

Unto Glory

A Prophetic Pilgrimage

Advent 2025



Faith United Methodist Church
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www.FaithWorksHere.com

Accommodations: Faith provides large print hymnals and Bibles, magnifiers, printed versions of the sermon, FM wireless assistive listening devices, and noise-cancelling headphones for your use located on the white bookshelf at the Sanctuary entrance. Please feel free to use what you need and return. If you have any questions, please ask the welcome hosts at the Sanctuary entrance or contact Jennifer Young, Faith’s Accessibility Coordinator, at young.jennifer@gmail.com to request any other accommodations for future worship services.

WE GATHER

Centering

Prelude: *Creation Will Be at Peace* (1992) Bells of Faith
Nancy Kuhn, Director
Composer: Anna Laura Page, b. 1943

Welcome Janelle Veazey, Leadership Board member

Call to Worship Bruce Werber, Liturgist

ONE: We gather in the places where God has planted us—in cities and neighborhoods, in longing and in love.

ALL: Here, God’s Spirit breathes possibility.

ONE: Even in exile, the prophets tell us: build, plant, pray, seek peace.

ALL: We come to worship the One who makes all things new – in this time, in this place, in us.

Confession and Pardon Bruce Werber

Passing the Peace

WORD

Anthem: *Love Has Broken Down the Wall* (2014) Chancel Choir
Dr. Michael Wu, Director
Ann Bartlow, organ
Composer: Mark A. Miller, b. 1967

Love has broken down the wall. (2x) | Let us join our hearts as one. | Love has broken down the wall. || We're accepted as we are. (2x) | Through love's power all is reconciled. | We're accepted as we are. || Cast aside your doubts and fears. (2x) | Peace, and love, freely offered here; | Cast aside your doubts and fears. || We will tear down the wall! (2x) | Love has called us one and all. | Love has broken down the wall. (3x)

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Bruce Werber

Today's reading can be found on page #731 in the Old Testament of the pew Bible.

Children's Message

Dr. Michael Wu

Response Hymn #376: *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Congregation

① * F C⁷ F F C B^b F F/C C
 Dona no-bis pa-cem, pacem. Do - na no-bis pa -

② F F C⁷ F F C B^b F F/C C F
 8 cem. Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

③ F C⁷ F F C B^b F F/C C F
 17 Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

Message: *Creating Community*

Dr. Michael Wu

*Hymn #431 Let There Be Peace On Earth

Chancel Choir

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

WONDER

Invitation to Offering

Dr. Michael Wu

Offertory Prayer

Bruce Werber

WHAT NOW?

Prayers of the People

*Hymn# 66: *Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven*

Chancel Choir
Congregation
Ann Bartlow, organ

A Pilgrim's Perspective

Melissa Harke

Sending Forth

Postlude: *Final Jubilante* (from *Five Pieces for Organ*, 1958)

Ann Bartlow, organ
Composer: Healey Willan 1880-1968



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given by Jim Pearson and Linda Pickle in loving memory of Linda's parents, Kathryn and Howard Williams.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Middle and high school youth are invited to gather at Rockville Town Center for an evening of ice skating and laughter. Looking ahead, the group will not meet next Sunday, November 30 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. For questions, contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator, at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com.

A PILGRIMAGE WITH THE PROPHETS

What is a pilgrimage? From Compostela to Canterbury, it is an intentional journey to a revered place. There may be obstacles—boulders to climb over or rushing streams to ford—but they are part of the journey. To Christians, Advent is a spiritual pilgrimage that leads us, like the Wise Men, to the stable, the manger and the Baby Jesus.

At Faith Church, we started our own pilgrimage, choosing as our guide the words of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John. Though Advent begins on November 30, we have timed our departure as pilgrims early, in order to explore the wisdom of the prophets as we travel spiritually through Advent to Christmas Eve.

Have you taken a pilgrimage? We will be inviting you to share your recollections with us, as we follow our sacred journey.

ADVENT AT FAITH



FAITH UMC ADVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov. 23 10:00 a.m.	Reign of Christ	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14
Tuesday, Nov. 25 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Advent Study with our Hub Partners	Four Tuesdays: Dec. 2, 9 & 16 at N. Bethesda UMC
Sunday, Nov. 30 10:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent: HOPE	Daniel 3:1, 8-30
Sunday, Dec. 7 10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Saturday, Dec. 13 4:30 p.m.	Messy Christmas	Luke 2:8-12
Sunday, Dec. 14 10:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent: JOY	Isaiah 55:1-13
Sunday, Dec. 21 10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE	John 1:1-18
7:00 p.m.	The Longest Night	A worship service held in the Advent season around the winter solstice - designed for those experiencing grief and loss. We offer a space for comfort and hope during a time of year that can be difficult for some.
Wednesday, Dec. 24 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve: Family service	Luke 2:1-14
8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve: Music begins at 7:30 p.m.	Luke 2:1-14
Sunday, Dec. 28 10:00 a.m.	First Sunday after Christmas	John 1:19-34
Sunday, Jan. 4 10:00 a.m.	Epiphany	John 1:35-51

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VISITORS

If you are new to Faith United Methodist Church, welcome! We encourage you to scan the QR code to let us know that you joined us today. If you would rather, you may complete a blue guest card that is available from a welcome host, then drop it in the offering chest.



