

back to basics

the stories we receive

the practices we keep

the love we share



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6810 Montrose Road | Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-881-1881 | office@faithworkshere.com

www.faithworkshere.com

VISITORS

If you are new to Faith United Methodist Church, welcome! We encourage you to complete a guest card available from a welcome host. Please drop it in the offering chest or hand it to one of the welcome hosts following the worship service.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Faith offers a variety of accessibility resources for your use, including large-print hymnals and Bibles, magnifiers, printed versions of the sermon, FM wireless assistive-listening devices, and noise-cancelling headphones. These items are available on the white bookshelf at the Sanctuary entrance. Please feel free to use whatever you need and return the items after the service. If you have any questions, speak with the welcome hosts at the Sanctuary entrance. You may also contact Jennifer Young, Faith's Accessibility Coordinator, at young.jennifer@gmail.com to request additional accommodations.

Sunday, September 20 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD GATHERS US

Centering

Prelude: *Improvisation*

Ann Bartlow, organ
from *Trois Improvisations* (1911); Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

Welcome

Pam Kessler, Member, Worship Arts

Call to Worship

Nancy Kuhn, Liturgist

One: God calls us from familiar places toward a future we cannot yet see.

All: We will trust the God who goes before us.

One: God blesses us with grace, community, hope, and purpose.

All: We will not keep God's blessing to ourselves.

One: Through us, neighbors may know welcome, strangers may become friends, and communities may know love.

All: We will not keep God's blessing to ourselves.

One: Come. Let us worship the God who calls and sends.

Confession and Pardon

Nancy Kuhn

One: God of abundant blessing,
we confess that we sometimes confuse blessing with
possession.

We receive your gifts and hold them tightly.
We seek comfort without asking who has been left
uncomfortable.

We build communities that serve us
without noticing the neighbors beyond our doors.

All: Forgive us when our faith turns inward.

**Remind us that we are blessed in order to bless,
loved in order to love,
welcomed in order to welcome,
and called so that we may be sent.**

**Free us from fear and scarcity
and teach us again the joy of lives poured out in love.
Amen.**

One: God does not abandon the people God calls.
Grace meets us, redirects us, and sends us forward again.
In Christ, we are forgiven and made free to become a
blessing.
Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

GOD SPEAKS

Anthem: *Our Mission, Bold and Blest* (2015)

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director; Ann Bartlow, organ
Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture Readings: Genesis 12:1-9

Nancy Kuhn

The reading can be found in the Old Testament
on page #10 of the pew Bible.

Message: "Blessed to Bless"

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #116: *The God of Abraham Praise*

Congregation; Ann Bartlow, organ

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer

Nancy Kuhn

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

**All: 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.**

For Thought: *Why I Serve*

Sara Romeyn

*Hymn #571: *Go, Make of All Disciples*

Congregation; Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *The God of Abraham Praise* based on YIGDAL (1993)

Ann Bartlow, organ

Guglielmo Enrico Lardelli, 1857-1910



Altar flowers are given by Bill and Lloydie Zaiser in honor of their parents and in celebration of their lives.

ATTENDANCE

We invite all guests and members to scan the QR code so we can acknowledge your attendance today.



Everyone Sign In!

OFFERING

We are not passing an offering plate currently. An offering box has been placed on the welcome table in the Narthex. You may also scan the QR code to the right to give online.



Give today.

BACK TO BASICS...BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children and youth are warmly welcome to join worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, either seated with their families or at the children's activity table near the front of the sanctuary. Sunday School classes are led by two screened, trained, and caring adult volunteers.



During the worship service, children and youth will be invited to leave for their age-appropriate Sunday School classes. Faith UMC also offers nursery care for infants through pre-kindergarten.

