

# *Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church*

*Where All the People are Ministers of Christ*

***Our vision is to seek to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nurture persons of all ages and circumstances for faithful discipleship, and to transform faith into service to others.***



*“Nothing But Blood”*

April 19, 2026

***Guest Pastor Jan Prentace-Commander***

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

757-566-0162

Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15am.

**Welcome to our worship service!** Mt. Vernon has been worshipping our Lord and serving the Greater Williamsburg Community since 1887. If we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

**\* Please stand, as you are able.**

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available in the Narthex

## Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

10:15am

“Nothing But Blood”

Worship Leader

Donna Wilson

\*Please stand as you are able. Please read in Unison in **Bold**.

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude and Meditation

Organist, Carol Kendall

Pastor's Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection

Lord, help me quiet my mind and center my heart on You. Remove distractions, deepen my focus, and draw me into Your presence. Let my prayer be still, surrendered, and filled with peace. In Jesus' name. Amen

\*Introit

UMH #349

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

### \*Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Come! Let's share our love for God, who hears us.

**ALL: God leans in to hear our voices when we cry out.**

LEADER When we feel bound by fear, God breaks the chains.

**ALL: We are saved! Let's worship God together**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Loving God, creator of all things, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude on this Third Sunday of Easter. We thank you for bringing life out of death and joy out of sorrow. Help us to walk in gratitude, to show kindness to others, and to trust in your unwavering unconditional love. Amen

\*Hymn of Praise  
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

Children's Message

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Gospel Lesson  
I Peter 1:17-23

Rev. Jan Prentace-Commander

Prayers of the People and the Church

\*The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Meditation

UMH #399

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

The Message

Rev. Jan Prentace-Commander

"Nothing But the Blood"

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Special Music

The Choir

"Back to the Church in the Wildwood"

Passing of the Peace (pastor):

May the grace, the steadfast love, and peace of Christ be with us all as we greet one another in Christian love.

Offertory Prayer (unison):

**May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**AMEN**

\*Doxology: UMH #95  
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN**

## **SENDING FORTH**

\*Hymn of Celebration UMH #362  
“Nothing but the Blood”

\*Benediction (pastor):

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ, May the love of Jesus, offered to you without reservation, fill you with hope, and May the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, ever-present, nourish your very soul. AMEN

Postlude

-Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service for refreshments and a video introduction message from Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton.-

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The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025, Abingdon Press  
The Spiritual Wisdom of the Gospel for Christian Preachers and Teachers, Liturgical Press  
The Daily Study Bible commentary series, Westminster Press  
The New Interpreter's Bible commentary series, Abingdon Press

## Announcements/Missions

- **Reception for Carol Kendall:** a farewell reception for Carol Kendall, music director, will be held after church on Sunday, May 3. Please plan on attending.
- **Bridge Group:** There will be NO PM Bridge this coming Tuesday, May 21. Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.
- **2026 Membership Directory from Vanda White:** We are excited to begin preparations to welcome the Reverend Meghan Roth Clayton as Mount Vernon's new pastor this summer! To help her to learn names and faces quickly, part of our welcome package will be an updated church membership pictorial directory. We last updated our church directory in the summer of 2024.

I'll be taking photographs for the new directory during the month of May after worship services in the Fellowship Hall. If your picture is already in the current directory and you would like a new one, please see me. If I don't hear from you, I'll assume that you want to use the same picture.

If you are new to our church and would like me to take your picture, please catch me after worship! If you already have a favorite portrait that you prefer to use, you may send it to me via email, as long as it has a good resolution.

I will get updated addresses and contact information from the church office, so please make sure that Ellyn has your latest data. My goal is to have the directory printed and ready to distribute by the time Pastor Meghan arrives. Thanks for your help!

Please Welcome Our Guest Pastor  
Rev. Jan Commander



Rev. Jan has served in various capacities of ministry all over the state of Virginia. She retired after serving as an ordained elder in the VA Annual Conference for over twenty years. She also served as the Chair of the Religion Race Commission for the VA Annual Conference for six years, promoting racial reconciliation.

After receiving her B.A. in 1992 from Virginia Wesleyan University, she continued her studies at Candler School of Professional Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta where she received her Master's in Theology in 1996. Also completing additional studies in Clinical Pastoral Education, and travelling to Israel, Costa Rica, Japan, and South Korea to further her educational and spiritual studies.

She has a passion for missionary work which has taken her many places both foreign and domestic. From building stoves and planting trees in Guatemala, building fresh water wells and schools Haiti to Red Bird Mission Kentucky and more local work such as the outreach and food ministry at Chesapeake Ave UMC.

In her home life Rev. Jan is married to Joseph Commander and, and together they have six adult children and nine grandchildren.