

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 Cost of Discipleship”

August 30, 2026

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

757-566-0162

Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15 am

Worship begins at 10:15 am

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.**

Welcome to Worship!

During worship, the entrance nearest the parking lot is locked. If you need a restroom during the service, facilities are located in the hallway directly behind the chancel. You can access this hallway using the side door next to the piano.

Let's Get to Know Each Other:

We invite everyone to wear a nametag today so we can greet you warmly by name. If you are visiting with us, or if your name tag is missing or needs a correction, please fill out the request form on the clipboard right by the name tag rack. We would love to make a permanent nametag just for you!

A Word for Families with Children:

Children of all ages are a vital part of our worship, and we do not offer a separate nursery or childcare. Please do not worry about wiggles or noises; your presence is a blessing to our church family.

Connect with Pastor Meghan:

As Pastor Meghan settles into her new role, she is eager to get to know everyone. Whether you prefer a quick phone call, a cup of coffee, or a casual meeting at the church, please reach out to schedule a visit. You can contact her directly at **meghanclayton@vaumc.org** or at the church phone at **(757) 566-0162**.

Invitation to Serve:

Our church thrives when we lead together. If you feel called to serve, please connect with Pastor Meghan to see where your talents fit best.

Your Giving Makes a Difference:

Thank you for your faithful support of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. Your generosity helps us worship, serve our neighbors and share Christ's love in our community and beyond. Here are different ways to give:

- **During worship:** Place cash or a check in the offering plate as it is passed.
- **Online:** Give securely through <https://mtvernontoano.org/give>
- **By mail:** Send to 7801 Church Lane, Toano, VA 23168.
- **Drop off:** Deliver your offering during office hours.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Augusts 30, 2026

10:15am

“The Cost of Discipleship”

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Lila O’Sullivan, Guest Pianist

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words:

Jesus asks his disciples a challenging question—not only about what they believe, but about how they are willing to live. As we worship today, listen for the invitation of Christ: Where am I being called to follow? What am I being asked to let go of? And what might it mean for me to take up my cross in love and service? Let us bring those questions before God with open hearts.

*Introit

TFWS #2088, x 2

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

*Call to Worship:

Come, let us worship the God who calls us to follow.

We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

Jesus calls us beyond comfort and convenience.

Teach us to follow where Christ leads.

Jesus calls us to take up our cross and serve.

Give us courage to love sacrificially.

Jesus reminds us that life is found not in holding tightly to ourselves, but in giving ourselves in love.

Help us seek the life that truly matters.

*Prayer of Confession

and Words of Assurance:

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always see Jesus clearly. We sometimes make him into the Savior we want, rather than following the Christ who calls us to love, serve, forgive, and trust. We confess the times we have been quick to judge and slow to listen; quick to speak and slow to understand; quick to protect ourselves and slow to reach out to others. Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts to know Christ more deeply and to follow him more faithfully. Shape us into people who reflect his love in our homes, our church, and our community. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ does not wait for us to have everything figured out before he calls us his own. God's grace meets us where we are, forgives us, and gives us a new beginning. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, and we are called to live in peace with one another. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Passing of the Peace:**

Following Jesus is not something we do alone. We walk this road together—siblings in faith, neighbors and friends, people who encourage one another and help carry one another's burdens. The peace of Christ is not simply something we receive; it is something we are called to share. So, in the spirit of Christ's love, let us turn to one another and offer a word of peace, encouragement, and welcome. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.** Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH #415

"Take Up Thy Cross"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

First Reading

Worship Leader

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:21-28

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

“The Cost of Discipleship”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of Meditation

UMH #338

“Where He Leads Me”

Reception of a New Member – Teresa Saeed

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as
contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

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.**

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Generous God, everything we have is a gift from you. Receive these offerings and use them to bring hope to those who are hurting, help to those in need, welcome to those who feel alone, and love to those who need to know they are not forgotten. Teach us to give not simply from what we have, but from hearts committed to following Jesus. Bless these gifts and bless our lives, that both may be used in your service. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn

UMH #2129

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

*Benediction:

Christ calls us to follow.

We will follow with courage.

Christ calls us to take up our cross.

We will serve with love.

Christ calls us to let go of ourselves so that we may discover true life.

We will seek the life that God desires for us.

Go into the world, not looking for suffering, but willing to love when love costs something.

We will live as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Go in peace, serve your neighbors, encourage one another, and follow Christ wherever he leads.

By God’s grace, we will go and live the way of Jesus.

And may the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with you today and always.
Amen.

*Postlude

Announcements/Missions

- **Susanna Wesley Circle:** Will meet on September 14 at 6:30 pm at the home of Judy F. If you would like to carpool please be at the Church parking lot by 6:15.
- **Bridge Group:** Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.
- **Cereal/Food Donations:** Now that school is back in session there is a greater need for easy breakfast foods. Consider picking up a box of cereal or instant oatmeal on your next shopping trip.

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