



WHAT'S WORKING @ FAITH

Friday, January 30, 2026

Report from the Leadership Board

The Leadership Board met January 11, welcoming Kathy King and Tamara Fish as new members, acknowledging that Tamara was also now Faith's Lay Leader. Members renewed our Covenant of Confidentiality. The Board strives to make all decisions by consensus. Although members of the Board are very interested in receiving input and answering questions from the congregation, the specific proposals and justifications offered by individuals on the Board and discussions about staff remain confidential.

The Board reviewed the budget that had been tentatively approved in December. While our stewardship campaign last fall was very successful in achieving generous pledges from many households, the expenses of maintaining the building and sustaining all ministries have also increased. The Board made the difficult decision to eliminate the part-time position of coordinator of intergenerational nurture and the communications contract with the Lakeland Institute that had enabled our office administrator more flexibility to support community outreach, congregational care and other programming. Although the February session of Messy Church was cancelled, the Board reiterated its support of a laity-led, outward-facing ministry providing an alternative form of worship for people who are not already involved with Faith and who are unlikely to enter traditional worship spaces.

The Board identified other budget lines that will also need to be decreased and asked Pastor Laura to meet with managers of those programs to identify further savings. In coming months, the Board may identify needs/opportunities for members of the congregation to help to promote use of the building to prospective renters, so maintenance of our building is not as dependent on pledges and offerings. There may also be opportunities to help in the office, answering doors and phones. Even as we seek to reduce

expenses, in coming months the Board will explore other approaches to increasing income for preservation of the building and creating a legacy for future followers of Jesus here.

In its efforts to consider how Faith can best serve the community with its 4.8 acres of property, the Board received a progress report from Kathy King about the status of the feasibility study of affordable housing. Further information will be forthcoming as that work continues.

Finally, the Board reviewed its role in the Vision Retreat, which was held January 24. Thirty people participated in half-day gathering to think deeply about the passions God has placed in our hearts and how our God-given talents can make a difference in the community. Ideas were generated for expansion of several ministries at Faith and participants were encouraged to identify others who share their vision, inviting others to share opportunities to learn more or take an action step together.

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

Bill Maas

Chair, Leadership Board

News & Events

Prayers for the people of Minneapolis

Please be in prayer for the safety of people in Minneapolis and for clarity about how you are called to respond as a follower of Jesus. A recent statement on behalf of the Council of Bishops expressed the following: “Scripture reminds us that “when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them (I Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God’s children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.” [Read](#) the full statement.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026

WITH APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

HOME REPAIR TO KEEP FAMILIES WARMER. SAFER. DRIER.

- Porches & Ramps
- Roofing
- Painting & Drywall
- Carpentry & Flooring

Learn more about Appalachia Service Project at www.asphome.org.

JOIN ROCKVILLE YOUTH MINISTRY FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12TH!

There is room on the team for everyone who wants to serve, regardless of skill level or experience. We need painters, builders, roofers, plumbers, and helpers. There's always things to carry or hold, and we always work as a team. Contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator at 202-436-0322 or ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.



Join Us for Crockpot Friday

Friday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m.

We will meet on February 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and care for one another. We'll share a simple meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a neighbor to join us, to connect as a community and to enjoy meaningful conversation together.

We need five crockpot dishes to share. If you are willing to provide food, please reach out to Tim Evans (advisors@starpower.net). If you're able to assist with set-up, please arrive about 10 minutes early. Clean-up will be a shared effort—many hands make light work!

Let's see where this gathering takes us!



Love in action is UNSTOPPABLE



Sunday, February 22, 2026
following worship in room 205/206
at Faith UMC
6810 Montrose Rd
Rockville, MD 20852

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.



JOIN US AND BECOME
UNSTOPPABLE

Scan QR Code to join us on UWFaith
Digital

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
- There will be time for questions.

You can find more information on our national website UWFaith.org. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Stay curious. Come as you are.

Preparing for Communion

The need for food is as great as ever. Please help our hungry neighbors. Bring non-perishables with you to worship this Sunday. A good way to remember is that on the Sundays we share the Communion feast, we also share our abundance with others. Items can be left on the table or basket in the narthex to the left of the door into the sanctuary. Your donations will help keep the Blessing Box stocked. Click on the button below to access a list of suggested food items.

You can also donate toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand soap, shampoo, tampons/pads, etc. 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.

[Download Donation Items Here](#)

BLOWOUT PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 17 at 5:00 p.m.

On February 17, Faith Church is celebrating Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Shrove Tuesday is your last chance for a blowout meal — gluten-free available—before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

The day is also known as Mardi Gras, so be ready to eat king cake and find the baby, listen to New Orleans jazz, make your own mask, and just generally be in a celebratory mood. By the way, shrove refers to hearing a confession and giving absolution—but we'll never tell.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture: John 4:4-42

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

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*

Youth Ministry

Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

This Sunday the middle and high school youth will meet at Faith UMC for activities, food and fun. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.

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.

Monday, February 2

Small Book Group Led by Janelle Veazey

This group **invites everyone** as they begin this Monday to explore the book, *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. It will continue on our themes of finding ways to care for those who live in our neighborhood. The book is available at the library and on Hoopla. Please contact Janelle Veazey at jv448@cornell.edu for more details and Zoom credentials.



Thursday, February 5

Bells of Faith

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

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The Chancel Choir rehearses every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. under the direction of Faith's music director, Dr. Michael Wu, in the sanctuary.

Prayer Requests

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

Prayers for Faith UMC members: Bill Cooper; Caroline and Ryan Babula; Terrie Tuckman; Sue Walters; Kristen Wayne and Lloydie Zaiser.

Prayers for those dear to us: Rev. Loren Scribner, friend of Kay McCarty; Sister-in-law of Emily Peck; Wife of Bradford Frisby; Billy Magro, friend of Celine Schmidt; Pastor Laura's son Brook, daughter-in-law Sarah, and grandson Tucker; Family of Rob Grimms, friend of Sara Romeyn, as he recently passed away; Patricia Lull, friend of Sue Walters and Lutheran Bishop of Minneapolis; Mark, younger brother of Rev. John Campbell; Ishmail, Sally Stolz's daughter-in-law's father; the family of Laura Basford's sister-in-law as her stepfather passed away on Christmas Day; Family of Katherine, friend of the Smedberg family as she recently passed away; and Sean, friend of the Norvell family.



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6810 Montrose Rd.
Rockville, MD 20852
301-881-1881
office@FaithWorksHere.com
www.FaithWorksHere.com



*Faith United Methodist Church
is a member of the*



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.