

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 Greatest Commandment”

October 25, 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.

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

10:15am

“The Greatest Commandment”

Worship Leader

Theresa Kaufman

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Mary Sowder, Accompanist

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words:

There are many things that can divide us—traditions, opinions, politics, personalities and even our understanding of what the Church should be. Jesus brings us back to the center: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and love your neighbor as yourself.

*Introit

UMH #402, verse 1

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*Call to Worship:

We gather as God's people, called to love.

We love because God first loved us.

Jesus calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We offer our whole selves to God.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We seek the good of one another.

The Church is always being called to grow, reform and become more faithful.

By God's grace, we are always being made new.

Come, let us worship the God who is love.

We come ready to love God and love our neighbors!

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

Loving God, we confess we forget the heart of your commandment: to love you and to love our neighbors. Forgive us when we use our faith to divide rather than unite. Forgive us when we withhold compassion from those who are different from us. Reform our hearts, renew our minds and teach us to see every person as your beloved child. Give us courage to let go of what no longer serves your purposes and grace to embrace what draws us closer to you and to one another. Make our lives a reflection of your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's love is not something we earn. God meets us with grace, forgives us, renews us and calls us to begin again. In Christ, we are made new and sent into the world to love. **Thanks be to God!**

*Passing of the Peace:

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, and one way we practice that love is by making room for one another. So let us share Christ's peace with those around us—not simply with the people we know, but with every person God has placed among us. The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise

UMH #110

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

First Reading

Worship Leader

1 Thessalonians 2:1–8

Special Music

The Choir led by Linda Poinsett

“Love One Another” by Hal Hopson

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 22:34-46

The Message

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

“The Greatest Commandment”

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 #408

“The Gift of Love”

Prayers of the People and Church

The Lord’s Prayer

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:

**Loving God, you have given us everything we need to
live and love as your people. Receive these gifts as an
expression of our gratitude. Use them to strengthen your
church, care for our neighbors and bring hope to our
community and world. Teach us to be generous not only
with our resources, but with our time, our attention, our
compassion and our love. May everything we offer
reflect the love you have first given us. Through Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn UMH #384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*Benediction:

Go now in the love of God, remembering what matters most.

**We will love God with all our heart, soul, mind,
and strength.**

Go and love your neighbors as yourselves.

**We will seek the good of our neighbors and
welcome one another in love.**

Where the Church needs renewal, may we be willing to grow
and change.

**By God's grace, we will seek faithfulness,
reconciliation and peace.**

Go into the world as people shaped by the love of Christ.

We will live together in grace, love God and love our neighbors.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with you now and always.

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.
- **Bridge Group:** Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.
- **You're Invited! Two Short-Term Adult Sunday School Class Opportunities:**
Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15AM in the Fellowship Hall
Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living:
What does it look like to put our faith into practice in everyday life? Join the Adult Sunday School Class for three Sundays (October 25, November 1 and November 8) exploring John Wesley's timeless guidance for Christian living: Do No Harm, Do Good and Stay in Love with God. We'll consider how these simple rules can shape our relationships, strengthen our faith and help us love our neighbors. Please let us know if you need a copy of the book *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living* by Bishop Rueben P. Job.
Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph:
Starting Sunday, November 15, you're invited to a special 5-week series exploring the Christmas story through the

eyes of Joseph. We'll reflect on what his story teaches us about faith, courage, obedience and making room for God's work in our lives. Books provided.

Please note: There will be no class on November 22 because of our Thanksgiving meal.

➤ **Operation Christmas Child 2026:**

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, we can partner with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Since 1993, more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoebox.

If you would like to participate by packing a box, there is information on the credenza by the entrance door to the Sunday School wing. Cardboard OCC boxes are available to assemble, but you may also use a shoebox from home or buy a 6 or 7 qt. plastic box with a lid. Gift items may include little toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Additional gift suggestions can be found on the Samaritan Purse website. Please drop off your packed boxes at the church no later than Sunday morning, November 22nd. On that Sunday, the boxes will be blessed at the worship service and afterwards delivered to the local collection center. If you would like more information, please see Vanda or Fran.

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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