

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.



“The Midnight Sower”

July 19, 2026

Cindy Banek, 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

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 19, 2026

10:15am

“The Midnight Sower”

Worship Leader

Donna Wilson

*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):

Great news has come to us, dear friends. God, who is faithful and just, who cherishes us as we are, seeks restoration and healing for those broken places in our lives, and forgives and loves us unconditionally. Open our hearts to receive this message of hope for all people.

*Introit

UMH #314

“In the Garden”

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: We look at this world, focusing on the pain and confusion, the fears and hatred which seem to abound. We judge everyone and label them as either good or bad.

People: For what can we hope?

Leader: We wait breathlessly for the goodness of new creation to be made manifest in all the world, for this is the promise of God.

People: Hear the Good News: God is always with us, guiding, rescuing, healing, restoring us!

Leader: Get ready, dear friends, the promises of God are true.

**People: Lord, quiet our spirits and open our hearts.
Bring us hope and peace. AMEN.**

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Dear Lord Jesus, in your wisdom you have called us to be your church, presenting ourselves in service to a hurting world so the world will see you through us. Help us, dear Lord, to serve you as we ought, to come more closely to resemble you in our life together, to love one another so that others might look at our fellowship and see your love shining through, and to be patient with one another's limitations. Help us to be as loving, forgiving, and patient with one another as you are with us. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH #92

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Children's Message

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Gospel Lesson

Cindy Banek

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 #275

“The Kingdom of God”

The Message

Cindy Banek

“The Midnight Sower”

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):

Generous and Patient God, you rain Your grace upon the just and the unjust alike, sustaining Your whole creation with boundless love. We bring these tithes and offerings to You today, acknowledging that everything we have belongs to You. Multiply these gifts, we pray, and use them to nurture Your field. Use us, alongside our resources, to bear fruits of justice and mercy until Your final harvest comes. 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
“The Gift of Love”

UMH #408

*Benediction:

Go forth into the world now, not as judges, but as servants of the living God. Do not be discouraged by the weeds, but be anchored by the soil of God’s grace. Grow deep roots in the gospel. Bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, and patience. And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—rest upon you and remain with you, both now and forevermore. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

Announcements/Missions

- **Safer Sanctuaries Online Training:** This two-hour training provides a scriptural foundation for safeguarding our most vulnerable populations-children and the elderly. Participants will learn practical steps for creating safe environments and responding appropriately in the event of a safety concern. Held online Thursday, August 13th from 6:30-8:30 pm, the cost is \$5. Go to <https://bit.ly/4gBhFfA> to sign up.
- **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.

Meet Our Guest Speaker

Cindy Banek



Cindy Banek is delighted to be a guest speaker at Mount Vernon UMC! Cindy lives in Williamsburg and attends Williamsburg UMC where she was on staff as the Director of Discipleship for 15 years. In that position, Cindy worked closely with Rev. Megan Roth-Clayton, our new pastor, for 6 years. In addition to Williamsburg UMC, Cindy has served churches in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Poquoson. She is a Certified Lay Minister as well as a certified professional Christian Educator. When not volunteering at the church, Cindy can be found walking the trails of Kingsmill with her rescue hound, Elmer!

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