



SIGNIFICANT DATES

Sunday, Sept. 13: Sunday School begins for all grades! and Ministry Fair & Ice Cream Social and Youth Ministry Pot-luck Dinner at Cabin John

Tuesday, Sept. 15: ESOL class begins

Saturday, Sept. 19: Empty Nesters

Friday, Sept. 25: Faithful Friends for Grades 3-5

Faith in Action

LABOR DAY: THE OFFICE RESTS, THE GARDEN DOESN'T

Monday, September 7

The church office will be closed Monday so we invite you to spend an hour on Labor Day helping in the Community Garden! Join us at 9 a.m. to weed, remove spent plants, and prepare the garden for the fall. [Sign up here](#) or just show up!

PREPARE FOR COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY: BRING A NON-PERISHABLE ITEM

What if a can of soup could say, “**You’re not alone**”?
What if a box of cereal could become a breakfast for a hungry family?
What if a few simple groceries could remind someone that their community—cares?



Our Blessing Box is a simple way to share food and everyday necessities with neighbors who may be experiencing a difficult season. There are no forms to fill out, no questions asked, and no judgment—just an open invitation to “**Take what you need, leave what you can.**”

Our goal isn’t simply to fill a box. It’s to fill a need.

The Blessing Box is one small way our church can put faith into action. It allows us to serve quietly, generously, and practically, reminding our neighbors that kindness is still alive and that they don’t have to walk through hard times alone.

So the next time you’re at the grocery store, **buy one for your pantry and one for the Blessing Box.**

The Blessing Box is truly a *community* effort—no single person carries the load. If you ever notice the basket filling up, feel free to whisk items to the closet in the office vestibule or place them directly in the Blessing Box. If you’re looking for ideas, click on [this link](#) for a list of suggested items.

BACK TO BASICS...BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, September 13 during worship

Sunday School is one of those “church traditions” that carries a holy purpose: helping children know they are seen, known, and loved in the body of Christ.



Sunday School Details

Nursery and Sunday School classes are taught by two screened, trained, and caring adults. All children and youth (except those in the nursery) start in the sanctuary for 10 a.m. worship and are then invited to their Sunday School classrooms.

ELEMENTARY K-2ND: ROOM 203

ELEMENTARY 3RD-5TH: ROOM 200

MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH-8TH: ROOM 206

HIGH SCHOOL 9TH-12TH: ROOM 205

BACK TO BASICS: CHOOSE YOUR MINISTRY PATH

Sunday, September 13 following worship

We're kicking off the fall season with a **Ministry Fair & Ice Cream Social**. Just as going back to school in the fall means deciding what classes to take, our 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 follow [this link](#) to a short (10min) survey to help you assess your spiritual gifts, and to join us at Fellowship Hour Sunday, September 13th to engage with and ask questions of current ministry leads and explore the power of using your gifts to the flourishing of the church community.**

YOUTH MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m.

As you know, Rockville Youth is a collaborative ministry between Faith and North Bethesda UMCs intended to give young people in our community a place to build

relationships with other youth and adults who love them as they are. We invite youth and their families to a kick-off potluck at Cabin John park, pavilion B. If you have any questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.

Access the full year schedule with dates, times, locations and topics [here](#).

OUR COLORFUL ESOL BANNER SAYS IT ALL - ENGLISH CLASSES BEGIN SOON!

Tuesday, September 15 from 6:30-8:30 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. 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 or can be found [at this link](#).** If you have any questions, email ESOL@FaithWorksHere.com.

BACK TO BASICS: CLASS IS IN SESSION FOR EMPTY NESTERS

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 Saturday, 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, registration deadline September 21



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 (6 - 8 p.m.) for two hours of dinner, games, hands-on service projects, and plenty of fun. Each event will be a chance to build friendships, grow in faith, and discover how we can make a difference in our community—all in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

For our first gathering on Friday, Sept. 25, we'll be making fleece pet beds and homemade dog biscuits to support local animal shelters. It's a great chance for kids to learn simple ways to serve others while having a ton of fun together. **To register for the September 25th gathering, [click here](#)! Deadline is Monday, September 21st.**

A GREAT DAY OF SERVICE AT FAITH

Faith extends gratitude to everyone who came out for Saturday's Work Day! Volunteers of all ages rolled up their sleeves to care for our building and grounds, taking on projects that help repair, refresh, and maintain the spaces that support our ministry, worship, and fellowship. We appreciate the leadership of the Building Integrity Team, Ann Coppersmith and Keshika Dias, Facilities Manager.



A new fence built by Bill Beisner and Jay Moore at Old Bridge home.

From messy jobs to detailed tasks, every contribution helped strengthen our shared church home and ensured that Faith remains a clean, welcoming place for all who enter.

We are grateful for their time and energy.
[Click here](#) to see more photos from the day.



Faith UMC's new member, Jane Bell, works to beautify one of the islands in our parking lot alongside Gary Clark and Jim Johnston.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

BREATHING UNDER WATER

This is the final week of our series, *Breathing Under Water: A Journey Toward Wholeness*, based on a book by Father Richard Rohr. As we journey together toward wholeness, we remember that we can breathe, even breathe underwater, because the breath of God is always with us.

To learn more about the *Breathing Under Water* series and to access more resources that include the 12 steps, further questions to explore and a brief video featuring Father Richard Rohr, [visit our website](#).

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture: Psalm 78: 1 - 7; John 4:5–42 (Common English Bible)

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.

Invitation to Reflection: Throughout this series we have incorporated an *invitation to reflection* following the sermon. Last week we realized more deeply that transformation is not a single moment. This week, as we move together into the final step, Step 10 of *Breathing Under Water*, we celebrate the Spirit's continuing work among us.

Healing is never meant to stop with us. Grace moves outward. We recognize that what has been mended in us becomes healing for the world. Love becomes witness and we serve others as people shaped by grace.



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.

PREVIOUS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

[Listen and watch last Sunday's online worship service.](#) See and hear last Sunday's worship service featuring music, scripture, and prayers.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

SMALL GROUP LED BY BILL MAAS

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

This group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you have questions or would like to join, contact Bill Maas at billmaas@verizon.net.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87429970926?pwd=OXp0WDMvQVByQzhWZXJXSzZaTThUQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2997 0926

Passcode: 568601

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

BELL CHOIR RESUMES RINGING

Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Bells of Faith rehearses every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. under the direction of Nancy Kuhn in the sanctuary.

CHANCEL CHOIR BACK TO PRACTICE

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The Chancel Choir rehearses every Thursday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. under the direction of Dr. Michael Wu, Faith Music Director, in the sanctuary.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We have the opportunity and freedom to pray with one another and then to carry those things out into the world.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Please email your prayer requests to Prayer@FaithWorksHere.com. Our Congregational Care Ministers (CCM), Tamara James-Fish, Jim Johnston, Susan Keller, Emily Sama-Miller, Chuck Spencer, and Kristen Wayne will receive your request.

Prayers for Faith UMC members: the Dowd family; Terrie Tuckman; Ruth Gadre; Sue Walters and Linda Pickle.

Prayers for those dear to us: Rita (Emily Sama-Miller's 101 year old great aunt; Betsy (mother of Ann Coppersmith); the residents of a Rockville apartment building that displaced 21 residents as a result of a fire; Larry (friend of Bill and Lloydie Zaiser); Megan (friend of Nancy Kneisly's daughter); Teresa (Nancy Kneisly's sister-in-law) and Tyler (son of Bill and Lloydie Zaiser).



6810 Montrose Road | Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-881-1881 | office@FaithWorksHere.com
www.FaithWorksHere.com



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

We seek 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.