

back to basics

the stories we receive

the practices we keep

the love we share



FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6810 Montrose Road | Rockville, Maryland 20852

301-881-1881 | office@faithworkshere.com

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, September 27, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GOD GATHERS US

Centering

Prelude: *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (1923, 1987)

Bells of Faith: Nancy Kuhn, Director; Ann Bartlow, piano

William Runyan, 1870-1957; arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 1950-2021

Welcome

Ryan Miller

Call to Worship

Bruce Werber, Liturgist

One: In places of joy,

All: God is with us.

One: In places of uncertainty,

All: God is with us.

One: When the way is clear, and when we cannot see what comes next,

All: God is with us.

One: And God gives us companions for the journey.

All: We will bear one another's burdens and rejoice in one another's joy.

One: Come. Let us worship the God who stays.

Confession and Pardon

Bruce Werber

One: God who stays with us,
forgive us when we imagine your presence means
our lives should always be easy.

Forgive us when another person's pain makes us
uncomfortable
and we rush to explain it instead of sharing it.

Forgive us when we withdraw,
when we carry our struggles alone,
or when we fail to notice those who need companionship.

All: Teach us the holy practice of presence.

**Give us courage to ask one another,
“How is it with your soul?”
and patience to listen for the real answer.**

**Bind us together in grace.
Amen.**

One: God does not wait for us in some easier life.
God meets us here.

In Jesus Christ, grace enters human suffering, stays close
to the wounded, and opens a way toward new life.

You are forgiven.

You are held in grace.

You do not walk alone.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

GOD SPEAKS

Anthem: *Treasures in Heaven* (1941)

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director; Ann Bartlow, organ
Joseph W. Clokey, 1890-1960

Text: Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, | Where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal. | But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, | For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also. || Ask, and it shall be given you, | Seek, and ye shall find, | Knock, and it shall be open unto you. | For everyone that asketh receiveth, | And he that seeketh findeth, | And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Scripture Readings: Genesis 39:1-23

Bruce Werber

The reading can be found in the Old Testament
on page #36 of the pew Bible.

Message

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

*Hymn #725: *Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come*

Congregation and Chancel Choir; Ann Bartlow, organ

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Offertory Prayer

Nancy Kuhn

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

The Lord's Prayer

**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 #127: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Congregation and Chancel Choir; Ann Bartlow, organ

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

Postlude: *Kleine Präludien und Intermezzi* Op. 9 (1932)

Ann Bartlow, organ

IV. Allegretto; VI. Poco vivace; Hermann Schroeder, 1904-1984

*Altar flowers are given by Ron and Pam Kessler
in celebration of their 47th anniversary.*



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children and youth are warmly welcome to join worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. 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 volunteers.



During the worship service, children and youth will be invited to leave for their age-appropriate Sunday School classes. Faith UMC also offers nursery care for infants through pre-kindergarten.

K-2nd (Rm 203); 3rd-5th (Rm 200); 6th-8th (Rm 206); 9th-12th (Rm 205)

FELLOWSHIP TIME

We invite everyone downstairs after worship for fellowship, conversation, and refreshments as we continue to build community.

YOUNG SINGERS OF FAITH

Today following worship

Young Singers of Faith gather today and almost every Sunday after 10 a.m. worship in Room 200. We learn the fundamentals of singing, pitch matching, and music reading while working on music that we will sing in worship on occasion. The group also participates in the Family Christmas Eve service at Faith the afternoon of December 24. Rehearsals end by noon.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RUTH CIRCLE

Today following worship

UWF Ruth Circle believes love in action can change the world. Join Faith UMC women following worship in rooms 205/206 as they work to influence and impact our community.



PREPARE FOR COMMUNION SUNDAY: BRING A NON-PERISHABLE ITEM NEXT WEEK

Sunday, October 4

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.

So the next time you’re at the grocery store, buy one for your pantry and one for the Blessing Box.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) of Faith UMC and N. Bethesda UMC will gather at Faith on October 4 to begin a Bible Study series. “What does God say about attending church?” will launch the series. Contact Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Ministry Coordinator at ssmedberg@FaithWorksHere.com for more details. Scan the above QR code to access the weekly full year schedule with dates, times, locations and topics.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS CHECK UP

Every person is uniquely gifted, and discovering those gifts helps our community thrive. Taking time to reflect on how our gifts grow and change is vital to becoming who God is calling us to be.

There's something special about serving from calling rather than duty. **Take this short 10-minute survey** by scanning the QR code to assess your spiritual gifts, then share them on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Let's see where our collective gifts turn up!



WHAT'S WORKING AT FAITH

If you are not receiving our weekly e-newsletter, *What's Working at Faith* and other digital communications, please contact the office at office@FaithWorksHere.com or call 301-881-1881 to be promptly added to our mailing list. Faith will also send communication through the mail upon your request.

SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Grace Basford

Altar Guild for September: Debbie Spriggs

Audio Visual Volunteers: Brian Hahs, Debbie & Jason Spriggs

Congregational Welcome: Ryan Miller

Fellowship Hosts: Andy & Laura Basford

Liturgist: Bruce Werber

Money Counters: Gary Clark & Jan Spencer

Nursery Caregivers: Gary Clark & Tessa Ricketts

Online Host: Carol Henley

Sunday School Teachers

Elementary: Caroline Babula, Dawn Adair Johnson, Nancy Kuhn & Jan Spencer

Middle School: Bill Maas & Janelle Veazey

High School: Marie Day & Ryan Miller

Welcome Hosts: Bill Beisner & Sharon Virts

FAITH UMC STAFF

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