLLOW & FOR **ALL FITNESS LEVELS.**
- Reminder to check with your doctor before starting any exercise program.

ADULT
Bible Discussion
GROUP
(ADG)

Starts **SEPT. 13TH**

Sunday's **@ 9:30**

OVERFLOW AREA
behind sanctuary

A photograph of an open Bible and a mug with a heart on it, sitting on a wooden surface.

Let's grow together in God's Word!



VMUMC CHILDREN & YOUTH



The August service project for our youth was going to Bidwell Families Forward Food Pantry on August 6th. The kids helped people that came in choose their food items and helped to organize and stock the pantry! They all worked so hard and made a big impact!

A few more fun pictures from VBS. Thanks once again to all the volunteer who helped make Rainforest Falls a huge success!




JAM Jesus and me

JAM PROGRAM

Sign your student up TODAY!

A Wednesday night religious education program for kids in TK- 5th grade at the Van Meter United Methodist Church! With the mission of teaching kids the LOVE of Jesus while having FUN!

Sign-up by email: courtcasey@gmail.com

- ✓ Bible Stories
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Fun Games
- ✓ Science Experiments

515-619-3968 | vmumc.com | 100 Hazel Street, VM



VMUMC YOUTH GROUP

Faith • Worship • Fun

Join us Sunday nights through the school year from 7pm-8:30 pm at VMUMC

September 6th

100 Hazel Street
Van Meter

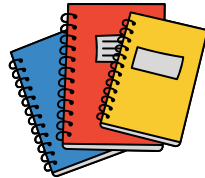
- Small groups
- Bible Study
- Fun Games
- Service Projects

Middle School and High School Welcome

515-619-3968 | courtcasey@gmail.com

MISSIONS

STUDENT KITS



Missions is collecting materials for Ingathering student kits. The kits will go to underprivileged children in the US and in support of international humanitarian aid missions. A student kit may be a child's primary educational resource.

School supplies are now on sale. Please consider filling a student kit for Missions. The list of materials for each student kit is very specific, so please use the list below when shopping. Place all items in the cloth bag you can get from the church or in a plastic grocery bag. We will collect these kits until Sunday, October 25.

STUDENT KIT

- ☒ 3 notebooks - 1 subject spiral, 8" x10¹/₂"
- ☒ 1 ruler - 12" long with metric
- ☒ 6 unsharpened pencils (please, no advertising)
- ☒ 1 pencil sharpener
- ☒ 1 eraser - 2" or larger
- ☒ 1 box 12 colored pencils
- ☒ 1 box 24 crayons
- ☒ 1 pair student scissors (round tip)



Place all items in the cloth bag.

Adel Good Samaritan Food Pantry Donations

Toilet paper is the personal item of the month. Place your donations in the tub marked in the entryway.



Thanks for the donations!

this Month

Mission of the Month

For the past 14 years, we have formed a team in memory of my dad, Dan McNace, and we want to invite you to join our team, donate to this wonderful cause, which is our Mission of the Month and walk with us the night of the event.

Stacy Peterson

Light the Night



**Blood Cancers United**
formerly Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
annual event
Light the Night.

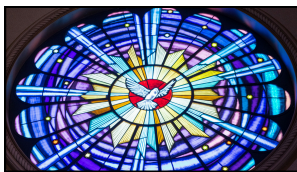
Fundraiser to Support
research for cancer treatments
& patients families.

**OCTOBER 3RD**
@ 6PM

Location:
DMACC campus
in Ankeny

Visit our team page:
<https://pages.ils.org/ltm/ia/DesMineL26/DansDreamTeam>

Confirmation Sunday



Congratulations to our confirmands and their families:

Makayla Hudson

daughter of Sarah and Dillon Wyckoff

Jameson Jaspers

son of Jesse and Jess Jaspers

Jax Jaspers

son of Jesse and Jess Jaspers

Lilly McCombs

daughter of Kate and Drew McCombs

Christopher Daniel Peterson

son of Stacy Peterson

son of Mike Peterson

Sawyer Sorensen

son of Dana and Ethan Muzney

son of Dustin and Alissa Sorensen



Our Panera Bread Ministry

Dear Church Family,

For several years, our church has been blessed to participate in Panera Bread's donation program. This ministry originally began as a way to help reduce food costs for our Kids Care program, while also allowing us to share remaining bread and baked goods with members of our church and others in our community.