OFFERING

We are not passing an offering plate at this time. An offering box has been placed on the welcome table in the Narthex. You may also scan the QR code to give online.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO SUPPORT GIRL'S EDUCATION IN KENYA

Sunday, November 23 from noon - 5:00 p.m.

Faith friends are invited to a special event to support 400 adolescent girls. The lack of resources in Kenya can often prevent girls from attending school and even dropping out altogether. To help keep them in school, Faith members Bill and Lloydie Zaiser generously provide sanitary napkins and underwear for an entire year. To offset this cost, they are hosting a FINAL sale of beautiful items crafted by over 180 Kenyan female artisans. Begin your holiday shopping early and drop by the Zaiser's home November 23: 500 Goldsborough Dr., Rockville. Contact Lloydie for additional information at LloydieKenya@gmail.com.



FOUR WEEK ADVENT STUDY

Tuesday, November 25, December 2, 9, 16

This year, Faith UMC we have been organized into "hubs" with other United Methodist congregations in our area. Our hub partners include North Bethesda, Rockville, Jerusalem–Mount Pleasant, and Millian Memorial United Methodist Churches. The focus of this first year together is simple yet meaningful: to build relationships. We are committed to getting to know one another not only pastor to pastor or leader to leader, but person to person, strengthening the bonds that unite our communities in faith and service.

We are excited to begin our shared work as a hub by offering an Advent study, starting Tuesday, November 25. We will gather for four consecutive Tuesdays for a brief time of Taizé-style worship and to explore *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope* by Matt Skinner.

A different pastor from our hub will lead each week's discussion. This is an in-person only opportunity to meet members from our partner congregations, share in worship and study, and root ourselves in hope during this sacred season.

If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Laura. You can buy the book online at Cokesbury or Amazon. It is available as an eBook as well. If you are having difficulty securing a copy, please be in touch with Valerie in the church office.

BENEFITS OF DONATING STOCK

DEADLINE DECEMBER 1, 2025 FOR END OF YEAR CREDIT

If you've owned stock for more than a year and it has increased in value, donating it directly to the church can be a tax-smart way to give—if you itemize deductions. You can deduct the fair market value of the stock and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation. If the stock is held for less than a year, your deduction is limited to what you originally paid for it. By donating appreciated stock instead of selling it first, your gift can go up to 20% further—thanks to the tax savings. Always consult your tax advisor to see if this option is right for you. For more information on how to donate, contact Kim Webster, Finance Manager at kwebster@faithworkshere.com.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

In recognition of the upcoming holiday, the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28.



There's perhaps no better day than Thanksgiving to reflect on the astounding power of gratitude. This power is one of our most precious treasures, and how we spend that treasure will directly determine the health of our hearts (For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also ~Matthew 6:21).

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for Messy Worship—everyone is welcome! Additional details will be shared next week.

We are looking for volunteers to help create meaningful worship. If you are interested, please contact Curtis Osborne, Intergenerational Coordinator at cosborne@FaithWorksHere.com.



SERVING US TODAY

Altar Guild for November: Helen McMunn, JoAnn Castagnola

Audio Visual Volunteer: Jason Spriggs, Eric Winchenbach

Congregational Welcome: Janelle Veazey

Fellowship Hosts: Emily Sama-Miller, Ryan Miller

Liturgist: Bruce Werber

Money Counters: Jan Spencer, Tim Evans

Nursery Caregiver: Lesley Avery, Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Mary Stark

Preaching: Dr. Michael Wu

Sunday School Teachers:

- Elementary School Teachers: Dawn Adair Johnson, Nancy Hart, Sally Stolz, Susan Jones

- Middle School Teachers: Bill Maas, Janelle Veazey

- High School Teachers, Kristen Wayne, Ryan Babula

Welcome Team Hosts: Lloydie & Bill Zaiser

FAITH UMC STAFF

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

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A PROPHETIC PILGRIMAGE



November 23 – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

God has a plan for you and is present with you as you confront hardships, as you live today, and travel into tomorrow.

Consider:

- Jeremiah is writing to the people who were taken from their homes in Jerusalem and sent into exile in Babylon. He encourages them to find a home there. Why do you think the prophet asks them to seek the welfare of the place they find themselves?
- Have you ever been, or felt like you've been, exiled and distant from the things you love? How did that experience shape you and your faith?
- Through Jeremiah, God tells God's people, “When you search for me you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart. In what ways this week might you whole-heartedly seek God?”

On a sacred journey (John 8:12)

In his farewell discourse, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Take some quiet time and ponder these words deeply. Then create a list of three things you will do this week, confident that the fearless peace of Christ is yours to claim.