

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.



“Persistent Faith”

August 16, 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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Augusts 16, 2026

10:15am

“Persistent Faith”

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

Pastor’s Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

God's grace reaches farther than the boundaries we create, welcoming all who seek mercy and hope. As we gather, may our hearts be opened by Christ's persistent love and strengthened to trust in God's expansive embrace.

*Introit

UMH #569

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Come, all who seek the mercy of God.

We come trusting in God's steadfast love.

God welcomes strangers, gathers the forgotten, and hears every sincere prayer.

God's grace reaches beyond every barrier.

Christ meets persistent faith with compassion and healing.

We come with hopeful hearts, ready to receive God's grace.

Let us worship the God whose love knows no boundaries.

Let us worship with joy, gratitude, and faith.

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

God of abundant mercy, you gather people from every nation, every story, and every walk of life into your loving embrace. Remove the barriers we build within our hearts. Deepen our faith when we grow weary. Help us recognize Christ in every neighbor. Fill this time of worship with your Spirit, that we may leave renewed to share your welcoming love with the world. Amen.

Children's Message

*Hymn of Praise

UMH #452

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Lay Liturgist

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Gospel Lesson

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

Matthew 15:21-28

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 #357

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

"Persistent Faith"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Passing of the Peace (pastor):

In Christ, the walls that divide us are broken down, and we are welcomed into one family of grace. As people who have received God's peace, let us now share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Generous God, every good gift comes from your hand, and your grace is more abundant than we can measure. Receive these offerings and our lives as signs of gratitude. Use them to widen the circle of welcome, bring healing where there is hurt, and share the good news of your love with all people. In Christ's name we pray. 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 #548

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Benediction (responsive):

Go now in the confidence that God's grace is wider than every boundary.

We will welcome others as Christ has welcomed us.

Go with persistent faith, trusting that God hears every prayer and strengthens every weary heart.

We will walk in hope, serve with compassion, and love without limits.

May the blessing of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—remain with you always.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Announcements/Missions

- **Name Tags:** Please 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.
- **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