

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

Where All the People are Ministers of Christ

Our vision is to seek to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to nurture persons of all ages and circumstances for faithful discipleship, and to transform faith into service to others.



December 1, 2024

Reverend Dennis Morgan

7801 Church Lane, Toano, Virginia 23168

757-566-0162

Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15am.

Welcome to our worship service! Mt. Vernon has been worshipping our Lord and serving the Greater Williamsburg Community since 1887. If we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 “Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer”

Worship Leader

Jeanne Fulks

*Please stand as you are able. Please read in Unison in **Bold**.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Carol Kendall

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting, a time to open our hearts to God’s presence, a time to pay attention to God’s call. God’s love breaks in over and over again. Be awake, for God is near.

*Introit

“Light the Advent Candle”

TFWS #2090

Lighting of the First Advent Candle -- Hope

Jeanne Fulks

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come.” (Mark 13:35)

We light this candle as a sign of our hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. **Amen.**

[Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.]

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

People: The days are surely coming!

Leader: Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

People: The days are surely coming and are already here!

Leader: Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kingdom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

People: The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kingdom of earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel

*Hymn of Praise "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UMH #211

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Prayer for Illumination (unison) Rev. Ryan LaRock
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36

Prayers of the People and the Church Rev. Ryan LaRock

*Hymn of Meditation “Now the Silence” UMH #619

The Message: “Finding Hope in Our Chaos”
Rev. Ryan LaRock

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Special Music The Choir

*Affirmation of Faith for Advent (unison) Rev. Ryan LaRock

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God’s love in human flesh.

I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

I believe in the angels’ message that we should not be afraid — that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas — that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the One born in the stable, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

I believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went — “another way.” I want to be different when these days are past — more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

And I believe God will help me. Amen.

Written by John Killenger

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

Invitation to Holy Communion

Confession and Pardon (unison)

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Christ's glory fills the skies and gladdens the heart. Let us offer signs of kinship in Christ's name by exchanging the peace of Christ.

Offertory Prayer:

Rev. Ryan LaRock

*Doxology (unison)

UMH #95

Praise God for whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

[Responses, UMH p. 13-15]

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH #206

Extinguishing the Candles

Christ's light leads us into the world to serve.

*Benediction Rev. Ryan LaRock

Postlude

*** Please stand as you are able.**
Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex

Stewardship for week of November 24th: \$3667.00

*We sincerely hope you have felt the presence of
the Lord in our Worship Service this morning.*

We appreciate your attendance and support.

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

7801 Church Lane

Toano, VA 23168

757-566-0162

Pastor Contact Information:

Rev. Dennis Morgan

603-490-5992

dennismorgan@vaumc.org

Pastor office hours:

Monday 3pm-6pm

Thursday 10am-1pm

Copyright Notice

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal.
CCLI Copyright Streaming License: 20688434, Size A.

Announcements/Missions

- **Fellowship Time:** Fellowship Time will be held every third Sunday in the Fellowship Hall after worship service.
- **Cereal..Cereal..Cereal:** We will concentrate on collecting ONLY cereal donations to St. Olaf's & PGO Food Pantries, so please consider picking up an extra box or two of cereal each week and deposit it in the basket in the narthex. It's a need that we can help to fulfill. Thanks!
- **Bridge Group:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall.
- **Operation Christmas Child 2024:** Thanks to all those who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child collection drive by either packing a shoebox or praying for a child! Your participation and prayers have surely made a difference. Imagine the smiles of the recipients as they open and explore their boxes! The church donated eleven shoeboxes in total, which were delivered last Sunday to the collection center and blessed by the volunteers there.
- **Honor/Memory:** If you would like to make a donation in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the request inserted in the bulletin. The cost is \$8.00 and forms must be returned no later than December 15th. Make checks payable to Mt. Vernon UMC. (Checks may be dropped off at the church office or dropped in the offering plate.) The Sanctuary will be decorated with Poinsettias.
- **Mt. Vernon Church Christmas Cards:** For the first time, Mt. Vernon UMC is selling Christmas cards featuring images of our church taken by its own members. There are two designs: 1) One of the church at night taken on Christmas Eve; and 2) one of the church on a snowy day enhanced by a cardinal and the word PEACE. Each pack has 8 cards with verses & envelopes and sells for \$10. To see pictures of the cards and the verses within, please go to the church website at <https://mtvernontoano.org>. Then scroll down to the pictures and click to enlarge.

We are also selling packs of note cards that feature a sketch of the church on the cover. The note cards are blank inside and also sell for \$10 a pack. Envelopes are included. If you would like to purchase cards, they will be available to pick up in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after the worship service. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the church's general fund. Please support our church by purchasing a pack of cards and sharing these greetings during the holidays!

June Lois Kasperek 1926-2024

Dale and his family would like the congregation to know that June held in her heart the Mt. Vernon church in Toano and each and every member of the congregation. Dale and his family want to thank everyone for the friendship and support given to June from 2002 to 2024. Dale and his family also want to express their appreciation for the cards and the contributions made to Mt. Vernon UMC in her memory. Dale knows that his mother wants the congregation to carry on. Dale believes that June will be with you, spiritually every Sunday. Thank you.