

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: Surprising Generosity”

September 20, 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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

10:15am

“Living Together in Grace Series: Surprising Generosity”

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

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words:

We come today with our own ideas about what is fair. We know what we have worked for, what we have earned, and what we believe we deserve. But the grace of God often surprises us. In the kingdom of God, generosity is not measured by our calculations. Grace is given freely, abundantly, and sometimes in ways we do not expect. Let us center our hearts and make room for the surprising generosity of God.

*Introit

UMH #147 v.1, chorus

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Call to Worship:

We come with grateful hearts for all that God has given us.

We give thanks for God's abundant grace.

Some have worked long; some have arrived late.

Yet God's generosity is offered to all.

We may ask, “Is that fair?”

God invites us to ask, “Is that grace?”

Come, let us worship the God whose generosity surprises us.

We come ready to receive and share God's grace!

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

Generous God, we confess that we sometimes measure your goodness by what we think we deserve. We compare our lives with the lives of others. We notice who receives more, who works harder, who seems more deserving, and who seems to receive grace too easily. Forgive us when our sense of fairness becomes greater than our capacity for generosity. Open our hearts to the surprising abundance of your grace. Teach us to rejoice when others receive your blessings, rather than wondering whether they deserve them. Make us grateful for what we have received and generous with what we have been given. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's grace is not something we earn. It is a gift freely given. There is enough grace for you. There is enough grace for your neighbor. There is enough grace for all. **Thanks be to God!**

***Passing of the Peace:**

The peace of Christ reminds us that God's realm is larger than our own circles. We don't have to agree with one another about everything to offer one another Christ's peace. So let us share that peace generously today—with friend and stranger, with those we know well and those we are still getting to know. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

***Hymn of Praise**

UMH #365

“Grace Greater than Our Sin”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children’s Message

First Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Worship Leader

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

“Living Together in Grace: Surprising Generosity”

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 #694

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

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, you have given us more than we could ever earn and more than we could ever repay. Receive these gifts as expressions of our gratitude. Use them to bless our church, our community, and people whose needs are greater than our own. Teach us to live generously, to give joyfully, and to trust that there is always enough when we place what we have in your hands. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

***Sending Hymn** UMH #92

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

***Benediction:**

Go now in the grace of God the Father, the love of Christ the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

May God's grace make us generous, Christ's love make us gracious, and the Spirit lead us in peace. May we live together in grace. Amen.

***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 had 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.
- **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!