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.



"Keep Your Lamps Lit"

November 8, 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.

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.**

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
- **By mail:** Send to 7801 Church Lane, Toano, VA 23168.
- **Drop off:** Deliver your offering during office hours.

After worship today, all are welcome to join Executive Director Melanie King for a brief presentation about Proclaiming Grace Outreach in the Fellowship Hall.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026 10:15am

"Keep Your Lamps Lit"

Worship Leader Jeanne Fulks

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Welcome & Announcements

Recognition and Blessing of Veterans
Today, we give thanks for the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. We honor their courage, their sacrifice, and their commitment to protecting others.

We give thanks for their service and pray for God's continued blessing upon them.

For those who served in times of war and peace, for those who carry memories of hardship, and for those who continue to bear the visible and invisible wounds of service, we pray for healing, comfort and peace.

God of grace, surround them with your love and grant them your peace.

Bless our veterans, their families and all who serve our communities and our neighbors. May their example inspire us to live with compassion, generosity and faithful service.

Keep our lamps lit, O Lord, that we may serve others in the light of Christ.

Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for our veterans and for the gifts of courage, dedication and sacrifice they have offered. Bless them with strength, peace and the assurance of your abiding presence. Guide us all to be faithful servants of your love, working for the day when all people may live in peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Centering Words:
We wait in hope, trusting the promises of God even when the way ahead is uncertain. We renew our commitment to serve Christ faithfully. May our lamps remain lit, our hearts remain ready and our lives shine with the light of God's love.

*Introit UMH #585

“This Little Light of Mine**”**

*Call to Worship:

Christ calls us to stay awake and live in hope.

We will keep our lamps lit and our hearts prepared.

In every season, God offers us the promise of resurrection.

We will trust God's promises and encourage one another.

We give thanks for those who have served our country and those who serve our neighbors.

May our lives reflect Christ's light in all we do.

Come, let us worship the God of hope, love, and everlasting life!

We come to worship and to serve in the name of Christ.

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance:

Gracious God, we confess we are not always ready to respond to your call. We become distracted by daily concerns, weary in our waiting and hesitant to share the light you have given us. We allow fear to overshadow hope and forget faithful living requires watchfulness and action. Forgive us, renew us and fill us with your Spirit. Teach us to live with compassion and humility. Help us trust your promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's grace meets us in our weakness. God's love sustains us in our waiting. God's promises give us hope beyond our fears. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Let us live as people of hope, keeping our lamps lit for the coming of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace:

As we share Christ's light with the world, let us share that light with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise UMH #717
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

First Reading Worship Leader
Thessalonians 4:13-18

Choral Anthem
"Father, I Adore You" by T. Coehlo

Second Reading
Matthew 25:1-13

The Message
"Keep Your Lamps Lit"

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 #719
"My Lord, What a Morning"

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.

Mission Moment Melanie King-Executive Director
Proclaiming Grace Outreach

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, we thank you for the gifts you have entrusted to us and for the many ways your light shines through your people. Bless these offerings and the ministries they support. Strengthen the work of Proclaiming Grace Outreach and all who serve our neighbors in need. Keep us faithful in our giving, steadfast in our hope and ready to respond wherever you call us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn UMH #706
"Soon and Very Soon"

*Blessing for the Holiday Bazaar

As we keep our lamps lit and share the light of Christ, we give thanks for those who offer their time and energy to care for our church and prepare for the season ahead.

We thank God for hands willing to serve and hearts ready to welcome.

We pray for all who will gather for our church cleanup day, working together to care for the place where we worship and serve.

May our work be blessed, and may all we do bring glory to God.

We pray for everyone preparing for our Holiday Bazaar, and for all who will share their gifts, talents and fellowship.

May our efforts strengthen our community and shine the light of Christ.

And as neighbors and visitors come through our doors, may they find more than a welcoming building. May they find a church where they are noticed, valued and received with love.

May our hospitality reflect the generous welcome of Jesus Christ.

Gracious God, bless all who serve, all who prepare and all who will join us. Give us strength for our work, joy in our fellowship and open hearts to welcome our neighbors. May every act of service, every shared conversation and every expression of kindness help others see your light shining through us. Keep our lamps lit, O Lord, and make us faithful witnesses to your love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

*Benediction:

Go forth in the light of Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will keep our lamps lit and serve in hope. Amen.

*Postlude

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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

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 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.**

- **Veterans Day Remembrance:** Please join us on Wednesday, November 11, at 11:00 AM at James City Chapel Cemetery as we gather to honor and remember the brave men and women who have served our country. Our brief ceremony will include reflections by Cody Grundy, prayer by Pastor Meghan, and the playing of Taps by Ryan Staggs. All are welcome to join us for this time of remembrance. Rain will cancel event. No Rain Date

- **Church Cleanup – Friday, November 13**
  Lend a Hand! Join us on Friday, November 13, from 9:00 AM until lunchtime as we tidy up our church building and grounds. Many hands make light work, and it's a wonderful way to prepare for visitors during the Holiday Bazaar the next day. Come when you can, stay as long as you're able and help us get things looking their best!

- **Are You Connected?** If you are looking for a new "connection", consider coming to a choir rehearsal. You will find folks who are making music together, in a place they love, where their gifts — great or small — will be used to the glory of God! Choir meets on Thursday at 12:30 in the Sanctuary

- **Bridge Group:** Bridge meets at 10 am and 6:30 pm, Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall all are welcome.

- **You're Invited! Adult Sunday School Class:**
  Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15AM, Fellowship Hall

  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.

- **Join Us for Thanksgiving Lunch!** Everyone is invited to join us for our Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, November 22 after worship as we share a meal and give thanks for the blessings of our church family. The church will provide turkey, ham and mashed potatoes. If you're able to bring a side dish to share, please let the church office know what you plan to bring.

- **Please RSVP** to the Thanksgiving lunch by adding your name and side dish to the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex or contacting the church office so we can get an accurate headcount and prepare enough food for everyone.

- **Multifaith Thanksgiving Service-**As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we have an opportunity to come together with our neighbors from across the community and give thanks for the many blessings we share. You are invited to attend the Historic Area Religions Together (HART) 9th Annual Multifaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. at Walsingham Academy. Pastor Meghan has been an active member of HART since it began in 2017. This special evening brings together people of different faith traditions in a spirit of

gratitude, respect and community. You are warmly encouraged to attend as we join our neighbors in giving thanks, celebrating our shared hopes, and building connections across our community. All are welcome!

- **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.

  A donation of $10 per shoebox is suggested to cover shipping and other project costs. 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.

- **Christmas Decorating-Friday, November 27**
  Help Us Deck the Halls! Christmas is just around the corner, and we'd love your help decorating our church for the season! Join us on Friday, November 27 at 10:00 AM as we bring some Christmas cheer into our Sanctuary and

church spaces. Come enjoy a little fellowship while helping make our church beautiful and inviting for Advent and Christmas. All helping hands are welcome!

- **The Toano Historical Society 8th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting-**will take place on Saturday, December 5 from 3-7pm on the Village Green. Celebrate the holiday season with family, friends, and neighbors as we light up the Toano Christmas tree and enjoy festive activities for all ages. Volunteers are still needed, see the sign-up sheet at **thsvolunteers.org**

- **Empty Ink Cartridges Wanted-**the office recycles ink cartridges at Staples where they give us a credit for each one turned in. There used to be a limit of 6 per month, but they have recently changed it to 16! If we could turn in that amount that would be a $40 credit. With the cost of ink and paper that would be a huge help! There is a basket on top of the staff mailboxes in the Narthex or you can just drop them in the office. Thank you for your help!