As Kids Care has grown, we have also seen an increase in the number of children with serious nut allergies. Because Panera products are prepared in an environment where cross-contact with nuts is possible, we have made the decision that we can no longer safely serve these donated items to our Kids Care participants.

Rather than simply ending our participation in the bread donation program, we are pleased to share that the ministry will be transitioning to our local food pantry. We will be surrendering our Panera donations to the food pantry, and their volunteers will begin picking up the donations directly from Panera. This will allow the food to continue benefiting individuals and families in our community who can put it to good use.

We are incredibly grateful for the many years that these donations have benefited both Kids Care and our community. We are also thankful to everyone who has faithfully helped with picking up and distributing the donations over the years.

While our church's role in the bread ministry is changing, the blessing will continue in our community—just in a new way.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support of Kids Care and the many ministries that serve our community.

September 2026



Daniel Rhoades
Rhett Russell
Madi Suckow
Wes Jackson
Joyce Hoppes
Linda Armstrong
Janice Miller
Gary Sacker
Marvin Heaton
Leslie Herman
Jim Cushing
Lauren Bishop
Jesse Jaspers
Matthew Rhoads
Peyton McNace
Charlie Clark
McKenna Miller
Lola Suckow
Rodney Heaton
Mike Cooper
Luke Steinfeldt
Elizabeth Alexander



Happy Anniversary

Marvin & Marcia Toombs
Jim & Kita Goodson
Dennis & Shelley Erickson
Scott & Sheryl Van Syoc
Tim & Jamie Champion
Curtis & Sheila Russel
Cody & Lexi Jay
Glenn & Kimberly Wemer
Christy & John Jungman

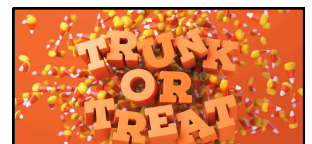


UPCOMING DATES

1	Trustees Mtg	6:30 PM
2	J.A.M. Teacher Training	6:15-7:00 PM
4	Youth CFUM Meal	3:00-7:00PM
6	Worship Service, Communion	10:45 AM
	Youth Kick off Night	5:00-8:00 PM
7	Labor Day	
9	J.A.M.	6:15-7:45 PM
9	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
13	Worship service	10:45 AM
	ADG	9:30 AM
	Admin. Council Mtg	12:30 PM
	Youth Group	7:00-8:00 PM
14	Exercise Group	1:30 PM
	City Council	6:00 PM
15	Kids Shopping Day Mtg	7:00-8:00 PM
16	J.A.M.	6:15-7:45 PM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
17	Newsletter(Oct.) deadline	
19	4-H	8:00 AM-12:00 PM
20	Worship Service, Casual Sun.	10:45 AM
	ADG	9:30 AM
	Youth Group	7:00-8:00 PM
21	Exercise Group	1:30 PM
23	J.A.M	6:15-7:45 PM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM
27	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	ADG	9:30 AM
	No Youth Group	
28	Exercise Group	1:30 PM
	City Workshop	6:00 PM
30	J.A.M.	6:15-7:45 PM
	Chancel Choir	7:00 PM

Trunk or Treat, Oct. 25th

Bring your candy donations & place in the bin in the entryway.
It will be here before we know it!



September 2026

VMUMC Admin. Council Minutes

Tuesday Aug. 11, 2026

In attendance: Terry McNace, Connie Cooper, Stacy Peterson, Jess Jaspers, Lindsay Day, Kim Fankhauser, Christy Jungman, Pastor Cathy, John Armstrong, & Margo Suckow

Terry opened the meeting with a devotion. Joys and concerns were shared.

Secretary Report:

- Margo presented the minutes of the May 12, 2026 Ad Council meeting which were approved.

Treasurer Report:

- Kim will send the Treasurer's Report to the board this week.

