

back to basics

the stories we receive

the practices we keep

the love we share



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 13, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD GATHERS US

Centering

Prelude: *Peace in the Midst of the Storm* (1978, 2018)

Ann Bartlow, piano

Stephen R. Adams; pseudonym: Michael Maybrick, 1841-1913; arr.: Bill Wolaver, b. 1958

Welcome

Janelle Veazey, Member, Leadership Board

*Hymn TFWS #2236 *Gather Us In* (refer to insert)

Congregation; Ann Bartlow, organ

Call to Worship

Tim Evans, Liturgist

One: God has called us from many places and gathered us here.

All: We are one people held together by grace.

One: We come carrying different stories, questions, hopes, and needs.

All: And God makes room for us all.

One: The God of covenant remembers us and calls us again.

All: We gather to remember whose we are.

One: Come, people of God.

All: We belong to the God of grace. Let us worship.

Confession and Pardon

Tim Evans, Liturgist

One: Faithful God,

you remember your promises,
but we confess how easily we forget.

We forget that life is gift.

We forget that every person bears your image.

We forget that your covenant reaches farther
than the boundaries we draw.

We live as though belonging must be earned.

We divide the world into those who are worthy
and those who are not.

We trust our fear more readily than your grace.

All: Return us to what is basic and true:

**you are God,
we are your beloved creation,
and your mercy is wider than we imagine.**

**Restore in us the joy of belonging to you
and the courage to make room for one another.
Amen.**

Passing the Peace

GOD SPEAKS

Anthem: *The Storm Is Passing Over* (1905, 1996)

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director; Ann Bartlow, piano
Charles Albert Tindley, 1851-1933, arr. Barbara W. Baker, b. 1945

Text: Have courage my soul and let us journey on. | Though the
night is dark and I am far from home. | Thanks be to God the
morning light appears. | The storm is passing over (3x), Hallelu.

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture Readings: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 Tim Evans

The readings can be found in the Old Testament
on pages #5-6 of the pew Bible.

Message: "Not Your Average Nursery Decor" Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #398: *Jesus Calls Us* Congregation; Ann Bartlow, organ

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Offering Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer Tim Evans

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.**

*Hymn #368: *My Hope Is Built* Congregation; Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Toccata* (c. 1900) Ann Bartlow, organ
Guglielmo Enrico Lardelli, 1857-1910



*Altar flowers are given by Sara Romeyn in celebration
of Tim Evans' birthday.*

ATTENDANCE

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



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.



BACK TO BASICS...BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

Sunday School is a cherished ministry of the church that reflects our commitment to nurturing children and youth in faith, helping them grow in the knowledge that they are known, valued, and loved as members of Christ's family.



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 who provide a safe and engaging learning environment.

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. Families may bring them to Room 210 before worship begins.

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 that can help us worship. Currently the bags include fidget items and manipulatives, crayons, and storyboards for recording a response to the Word. Just grab one on the way into the sanctuary and return the bag following worship.

BACK TO BASICS: CHOOSE YOUR MINISTRY PATH

TODAY following worship

We're kicking off the fall season with a Ministry Fair & Ice Cream Social. The Ministry Fair gives you a chance to prayerfully consider where you feel called to use your gifts and talents.



From acolytes to the altar guild, from greeters to bellringers, ministry team leaders will be there to answer your questions. Whether your call is learning to be a liturgist or working in the community garden, helping in the nursery or picking up audio-visual skills for the online service, let's joyfully greet the fall season.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS CHECK UP

Every person is uniquely equipped with different gifts and talents that together make Christian community the vibrant and thriving place it's meant to be. Taking time to reflect on our gifts and assess what they are, if they've changed as we've entered new seasons of life, and how we are leaning into them and developing them is vital for leaning into the fullness of who God is calling us to become.

There's something special that happens when we serve out of our giftings and sense of calling rather than sense of duty or volunteering. **So we invite you to scan the QR code to access a short (10min) survey to help you assess your spiritual gifts. We hope you will join us at Fellowship Hour following worship today! Engage with and ask questions of current ministry leads and explore the power of using your gifts to strengthen the various ministries of the church community.**



YOUTH MINISTRY KICK-OFF DINNER

TODAY at 5:00 p.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) and their families are invited to a kick-off potluck dinner at Cabin John park, pavilion B. Contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator at ssmedberg@FaithWorksHere.com for more details. Scan the above QR code to access the Youth ministry full year schedule with dates, times, locations and topics.



ENGLISH CLASSES BEGIN SOON - A FEW MORE SPOTS AVAILABLE

Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Faith has received a \$4,500 grant from Montgomery County Adult English Learning (MCAEL) to support the development of ESOL classes. Sara Romeyn will offer a beginning English Language class on Tuesday nights at Faith UMC. The class has already enrolled 14 students! Classes will be open to adults seeking to develop spoken English skills. Know someone in our community who might benefit? **Copies of the flyer that includes registration information are available in the Narthex.** If you have any questions, email ESOL@FaithWorksHere.com.



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 to game night. 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 also be time to visit and catch up! Please join us. For questions, contact Sara Romeyn at sararomeyn@yahoo.com.

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 the September 25th gathering, scan the QR code. Deadline is Monday, September 21st.



SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Alice Hedrick

Altar Guild for September: Debbie Spriggs

Audio Visual Volunteers: Chuck Spencer, Debbie & Jason Spriggs

Congregational Welcome: Janelle Veazey

Fellowship Hosts: Tim Evans, Andrew & Melissa Harke & Sara Romeyn

Liturgist: Tim Evans

Money Counters: Carol Dismukes & Jim Johnston

Nursery Caregivers: Tessa Ricketts & Emily Sama-Miller

Online Host: Belinda Tilley

Sunday School Teachers

Elementary: Dawn Adair & Frank Johnson, Sally Stolz & Janelle Veazey

Middle School: Jeff Bryant & Seren Hemmings-Burk

High School: James Hedrick & Dave Savell

Welcome Hosts: Sharon Virts & Bruce Werber

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