



FAITH & FINANCE: SECOND QUARTER OF 2026

This report provides a clear snapshot of our financial activity and progress during the second quarter, along with key highlights that support our ongoing ministry and operational goals.

Questions can be directed to [Kim Webster](#), Finance Manager. If you would like a physical copy, they will be available in the Narthex or you may [contact the office](#).

Faith in Action

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

This Sunday, August 23 during worship

As a new school year begins, Faith UMC celebrates the tradition of the Blessing of the Backpacks. This special event invites students of any age, teachers, school staff, and families to gather for a prayer of encouragement and support before the academic year starts.



During the blessing, backpacks are brought forward as symbols of the learning, growth, and opportunities that lie ahead. It is a reminder that faith accompanies us not only in worship but also in our daily lives.

The Blessing of the Backpacks is a meaningful way to recognize the hopes and challenges of a new school year. **We encourage you and/or your student to bring your/their backpack this Sunday!**

FAITH UMC WORK DAY

Saturday, August 29 from 9:00 a.m. - noon

Calling volunteers of all ages! Join us as we come together to care for our church building and grounds. Together we'll tackle a variety of projects to repair, refresh, and maintain the spaces that support our ministry, worship and fellowship.



We'll gather first to assign tasks, and then get to work. No special skills are required—just a willingness to lend a hand!

Please wear clothing for messy work. Faith will provide water and snacks. Whether you're able to lend a hand for an hour or stay through the morning, your presence will make a meaningful impact. As we care for our church home together, we strengthen our community and help keep Faith a clean, welcoming space for all.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Families are invited to a special opportunity following worship to connect with the teachers who guide our children and youth in Sunday School. Caregivers and their children can visit classroom spaces, learn about the curriculum, enjoy light refreshments while experiencing the welcoming environment where faith formation takes place.



This will be a meaningful way to begin the new season together—strengthening relationships and celebrating the shared ministry of nurturing children in God's love. We look forward to seeing you and your family!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Sunday, August 30 following worship

UWF believes love in action can change the world. Join Faith UMC women following worship **in room 111** as they work to influence and impact our community.



United
Women
in Faith

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Nancy Kneisly, chair at kneislynancy@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP TIME RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Beginning September 7 following worship

After a summer hiatus, Fellowship Time returns in September. We are seeking hosts to sponsor this time to gather as a community following the service. As a host, you will set out the tea, coffee, lemonade and paper products (all provided) and to bake or purchase bite-sized treats. Cookies, brownies, cheese and crackers, fruit and other snacks are all welcome. Please contact the church office to choose a date at (301) 881-1881.



The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

BREATHING UNDER WATER

We continue with our series, *Breathing Under Water: A Journey Toward Wholeness*, based on a book by Father Richard Rohr. Rohr helps us see the wisdom of the Twelve Steps as a deeply Christ-following path of honesty, surrender, healing and grace.



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 at www.faithworkshere.com, on the home page, click on the button, "More about Breathing Under Water."

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture: Matthew 5: 23 - 24; Luke 19: 1 - 10

Invitation to Reflection: Throughout this series we have incorporated an *invitation to reflection* following the sermon. Last week we dove into the themes of readiness and humble asking. This week, as we move together into Steps Eight & Nine of *Breathing Under Water*, we explore repairing what is broken.



Repair is a key ingredient to growth and wholeness. This repair often includes the hard work of acknowledging the harms we've done and, with grace, extending our hands and hearts to make things right.

Grace restores relationships, not just individuals. Grace is never only personal.

The healing God works in us is meant to move through us.

Into our homes. Into our friendships. Into our church. Into the world.

MEETING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF 3-5 GRADERS

Sunday following worship

Sunday School teachers serving our third–fifth grade students are invited to a team meeting following worship in room 200. This gathering will provide time to review classroom plans, coordinate teaching schedules, share updates for the fall, and ensure our team is aligned in offering a welcoming and meaningful learning environment for our children.



Thank you for your dedication to nurturing faith and community in our young learners.

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 the worship service, led by Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, from last Sunday's worship service featuring music, scripture, and prayers.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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: Linda Pickle; Dowd family; Ruth Gadre; Terrie Tuckman and Alma Rines.

Prayers for those dear to us: Betsy (Ann Coppersmith's mother); Tyler (son of Bill and Lloydie Zaiser); the family of Nancy Kneisly's neighbor who recently passed away; Nora Justice; the family of Nancy Kneisly's boss as his sister passed away; Friend of Hazel Justice; Father of Kay Smith; Teresa (wife of Nancy Kneisly's younger brother); Nancy Kneisly's friend's brother; Three-year-old grandson of Hunter Prillaman and Eva Szabo; Tucker (Pastor Laura's grandson); Angel (Jim and Karen Johnston's friend's daughter) and Mark Olson (cousin of Carol Benson)



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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.