



Please note that the church office is closed today, Friday, October 2.

Faith in Action

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

On Sunday, October 11, like churches all over the world, Faith will celebrate *Pastor Appreciation Day*. This is an occasion to recognize and thank pastors for their dedication, leadership, and spiritual guidance. It's a time for congregations to express gratitude for the support and inspiration pastors provide. Pastors play a vital role in fostering community, offering counsel, and leading worship, making a significant impact on the lives of their congregants.

The Leadership Board encourages those who worship at Faith to show Pastor Laura appreciation for her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to our faith and community. Even a simple card with a heartfelt message can profoundly show your appreciation. While folks are welcome to mail messages to the office, we suggest simply bringing them to the October 11 service, if you are able, and placing them in the "treasure chest" in the narthex, so they can be presented to Pastor Laura during Fellowship Time that day.

Leadership Board

Bill Maas, Chair

Mike Coppersmith

Rachel Hedrick

Brian Jones, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Kathy King

Tamara James-Fish, Lay Leader

Janelle Veazey

Jennifer Young

WE GIVE BECAUSE WE HAVE FIRST RECEIVED

The Faith UMC 2027 Stewardship Campaign begins this week. This year, the committee will be offering messages of generosity, hope, thankfulness, and commitment from church members during the service, in keeping with our "Back to Basics" worship theme this fall.



Your financial support is vital as we prepare for the year ahead. By pledging to support the church, you allow us to plan for staffing, determine the ministries we can support, and ensure we continue to belong, become, believe and be love in the world. Together, we can make a lasting impact in our church community and also in the wider world.

Look for your pledge card in the mail this October, or feel free to submit your pledge online [using this link](#). If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Laura & Andy Basford (basfordlaura@gmail.com; andy_basford@yahoo.com).

SAVE THE DATE: This year's Stewardship Campaign will be wrapping up on **Commitment Sunday, November 8**, followed by a special Stewardship Fellowship Time. We hope you will join us. Details to follow.

PREPARE FOR COMMUNION SUNDAY

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.

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 area near the office or directly into the Blessing Box is always appreciated.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Back to Basics

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture: Exodus 14:5-14; 19-29

Theme: *Grace comes before the rules*

Each week we will ask one simple question: What is the church practicing today? We will practice something we do every time we worship: we let God gather us.

Each week, that question will invite us to notice not only what happens in worship, but what kind of people these practices are forming us to become.

Bible Presentation: Every fall, Faith presents Bibles to third graders and older elementary-age children who have not previously received a Bible from our congregation. The Bible is God's story of love, guidance, and faithfulness. As children grow in their faith, we encourage them to read its words, learn from its teachings, and discover how God is at work in their life.



Join us Sunday morning as we celebrate our third graders receiving the gift of God's Word and encourage them in their journey of faith.

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

Sunday 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.



Children and youth are warmly welcome to join worship each Sunday 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

The Details

Nursery and Sunday School classes are taught by two screened, trained, and caring adult volunteers who provide a safe and engaging learning environment. 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

YOUNG SINGERS OF FAITH

Sundays following 10:00 a.m. worship

Young Singers of Faith gather each Sunday in room 200 to learn the fundamentals of singing, pitch matching, and music reading in a fun and encouraging environment. The group sings approximately once each month in worship, and participates in the Family Christmas Eve service on December 24. Rehearsals conclude by noon.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY MEETING

Sunday following worship

The CCM team will meet following worship in room 110. This Ministry focuses on supporting the spiritual and emotional well-being of individuals and families within the church community.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) of Faith UMC and North Bethesda UMC will gather at Faith following Sunday worship to begin a Bible Study series. "What does God say about attending church?" 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. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.

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

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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

BELL CHOIR

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!

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: Janice Jones as her sister, Marilyn, passed away last week in Wyoming; Jan Lafleur; Mary Stark; Caroline Hopkins; the Dowd family and Terrie Tuckman.

Prayers for those dear to us: Michael; Tim (Nolan Hogenboom-Jones's father); Son of the boss of Ryan Babula; Jim (Ryan Babula's father); Jim Bell (brother of Stephen

Bell); Peter (cousin of Janelle Veazey); Neighbor of James and Rachel Hedrick; Boss of Andrew Hemmings-Burk and Carsyn (15-year-old great niece of Nancy Hart).



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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.

