

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 29, 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 After Christmas

December 29, 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

Pastor's Address

Welcome & Announcements

Centering and Reflection (Leader):

God is in our midst. The Spirit is breaking into our lives, and God is molding us to be a household, not only of faith, but of love and justice. God has looked with favor upon all who welcome God into our midst."

*Introit "There's a Song in the Air" UMH#249

*Call to Worship: (responsive)

Leader: Let us magnify our God.

People: We rejoice in the Savior among us!

Leader: God's mercy is upon us, God's strength is with us.

People: God's righteousness calls us to mercy and peace.

Leader: Let us magnify our God.

People: We worship in spirit and love.

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Ever-present God, we thank you for gathering us together this day. Send your Spirit to live within us, that we may birth the Christ-child anew. Bless us to be your people – a people of justice and love, that the world may know your presence and experience your saving grace. With joy and hope we pray. AMEN

*Hymn of Praise "We Three Kings"

UMH #254

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Prayer for Illumination (unison) Rev. Dennis Morgan
Holy Spirit is come upon us. The Word of God is sent among us. The mystery of God is revealed within us. Listen, for God is speaking now. AMEN

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:26-38 Rev. Dennis Morgan

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.

Prayers of the People and the Church Rev. Dennis Morgan

*Hymn of Meditation "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH
#240

The Message "Archangel Gabriel" Rev. Dennis Morgan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Passing of the Peace (Pastor):
Peace is a gift of God's love. Let the Lord bless us and give us strength as we share signs of this peace!

Special Music The Choir

Offertory Prayer: Rev. Dennis Morgan
Bring your gifts, bring your lives, for none are barren here. God's spirit dwells within us, and each of us bears gifts that are needed to bring Christ to the world. Come, let us give

birth to new possibilities as we share God's gifts with a world in need. 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.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Celebration "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251

Extinguishing the Candles

Benediction(responsive) Rev. Dennis Morgan

Leader: God's Spirit has blessed us and goes forth with us now.

People: We will bear Christ's loving presence into the world.

Leader: Lift up the lowly. Fill the hungry with good things.

People: We go to build God's realm here on Earth.

Postlude

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

Stewardship for week of December 22nd: \$2167.00

*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

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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.
- **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!

A Note From the Pastor...

As we finish this year and begin anew, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you – all of you – who, as a church, have been so welcoming and supportive to me and to Teri. You have been so accommodating, so giving, and so loyal to this church that my experience as your newest pastor has been more fulfilling than I could have hoped it to be! Thank you for letting the District Superintendent know that you'd like for me to stay, and know that I feel I've found a home here. This will be the last church I will pastor.

Teri and I wish to express not just our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done for us, but our sincere wishes for a very happy New Year – one filled with great joy and with love for one another. We should all look forward to the New Year – **together**, we're going to make it AWESOME!

- /pastor dennis