

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.



“Living Together in Grace: Restoring Community”

September 6, 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.

Benevolence Fund:

On Communion Sundays, we have the opportunity to extend Christ's love beyond our church walls through our Benevolence Fund. Gifts placed at the communion rail help provide financial assistance to individuals and families in our local community who are experiencing financial need.

As we come to Christ's table, we remember that God's grace is given freely—and we are invited to share that grace with others. If you would like to contribute, gifts may be left at the rail during Communion.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

10:15am

“Living Together in Grace Series: Restoring Community”

Worship Leader

Suzanne Latimer

*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:

We remember that God’s grace gathers us, Christ calls us toward reconciliation, and the Holy Spirit makes us one. Let us open our hearts to God’s presence and to one another.

*Introit

UMH #158

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

*Call to Worship:

Come, people of God. Christ calls us to live together in grace.

We come, ready to listen, forgive, and love.

When relationships are broken, Christ calls us toward reconciliation.

We seek the courage to make peace and restore community.

When the world is divided, God calls us to remember that we belong to one another.

We will live as people of love, mercy, and grace.

Come, let us worship the God who makes all things new.

We come with open hearts. Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

Gracious and loving God, you have called us to love one another and to live in peace. Yet we confess that we do

not always choose the way of love. We hold tightly to old hurts. We are quick to judge and slow to listen. We avoid difficult conversations when courage and honesty are needed. We sometimes allow differences to become divisions. Forgive us, O God. Heal what is broken within us and between us. Give us humility to admit when we are wrong, wisdom to know when to speak, courage to seek reconciliation, and grace to offer forgiveness. Through Christ, who reconciles us to you and calls us to reconciliation with one another. Amen.

Hear the good news: God does not give up on us. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. The grace of God is greater than our failures, greater than our divisions, and greater than the things that separate us. **Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, restored, and called to live in grace.**

*Passing of the Peace:
Because Christ has reconciled us to God and calls us to reconciliation with one another, let us share Christ’s peace. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Hymn of Praise UMH #557
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading	Worship Leader
Romans 13:8–14	
Gospel Lesson	
Matthew 18:15-20	

The Message	Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton
“Living Together in Grace: Restoring Community”	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*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

Hymn of Meditation

TFWS #2223

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Prayers of the People and the Church

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:

**Gracious God, everything we have is a gift from you.
Receive these offerings and use them to bring hope where
there is despair, healing where there is hurt, welcome**

where there is loneliness, and justice where there is need.
Use our gifts, our hands, and our lives to make your love
visible in the world. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Service of Communion

UMH #13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.**

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn

UMH #2226

"Bind Us Together"

*Benediction:

Go in the grace of God our Creator.

We will care for one another and God's creation.

Go in the love of Christ our Redeemer.

We will seek peace and reconciliation.

Go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will live together in grace. 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:** 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.

Explore UMC Membership

If you have been worshipping with us and feel called to officially join our congregation, we would be honored to welcome you into formal membership. In the United Methodist tradition, we offer baptism for all ages, from infants to adults, as a sign of God's grace. Adults can join by making a profession of faith, or you can transfer your existing membership from another church or Christian denomination. Please reach out to Pastor Meghan to discuss these steps and how you can covenant with our faith community.

There is a place for everyone in our church family, and you are welcome to connect with us in the way that best fits your personal faith journey. An Affiliate Member keeps their formal membership at their home UMC church while connecting with us locally. An Associate Member maintains their membership in another Christian denomination while officially joining our fellowship. Finally, you are always welcome to worship, serve, and share community with us without any formal ties. We are simply delighted to have you here!

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> or scan the QR code below with your mobile phone
- **By mail:** Send to 7801 Church Lane, Toano, VA 23168.
- **Drop off:** Deliver your offering during office hours.