Children's Ministries:

- Courtney presented the following updates in absentia:
 - VBS raised over \$400 to Adel Good Samaritan Food Pantry with 78 total kids attending.
 - JAM will start up again on September 9th. Registration for JAM is open now.
 - Several middle school students want to help with JAM.
 - Blessing of the Backpacks will be on August 23rd.

Youth Ministries:

- Courtney presented the following updates in absentia:
 - Youth went to Families Forward Shelter in Des Moines as their August Service Project.
 - Youth group resumes on Sunday, September 6th.
 - Youth group will meet Sundays through the school year. High school and middle school groups will meet on the same night/time but in separate parts of the building.
 - Courtney is looking for another person to help with the youth group.
 - Youth will be serving a CFUM meal on September 4th as their September service project.

Missions:

- Committee chair position remains open.
- Mission of the Month August: Foster Squad.
- Mission of the Month September: Blood Cancers United.

Kids Care:

- Jess presented the following updates:
 - This summer has had the most kids.
 - Preschool numbers look good.
 - Before/After Care numbers are down.
 - The bus is a challenge because of air conditioning, paint and capacity.

Finance/Stewardship:

- Christy presented the finance YoY report.
- Lindsay reported the committee is working on a speaker to discuss apportionments.
- November 8th is the target for Consecration Sunday.
- Tithes are increasing but we are still have a negative net balance.

Trustees:

- John & Connie reported the following:
 - Last phase of lighting.
 - Discussing changing the insurance.
 - Parsonage has a few small items that need to be addressed.
 - Trees have been treated.
 - Jefferson Lee Jades (4-H club) have requested to use the facility again this year for their meetings.

SPRC:

- Nothing to report.

Lay Leader:

- Stacy had nothing to report.

Pastor Report:

- Pastor presented the following:
 - August 23rd is confirmation Sunday and Blessing of the backpacks.
 - August 16th is a pulpit swap for our circuit. Pastor Jodi Rushing will be preaching here.
 - September 16-30 Pastor will be at a spiritual pilgrimage.

Terry closed the meeting.

The next meeting of the Administrative Council will be Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margo Suckow Secretary



September 2026

Please Pray For...

***those under medical care**

Annette (Kim's friend), Tom H. & family (son of Sherry H.), Kim (Marva's friend), Todd B, Jeremiah and Jackson (Cody J's nephews), Geri R, Delores, baby Lydia (Pastor Cathy's granddaughter) and her parents Emily and Stephen, Roger C, Clark and Mary M (Holly G's parents), Bailey B, Ray (father-in-law of Amy F), Betty J, Kathleen G, Melvis J, Gene D, Nyla P, Keith G, Ila T, Peggy M.

***those recovering** (from illness, abuse, natural disasters, loss)

***those living with challenges** (immigrants, caregivers, refugees, disabled)

***those in harm's way** (in war zones, first responders, medical professionals, people defending civil liberties)

***communities with immigrant populations**

***those who grieve**

***Our deepest sympathy to the family of Shirley Jackson who recently passed away.**



Kid's Care

Kids Care had a great summer! We had around 120 different children filter in each week and went on numerous field trips. We are now ready for school to begin and a new round of kiddos to start here. We have a new group of preschool age children that will be coming during the day and are preparing for a great school year ahead!



**Kid's Care
Blessing of the
Backpacks**



**Worship Service
Blessing of the
Backpacks**



September 2026

CONNECTION

Van Meter United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 149
Van Meter, IA 50261



CONTACT US BY:

PHONE: 515-996-2572



EMAIL: office@vmumc.com



Website: www.vmumc.org



P.O. Box 149, 100 Hazel Street, Van
Meter, IA 50261



Worship Service 10:45 AM
Pastor Cathy Nutting

Ways to Give to Your Church

Your gifts help to nurture children, support families, create community, and share our faith. All your gifts are greatly appreciated.

You can now give through:

- * our Van Meter UMC Venmo account (use QR code below)
- * the Bill Pay function offered by your bank or credit union
- * in person
- * mailing a check to:
Van Meter UMC
P.O. Box 149
Van Meter, IA 50261

