back to basics

the stories we receive
the practices we keep
the love we share



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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, November 8, 2026 I 10:00 a.m.
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD GATHERS US

Centering

Prelude: *An Autumn Sketch: Allegretto Caprice,* Op. 22, No. 1 (1919)
Dr. Michael Wu, organ
John Hyatt Brewer, 1856-1931

Welcome — Nancy Kneisly, Outreach Team, Chair

Call to Worship — Bruce Werber, Liturgist

One: Come, not to purchase grace, but to receive it.
All: God's mercy is a gift.
One: Come, not because your status makes you worthy.
All: God's welcome is a gift.
One: Come with whatever you carry and whatever you lack.
All: God's love cannot be bought.

One: Having freely received—

All: teach us freely to give.

One: Let us worship.

Confession and Pardon — Bruce Werber

One: God of free and abundant grace,
we confess how easily we turn faith into a transaction.

**All: We imagine good behavior should guarantee easy lives.
We mistake wealth for blessing
and success for faithfulness.**

**We want to control the terms of our discipleship.
We give when it feels safe
and resist when generosity asks us to trust.**

One: Forgive us.

Strip away the illusion that your love can be bought
or that our worth can be measured.

**All: Teach us to receive grace as gift
and to let that gift make us generous.
Amen.**

Passing the Peace

GOD SPEAKS

Anthem: *A New Heart* (2017) — Chancel Choir; Dr. Michael Wu, piano
Melissa Dunphy, b. 1980

Children's Message — Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-15a — Bruce Werber

The reading can be found in the Old Testament on page #336 of the pew Bible.

Message — Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #375: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
Chancel Choir, Congregation, Dr. Michael Wu, organ

WE RESPOND

Stewardship: COMMIT — Laura Basford

A Time of Commitment — Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Blessing Our Commitments — Bruce Werber

One: Generous God, we do not come to earn your favor. We come because you have already given it.

All: Grace received.

One: You brought us out. You called us by name. You gave us a place among people who loved us before we knew how to love them back.

All: Gratitude practiced.

One: Now we offer these promises: of money and time, of hands and voices, of prayers we know and prayers we are still learning.

All: Generosity shared.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

Prayers of the People and 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 #454: *Open My Eyes, That I May See*
Chancel Choir, Congregation, Dr. Michael Wu, organ

Sending Forth — Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Praeludium in G Major*, BWV 568 (1705)
Dr. Michael Wu, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

The altar flowers are given in celebration of Sara Romeyn's birthday by Tim, Will, and Julia Evans.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
belong • become • believe • be love

ATTENDANCE

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

Everyone Sign In!

OFFERING

Currently, we are not passing an offering plate. 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.

LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Today following worship

The Leadership Board, consists of the eight members and was created to simplify the church's leadership structure. The Board will gather in room 102.

YOUNG SINGERS OF FAITH

Today following worship

Young Singers of Faith meets today following the 10:00 a.m. worship service in Room 200. Participants will learn vocal fundamentals, pitch matching, and music reading while preparing music to share in worship throughout the year. Rehearsals conclude by noon.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Today at 5:00 p.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) of Faith UMC and N. Bethesda UMC will gather at Faith UMC, room 205/206 for fellowship this evening. Scan the QR code to access the weekly full year schedule with dates, times, locations and topics.

JUICE, JOE & JUSTICE

Sunday, November 15 following worship



This month the monthly discussions about social justice issues and how our own identity and experiences may impact how we work to expand our love for all our neighbors will resume. Juice, Joe & Justice (JJ&J) will be held in room 206 ("the Youth Room").

We regularly are invited to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How might that be done? The UMC Social Principles give concrete expression to this vision, connecting our love for God and neighbor with our responsibility to pursue compassionate justice, build peace, and care for creation. **We have the opportunity to learn more on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. by attending the Invitation to the UMC Social Principles webinar.** The link can be found in Friday's *What's Working at Faith* or contact the church office at office@FaithWorksHere.com. The following Sunday, we will gather for JJ&J to discuss our response.

If you are not already registered with the UMC Baltimore Washington Conference event system, the process is quick and straightforward. Many of Faith's lay leaders already use the system, and registration enables participation in this event as well as a variety of other educational and inspirational programs sponsored by the BWC.

Even if you cannot attend the webinar, come to JJ&J anyway to learn more about the Social Principles and help guide topic selection for future JJ&J sessions. If you can't make the discussion in person, there will also be an opportunity for folks to join on-line. Suggested readings and a Zoom link will be provided in next week's *What's Working at Faith*.

Please note that childcare is available and we request that you RSVP to the church office if childcare is needed by Thursday, November 12!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



The Faith UMC 2027 Stewardship Campaign culminates today! Over the past several weeks, we have reflected on God's call to receive with gratitude, give thanks, set aside, and share our time, talents, and financial resources.

As a congregation, we now have the opportunity to commit to supporting the ministries and mission of our vibrant and growing church community in the coming year.

Today, as we reflect on **grace received**, **gratitude practiced**, and **generosity shared**, we invite you to offer your estimate-of-giving card during worship. Those who have already submitted their commitment by mail or online are encouraged to present a card symbolically as an expression of your commitment to Faith's ministry in 2027. Thank you for the many ways you share your gifts with Faith UMC.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Sunday, November 22 following worship (note this is a date change)



UWF believes love in action can change the world. Join Faith UMC women following worship in room 110 as they work to influence and impact our community. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Nancy Kneisly, chair at kneislynancy@gmail.com.

FAITH UMC STAFF

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

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD! SPACE AT FAITH AVAILABLE

Flyers can be found in the narthex.



SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Grace Basford
Altar Guild for November: Nancy Kneisly
Audio Visual Volunteers: Brian Jones & Debbie Spriggs
Congregational Welcome: Nancy Kneisly
Fellowship Hosts: Andy & Laura Basford
Liturgist: Bruce Werber
Money Counters: Tim Evans & Jane Rall
Nursery Caregivers: Tessa Ricketts & Emily Sama-Miller
Online Host: Carol Henley
Sunday School Teachers
  Elementary: Dawn Adair & Frank Johnson, Jane Rall & Janelle Veazey
  Middle School: Seren Hemmings-Burk & Bill Maas
  High School: James Hedrick & Dave Savell
Welcome Hosts: Bill & Lloydie Zaiser