

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.



“Courage in the Storm”

August 9, 2026

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

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.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Augusts 9, 2026

10:15am

“Courage in the Storm”

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

Pastor’s Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

The storms we face may not always disappear, but Christ's presence changes how we meet them. As we quiet our hearts, may we become attentive to the One who says, “Take heart. Do not be afraid.”

*Introit

UMH #378 (verse 1)

“Amazing Grace”

*Affirmation

UMH #881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* Please stand, as you are able.
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*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for your steadfast presence in every season of life. When skies are clear, you fill us with joy. When storms arise, you remain our faithful companion. Thank you for voices that proclaim hope, for communities that embody your love, and for the gift of faith that calls us in the midst of fear. Receive our gratitude and shape us into people of courage, compassion, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

*Hymn of Praise

UMH #452

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Lay Liturgist

Romans 10:5-15

Gospel Lesson

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

Matthew 14:22-33

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

TFWS #2191

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

"Courage in the Storm"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Passing of the Peace (pastor):

Christ comes to us in the midst of every storm with words of peace and courage. Let us share that peace with one another as signs of God's steadfast love.

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Generous God, everything we have is a gift of your grace. Receive these offerings, and receive our lives as well. Use them to bring hope where there is fear, justice where there is brokenness, and compassion wherever your children are in need. Strengthen us to be faithful witnesses to your love, through Christ our Lord. 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 #377

“It Is Well With My Soul”

*Benediction (responsive):

Go now in the courage of Christ, who meets us on every sea and every uncertain path.

We will walk by faith, trusting God's steadfast love.

When fear rises, remember the One who reaches out with grace.

We will not face life's storms alone.

Go in the name of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—to share hope with the fearful, welcome with the stranger, and peace with the troubled.

With God's help, we will bear Christ's love into the world. Amen.

Announcements/Missions

- **Name Tags:** Please try to remember to wear your nametag so our new pastor and visitors can get to know you. The lanyard nametags are hanging on a new rack at the bottom of the sanctuary steps. If you enter through one of the exterior sanctuary doors we can arrange for your nametag to be hung on a hook there for easier access. If your nametag is missing or has a mistake please contact the office or fill out the nametag request form that is on a clipboard by the nametag rack.
- **Volunteer(s) Needed:** Looking for someone that might feel led to head up a committee to prepare and serve a meal to the W&M Wesley Foundation on a Sunday evening during the upcoming school year. If you feel this might be something you would like to do, please contact Fran Delo and she will put you in touch with the pastor serving the Wesley Foundation.
- **Budget Changes:** You might notice some changes with the budget numbers that are listed in the Newsblast. There were some necessary changes that have created the need to increase the budget for this fiscal year. More information can be found in the Newsblast or you can always request to see the budget from 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