

# *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.***



*“Live the Vision”*

April 26, 2026

***Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Ryan LaRock***

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

## Forth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10:15am

“Live the Vision”

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

\*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, make it plain. Clear us of the clutter. Draw us out of the chaos. Give us resilience as we watch with purpose. As we resist the raging currents. Make us instruments of your peace, O God. For your presence catches us in our tiredness. And your grace lifts us up when our hearts grow weary. *(Silence)*. Amen.

\*Introit

UMH #393

“Spirit of the Living God”

### \*Call to Worship (responsive)

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025*

Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd’s voice.

**We come seeking our Shepherd’s voice.**

We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd’s voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

**We come seeking our Shepherd’s voice.**

We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd’s voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

**We come seeking our Shepherd’s voice.**

Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

**We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)** *Adapted from Mary Petrina Boyd*

**Loving Shepherd,  
you know our names;  
you care for us.**

**When we face darkness and death,  
journey beside us.**

**When we hunger for your love,  
fill us with your presence.**

**When we are fearful,  
feed us at your table.**

**May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy  
all the days of our lives. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise UMH #64  
"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Children's Message

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

Gospel Lesson Rev. Dr. Ryan LaRock  
Old Testament: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 (NRSV)

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 #474

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

The Message

Rev. Dr. Ryan LaRock

“Live the Vision”

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Special Music

The Choir

“Shout to the Lord”

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 #380

“There’s Within My Heart a Melody”

\*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

## 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:** 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!

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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

Please Welcome Our Guest Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ryan LaRock



The Reverend Dr. Ryan LaRock is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and has served as a pastor since 2016.

A native of Virginia Beach, he graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in both Religious Studies and French. His call to ministry led him to Duke Divinity School, where he earned his Master of Divinity and served in local churches and as a pediatric oncology chaplain at Duke University Hospital. For eight years, he served in associate and lead pastor roles in Northern Virginia and Chesapeake, and for the past two years has served in an interim capacity as the campus minister at William & Mary.

Ryan received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Duke in 2025, with an emphasis in pastoral theology at end-of-life, and will begin his new role as a chaplain at Sentara Norfolk General in August.