

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 8, 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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 "Behind Every Great Church 10:15am
There is Prayer"

Worship Leader

Suzanne Latimer

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

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude & Meditation

Organist, Jeanne Fulks

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

In the waiting, God calls.

May steadfast love and faithfulness rest in our souls.

May justice, righteousness, and peace guide our steps and
define our community of faith.

*Introit "Light the Advent Candle" TFWS #2090 (v.2)

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle -Peace

Suzanne
Latimer

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

(Isaiah 40:1) We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

***We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and

labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. **Amen.**

[Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.]

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by waiting with patience.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by living with faith and love.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.

Leader: Prepare the path of God.

People: We prepare, we wait, we pray.

Leader: May God bless us with both patience and passion.

People: We wait and pray to create the path of God.

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, guide our steps in our speaking and our doing. Flow through our lives, our church, and our world, with your steadfast love, unending faithfulness, righteous justice and mysterious peace. In patient anticipation, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH#196

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Suzanne Latimer

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.

Gospel Lessons

Mathew 18:21-35 and Luke 18:10-14

Prayers of the People and the Church

Suzanne Latimer

The Message: “Forgive...As We Forgive” Donna Wilson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offertory Prayer: Donna Wilson
Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joy of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*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.

*Affirmation of Faith for Advent (unison) Donna Wilson

**I believe in the spirit of Christ,
for it is the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose birth we celebrate;
I believe in the lights of Christmas,
for they remind me of him
who is the Light of the world;
I believe in the greenery of Christmas,
for it symbolizes the eternal life
of those in Christ;
I believe in giving gifts at Christmas,
for it is in keeping with the greatest gift
the world has ever known;
I believe in being childlike at Christmas,
for Jesus said we must become as children
to enter the kingdom of heaven;
And I believe in the angels' song
about peace on earth
among persons of good will,
for when my will is good,**

**as it is at Christmas,
I feel a peace and joy in my heart
that is unlike anything else
in all the world.**

It *has* to be the peace and joy of God! Amen.

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.

Words of Assurance

Suzanne Latimer

God will feed you with goodness and grace.
God will give you what is good mercy and forgiveness, love
and acceptance, an eternity of justice and peace.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
UMH #220

Extinguishing the Candles

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

*Benediction

Suzanne Latimer

Live in peace and harmony with one another,
through the hope we find in Christ Jesus.
Act with righteousness and peace, that justice
may flourish, and peace may abound.
Love with hope and grace, that joy may fill your days
like sunshine on a cold winter's day. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

Stewardship for week of December 1st: \$3905.00

*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 of each month 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 forms available for print in the News Blast. 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.