

# NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Metropolitan Memorial Campus

3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20016

September 17, 2023 at 11:00 AM

16th Sunday After Pentecost – Kingdomtide



## Making the Love of God Obvious!

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### **Our Commitment**

*We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.*

### **An Invitation**

*As faith awakens in you and you seek to deepen your discipleship of Jesus Christ, we invite you to become a member of National United Methodist Church. Indicate your interest in membership on the attendance registry today and our Minister of Discipleship will extend an invitation to upcoming orientations and then an introduction to the faith community.*

[www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org) | (202) 363-4900

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 at 11:00 AM**

✠ Standing as you are able | **UMH:** United Methodist Hymnal | **TFWS:** Faith We Sing

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude in C Major - J.S. Bach*

Bruce Caviness, Organ

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Rev. Janet Craswell

✠ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH 578

✠ **CALL to CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

✠ **CONFESSION**

**We are sometimes doubtful, O God, that you are in our midst. This weary, old world groans in pain. And we humans are often caught up in our own fear and suffering. It's so easy to lose hope. Search us, O God, and know our hearts and thoughts. If there is any wrong in us, lead us in the way everlasting. And teach us your hope that shines even in seemingly hopeless situations.**

✠ **SILENT CONFESSION**

✠ **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the witness of scripture: God listens; God helps. Now is the day of salvation. Open wide your hearts and receive God's forgiveness.

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

✠ **EXCHANGE SIGNS of RECONCILIATION**

Please simply turn to a neighbor offering a sign of peace and love. We are seated as we sing the response in song.

**RESPONSE IN SONG** Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing! (refrain of UMH 160)

**INVITATION to OFFERING**

Rev. Janet Craswell



Please register your attendance and write prayer requests at this time. Ushers will receive these with the morning offering during the Offertory. The QR code may be used for online sharing. If you would like to join a "Saving Grace" 6-week study on personal finance, contact [communications@NationalChurch.org](mailto:communications@NationalChurch.org) for more information.

**OFFERTORY**

*If You Search With All Your Heart*  
Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

*When you seek Me, you shall find Me if you search with all your heart.... For I know the plans I have for you: plans of welfare, not of evil. For I know the plans I have for you: plans of hope and a future. I will bring you out of bondage to the land I have prepared. I will bring you out of bondage, I will bring you home to Me...*

✠ **DEDICATION**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 95

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Janet Craswell

Prayer for MNS teachers at the beginning of the school year:

**Thank you, God, for the teachers and leaders of Metropolitan Nursery School.  
We are grateful for their ministry in this church.  
Thank you for their knowledge and teaching skills.  
Thank you for their creativity and compassion.  
As they begin a new school year, bless these teachers with patience and insight.  
Keep them strong and healthy in the face of Pre-K germs.  
Every day, Lord, give them joy in their work as they guide children to understand  
and love your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN of HOPE**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

UMH 141

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

JEREMIAH 29:1-14

**RESPONSE IN SONG** Beautiful words, wonderful words! Wonderful words of life!

**SERMON**

*Prayers of the People in a Strange Land*

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

✠ **CLOSING HYMN**

*Go Forth for God*

UMH 670

✠ **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in C Major - J.S. Bach*

Bruce Caviness, Organ

**WORSHIP STAFF**

**Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson**, *Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Janet Craswell**, *Minister of Discipleship*

**Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston**, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

**Bruce Caviness**, *Organist-Choirmaster*

**Angela Pupino**, *Student Ministries Coordinator*

**Angel Nunez**, *Media Technician*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

### Community Festival in the NUMC Parking Lot, 11am – 2pm

Food and fun at the Fall Fest under the big tent in the Metropolitan Memorial upper parking lot!



## UMW Sunday 2023

Sunday, September 24

Worship at Metropolitan Memorial and Wesley campuses

Luncheon following the 11 AM services in the, Great Hall, Metropolitan Memorial campus.

- **Next Sunday** we will celebrate the United Methodist Women of National Church. The recently installed Dean of Wesley Theological Seminary Dr. Carla Works, will be guest preaching at Metropolitan Memorial campus's 9:00 and 11:00 am services. In addition to leading the Seminary, Dr. Works teaches New Testament studies. Her research interests include the Pauline epistles, the New Testament's use of Israel's scriptures, biblical ethics, and theological interpretation. She holds a Master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Following Church Services, we will gather in Metropolitan's Great Hall at 12:30 pm for a fellowship luncheon. Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson will moderate a panel discussion with Dr. Works, Dr. Lucila Crena (Wesley's first Latinx female professor), and a graduate seminarian student. Everyone (that includes YOU) is welcome.



## *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being*

This October, you are invited to participate in the six-week course, *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being*. The course is designed to help people of faith create healthy relationships with money and bring their financial lives in line with their faith journeys. We will offer *Saving Grace* in-person at the Wesley Campus on Sunday afternoons beginning October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please register in advance so we can order books, [www.nationalchurch.org/saving-grace](http://www.nationalchurch.org/saving-grace). For more information, contact Rev. Janet at [jcraswell@nationalchurch.org](mailto:jcraswell@nationalchurch.org)



## Sunday School Registration!

Please register your children and youth for the 2023-24 Sunday school year. Registration allows us to give our young people a safe and welcoming experience. Use this QR or go to [www.nationalchurch.org/children](http://www.nationalchurch.org/children) to register.



## Jazz@Wesley Presents VERNY VARELA | September 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

September is Latin Jazz Month at Jazz@Wesley, and Verny Varela is coming for a visit. A flutist, songwriter, and vocalist, Varela is one of DC's most popular Latin talents. Born in Cali and raised in the "Barrio Obrero," Varela started singing and playing with his father's band, "El Nuevo Son." Now, he tours the world with his energetic and joyful musical renditions of Latin jazz favorites and original compositions. Varela is also a professor at Howard University.