

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.



*“Seeds in the Fast Lane:
Growing Deep Roots in a Shallow World”*

July 12, 2026

Warren Harper, Guest Speaker

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

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2026

10:15am

“Seeds in the Fast Lane: Growing Deep Roots in a Shallow World”

Worship Leader

Jeanne Fulks

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Lila O’Sullivan, Guest Pianist

Guest Lay Leader Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

Wisdom calls across the ages. Our ancestors in faith heard and responded. By hearing and responding to the Wisdom of the Ages, we meet God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in worship this day.

*Introit

UMH #395

“Take Time to Be Holy”

*Call to Worship (unison)

Holy and Majestic God, your name rests upon our lips, and opens our hearts to the blessings of life. How is it that you care for each of us by name? How is it that you come to one and all in worship? How is it that in all your grandeur, we are not lost? We worship you in thanksgiving and praise, rejoicing in your tender, abiding presence. AMEN

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy Wisdom, Spirit of Truth, your glory is written across the starry heavens; your wonder is etched in the earth and seas. Who are we that you care so deeply? Why do you love us so completely?

Raise your clarion call once more. Speak to us this day, that our lives may be steeped in your wisdom, and our path may be marked with delight in your goodness. AMEN

*Hymn of Praise

UMH #600

“Wonderful Words of Life”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Gospel Lesson

Warren Harper

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Response to the Word (unison)

God’s word has been lifted.

God’s Wisdom has been shared.

We are the people of God - people who have received God’s Word and Wisdom. AMEN

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 #454

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

“Seeds in the Fast Lane: Growing Deep Roots in a Shallow World”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Passing of the Peace:

As we have been restored through faith and made whole by the grace of God, let us offer signs of peace to our family of faith.

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Lord of all creation, we celebrate the beauty of your blessings each day. With gratitude, we offer you these humble gifts. Pour your spirit upon our offerings and magnify them for your purposes, that the world may come to know the triune God. 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 #396

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*Benediction:

God’s wisdom, beauty, and compassion bridge the ages and meet us right where we are. We have obtained an inheritance that is eternal. Our hope is never in vain. Let us hold fast as people justified by faith. Let the love of God stir you and move you. Let the wisdom of the Ages shine through you as a beacon of God’s love. AMEN

Postlude

Announcements/Missions

- **Volunteers Needed:** We have one volunteer but we need 2 more. Each year the financial records need to be audited for both The Church and Cemetery Association. This is a great way to serve your Church without a huge commitment. Contact Russ Hobgood or the office.
- **Membership Directory:** We are still working on the updated membership directory. If you would like to be added or need to update your information please contact Ellyn in the office.
- **Bridge Group:** Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.
- **Cereal/Food Donations:** Food donations are encouraged year round! Food such as cereal are needed even more during the summer months as children don't have access to school provided breakfast/lunch. Consider picking up a box on your next shopping trip.

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The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026, 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



About Our Guest Speaker, Warren Harper

- Former Virginia Conference Lay Leader
- Currently Chair of the Conference Episcopacy Committee
- Current Lead Lay Delegate from Virginia to General Conference
- Member of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy
- Member of Williamsburg UMC
- Married to Sandy, almost 57 years, one son and 2 grandchildren and 1 grand dog
- Navy Seabee Veteran