



**Friday, January 2, 2026**

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### **Report from the Leadership Board**

The Leadership Board met on December 17, 2025. The members of the board serve three-year terms, so this was an occasion to thank those who were attending their last meeting. Jane Rall has served as lay leader for the past three years. She has provided important continuity, sharing her experience serving on previous committees whose responsibilities are now incorporated into a single board. Nancy Kneisly will rotate off, freeing up time to organize a local United Women of Faith, even as she retains other roles at Faith, including chair of the outreach team. Mike Kitzman's tenure was cut short by the need to move to Chicago for employment reasons, yet we appreciate the insight he brought to the board this year based on his leadership experiences at a previous church. We were pleased that Janelle Veazey has agreed to continue on the board by starting a second term.

The board reflected on what had been accomplished during its first year, simultaneously learning more about one another's gifts and interests, even as many members addressed finance, trustee, and staff-relations issues for the first time. With guiding principles, operating procedures, and a documents repository already in place as we enter 2026, we hope to be even more proactive and effective.

As reported last month, we had hoped to sustain in 2026 the ministries that were expanded in 2025 to reach more people and help them step more fully into their discipleship journeys. Although almost every household that previously committed financial support

has made a commitment for 2026, our anticipated revenue falls significantly short of anticipated expenses. Our ability to sustain these ministries through 2025 was only possible by tapping about \$100,000 from reserves that had been created by the generosity of previous congregations. The board realizes that this is not sustainable and has begun the process of determining which expenses can no longer be supported in 2026.

The board began to consider goals for 2026 and identified at least two. One relates to improving understanding of our evolving financial position and how our financial resources and decisions affect Faith's mission in our community. The other is to improve our ability as leaders to share a vision for Faith's ministries — present and future. In the short term, we want to give voice to members who have expressed interest in expanding existing ministries or starting new ones. To help connect members with shared passions, the board will be encouraging the congregation to participate in a retreat on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will hear about some dreams already brewing and spend time naming what we care deeply about, where we think we can make a difference, and how we want to be a vibrant church for our greater Rockville community.

If you have any questions, ask any Leadership Board member: Mike Coppersmith, Rachel Hedrick, Tamara Fish, Brian Jones, Kathy King, Janelle Veazey and Jennifer Young.

Bill Maas  
Chair, Leadership Board

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## **News & Events**

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### **Church Office**

The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026 (New Year's Day), and Friday, January 2, 2026. The office will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.

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### **Quarters for Kids**

**Deadline: Sunday, January 4**

Faith Church is collecting quarters during the Advent season to help Heifer International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)) provide families with chickens and ducks that lay eggs, honeybees that increase the yields of fruit and vegetable gardens, goats that give milk, and sheep that produce wool.

Donations may be placed in the offering chest in the narthex on any Sunday through January 4 or given electronically on the Faith website using the “Give” button. Our pocket change can provide sustainable food sources and warm clothing for disadvantaged families.



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### **Save the Date — Saturday, January 24, 2026**

Mark your calendars and plan to dream with other members of Faith on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We'll hear about some dreams already brewing and spend time naming what we care deeply about, where we think we can make a difference, and how we want to be a vibrant church for our greater Rockville community. We are hoping to involve kids and youth; those plans are still taking shape. Stay tuned for more information, but plan to join the conversation!

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### **Preparing for Communion**

Please bring nonperishable items with you to worship on Sunday, January 4, 2026. On Sundays when we share the Communion feast (usually the first Sunday of the month), we also share our abundance with others. Items can be left in the shopping basket in the narthex. Your donations help keep the Blessing Box stocked. Toiletries and feminine products are greatly appreciated, too. The Blessing Box is a community effort, so no one person is responsible. In addition to donations, taking the initiative to move items into the storage closet near the office or directly into the Blessing Box is always appreciated.

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### Suggested Food Items

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# Love in action is UNSTOPPABLE



## United Women in Faith Interest Meeting

Come learn, connect, and see what sisterhood in action looks like.

Curious about United Women in Faith? This is a relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering to learn more about who we are, what we stand for, and how women of all ages are living out love in action.

Whether you're new, returning, or just exploring, there's a seat for you.

Sunday, January 25, 2026  
After Worship  
Room 205/206  
Faith UMC  
6810 Montrose Rd  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Rev. Laura Novell, Pastor**

**Nancy Kneisly, President, UWFaith**

### What to expect:

- Fellowship and conversation
- Overview of United Women in Faith
- Ways to get involved locally Time for questions

You can find more information on our national website [UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org). All are welcome. Bring a friend. Stay curious. Come as you are.



### JOIN US AND BECOME UNSTOPPABLE

Scan QR Code to join us on UWFaith  
Digital

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

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## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

**Scripture:** John 1:35-51

**Message:** Come and REALLY See

## **Communion**

This Sunday, we will gather in person and online to celebrate communion. Communion calls us to remember and live into our oneness as the body of Christ. To participate virtually, you will want to take some time to gather grape juice and bread or crackers of some sort. Spend an extra moment thinking about holy space, and consider lighting a candle, setting out some flowers, creating a little escape from the everyday things of home for this act of worship.

## **Sunday School**



**Sunday School for Children and Youth**

learn, explore, grow

Children and youth are invited to begin their Sunday morning in the sanctuary for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Middle and high school students are dismissed prior to the Children's Message, while children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are dismissed following the Children's Message.

All Sunday School classes return to the sanctuary after the sermon to rejoin the congregation for the remainder of worship.

We joyfully welcome children in worship at all times. Whether your child prefers to remain in the pews or spend time at the kids' table at the front, they are warmly invited to participate in our worship gathering in the way that feels most comfortable to them.

- **Kindergarten–2nd Grade** Location: Room 203, Curriculum: Godly Play
- **3rd–5th Grade** Location: Room 200
- **Middle School (6th–8th Grade)**: Location: Room 206
- **High School (9th–12th Grade)** does not gather for Sunday School on the first Sunday of each month.

## **Youth Ministry**

## **Sunday at 5:00 p.m.**

Middle and high school youth will **not be meeting** tonight. Looking ahead, the youth will meet in the new year on Sunday, January 11th. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at [ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com](mailto:ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com).

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## **Livestream Service**

### **How do I get to the worship service on the Faith website?**

There are three ways to access our worship experience on Sunday mornings through our website. [Click here](#) to learn about those options.

## **Last Sunday's Worship Service**

[Listen and watch last Sunday's online worship service.](#) See and hear the worship service, led by Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, from last Sunday's worship service featuring music, scripture, and prayers.

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## **Wednesday, December 24**

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## **Christmas Eve Services**

### **Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

*Unto Glory: A Prophetic Pilgrimage* has been our guiding theme throughout Advent. Join us as our lives become a testimony that the Word has become flesh and dwells among us. We

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## **Prayer Requests**

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Please email your prayer requests to [prayer@faithworkshere.com](mailto:prayer@faithworkshere.com). Our congregational care ministers — Tamara James-Fish, Jim Johnston, Susan Keller, Emily Sama-Miller, Chuck Spencer, Sue Walters and Kristen Wayne — will receive your request.

**Prayers for Faith UMC members:** Kathy King.



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*Faith United Methodist Church  
is a member of the  
Reconciling Ministries Network*



*Faith United Methodist Church seeks to welcome and include all people in the life of this congregation. Our building and gathering spaces are accessible to people who use wheelchairs and walkers. Large-print hymnals and Bibles, FM wireless assistive listening devices, sensory-friendly items for children, and gluten-free communion elements are available during worship. As we grow in Christ's love, Faith UMC continues to take new steps forward to help ensure that all people can participate fully in this community of faith.*