K-2nd: Rm 203; 3rd-5th: Rm 200; 6th-8th: Rm 206; 9th-12th: Rm 205

WONDER TOTE BAGS

We encourage anyone of any age to utilize the activity bags in the Narthex. When we worship, we come with our whole bodies, not just our eyes and ears. Some of us engage in worship more deeply when we have sensory items. Currently the bags include fidget items and storyboards for recording a response to the Word. Just grab one on the way into the sanctuary and return it following worship.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

We invite everyone to head downstairs following worship to enjoy fellowship, conversation, and a variety of treats as we continue building community together.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS CHECK UP

Every person is uniquely gifted, and discovering those gifts helps our community thrive. Taking time to reflect on how our gifts grow and change is vital to becoming who God is calling us to be.

There's something special about serving from calling rather than duty. **Take this short 10-minute survey** by scanning the QR code to assess your spiritual gifts, then share them on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Let's see where our collective gifts turn up!



Our Ministry Fair and Ice Cream Social kicked off this effort, connecting gifts and interests with our church's needs — with plenty of popsicles, drumsticks, and ice cream sandwiches along the way!



Ministry leaders were on hand to share about their teams and answer questions. Pick up the flyer today in the narthex to see the full list of ministries, leaders, and contacts.

Our greatest current needs are in Audio/Visual, Nursery, Welcome Hosts, and Youth Ministry. If any of these interest you, please contact Valerie Kunsman, church administrator at vkunsman@FaithWorksHere.com— your involvement can make a real difference.

Thank you to the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, and Pam Kessler for coordinating the event, and to the Evans/Romeyn and Harke families for serving ice cream!

EMPTY NESTERS GATHERING

Saturday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.

The Empty Nesters are a group of Faith members with young adult children who gather quarterly for activities ranging from trivia night to hiking to museum visits. Our first event of the new school year will be a service project on September 19th from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen with two goals. First, we'll make a meal for the Stepping Stones Shelter and second, we'll assemble several hundred toiletry bags (dental hygiene and menstrual products) for use in the Blessing Box. There will be time to visit and catch up! Please join us. For questions, contact Sara Romeyn at sararomeyn@yahoo.com.



Stepping Stones Shelter

NEW THIS FALL: FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Friday, September 25 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We're excited to launch a brand-new quarterly program just for children in third-fifth grades:

Faithful Friends! Each quarter, kids will gather on

a Friday evening for two hours of dinner, games, hands-on service projects, and plenty of fun. For our first gathering on Sept. 25, we'll be making fleece pet beds and homemade dog biscuits to support local animal shelters. To register for this gathering, scan the QR code. Deadline is Monday, Sept. 21st.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) of Faith UMC and N. Bethesda UMC will gather at Faith on October 4 to begin a Bible Study series. "What does God say about attending church?" will launch the series. Contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator at ssmedberg@FaithWorksHere.com for more details. Scan the above QR code to access the weekly full year schedule with dates, times, locations and topics.



BACK TO BASICS...LEARNING ENGLISH

The ESOL class is off to a great start, with 16 enthusiastic participants. We have room for a few more students if you know of anyone who might be interested.



Sara is seeking volunteers to serve as assistant teachers: helping with attendance, small group work, and supporting students who need extra help. Please reach out to Sara at sara.romeyn@gmail.com if you can help a few times in the next 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings between 6:30-8:30.

SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Grace Basford

Altar Guild for September: Debbie Spriggs

Audio Visual Volunteers: Andy Basford, Debbie & Jason Spriggs

Congregational Welcome: Pam Kessler

Fellowship Hosts: Empty Nesters group

Liturgist: Nancy Kuhn

Money Counters: Tim Evans & Jim Johnston

Nursery Caregivers: Gary Clark & Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Linda Pickle

Sunday School Teachers

Elementary: Laura Basford, Nancy Hart, Dawn Adair Johnson & Susan Jones

Middle School: Chuck Spencer & Marijka Spriggs

High School: Ryan Babula & Kristin Justice

Welcome Hosts: Bill Beisner & Sharon Virts

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor | Ann Bartlow, Organist | André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader | Keshika Dias, Facilities Manager | Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator | Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff | Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator | Kim Webster, Financial Manager | Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director