

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: Limitless Forgiveness”

September 13, 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> or scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin
- **By mail:** Send to 7801 Church Lane, Toano, VA 23168.
- **Drop off:** Deliver your offering during office hours

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:15am

“Living Together in Grace Series: Limitless Forgiveness”

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

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words:

Today Jesus reminds us that grace is not something we measure out carefully. It is a gift we receive—and a gift we are called to share. Let us center our hearts and open ourselves to the mercy of God, who calls us to live together in grace.

*Introit

UMH #170 v.1, refrain

“O How I Love Jesus”

*Call to Worship:

We come before the God of mercy and grace.

We come with grateful hearts.

God has forgiven us more than we can imagine.

Teach us to extend that mercy to one another.

We will not keep score of one another's failures.

We will seek the way of grace.

Come, let us worship the God whose mercy is without measure.

We come to live together in grace!

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

Merciful God, we confess that we sometimes keep careful records of the wrongs done to us. We remember every offense, hold tightly to old hurts, and find it easier

to judge than to forgive. We confess that we have also failed others and have needed mercy ourselves. Free us from the burden of keeping score. Heal what is wounded in us. Give us wisdom to know when forgiveness means reconciliation, when it means releasing our anger, and when it means entrusting justice to you. Teach us to live not by the measure of what we think others deserve, but by the immeasurable grace you have already given us. In the name of Christ, our merciful Redeemer. Amen.

Hear the good news: God does not meet us according to our failures, but according to God's abundant mercy. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and given another chance to walk in grace. **Thanks be to God!**

*Passing of the Peace:

Friends, the peace of Christ is not simply the absence of conflict. It is the peace that allows us to see one another with mercy, even when we disagree, disappoint one another, or carry old wounds. As we share Christ's peace today, let us remember that we are called to be people who make room for grace. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Hymn of Praise

UMH #390

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

First Reading

Worship Leader

Romans 14:1–12

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21–35

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

“Living Together in Grace: Limitless Forgiveness”

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

UMH #389

“Freely, Freely”

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:

Gracious God, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude. Use them to bring hope where there is despair, healing where there is hurt, welcome where there is exclusion, and grace where it is needed most. Make us generous in our giving and generous in our living, that our lives might reflect the mercy we have received through Christ. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn

UMH #378

“Amazing Grace”

*Benediction:

We have received grace upon grace.

We will carry grace into the world.

We have been forgiven.

We will seek to forgive.

We have known mercy.

We will practice mercy.

When we are tempted to keep score,

We will remember God's abundant grace.

When we are tempted to judge,

We will choose humility and love.

Go now in the peace of Christ.

We will live together in grace.

*Postlude

Announcements/Missions

- **Pastor's Hours:** Rev. Meghan's current office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am-noon. Please try to call before coming for a visit as she may have a schedule change. She is happy to make an appointment for other days or times, please call the office 757-566-0162 or email meghanclayton@vaumc.org.
- **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.
- **Scam Reminder:** Please note that you will never receive a text, call, or email from the staff at Mt Vernon UMC asking for money, gift cards, or a copy of the directory. There are many scammers that use the tactics to get money or information for members so that they may try to scam them as well. If you are ever contacted please call the office to let us know.
- **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.
- **Give Online:** by scanning the QR code below with your mobile phone



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!

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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