

The lovely flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God.

God Bless America!

Birthdays

7/7 Scott Mahrenholz
Betty Lou McCraw

7/11 Mike Grover
Amy Krampen

Food Pantry

This week the Food Pantry served 32 families receiving food, 2 of which are new on behalf of 104 family members.

This Week Our Food Pantry Needs:

Paper Bags; Brown Paper Bags; Spaghetti Sauce; Tuna

Cash Contributions are welcomed to help us pay

Food Bank and Operation Blessing expenses.

Our *Clothes Closet* is accepting clothing donations for children and adults.

Announcements



*Join Us After Service for Fellowship & Coffee
Remember to Wear Your Nametag*

*Choir Rehearsal Summer Break July-August.
Enjoy a well deserved break beloved choir!*

*Registration Now Open: VBS & Family VBS Sunday
July 18th and 19th | RSVP by July 10th*

TODAY: July 5th (Sunday) VBS Planning Meeting

July 7th (Tuesday) Operation Blessing Blitz - Be The Blessing - Volunteer

July 25th (Saturday) Family Movie Night "David"

July 26th (Sunday) CPR Training RSVP

July At A Glance Now Available in the Narthex

Check the Narthex & At A Glance For Details

Small Groups

Bible Study Groups

Pastor's Bible Group

Wednesdays | 12:00 pm | Youth Bldg.

Summer Break August -September

PK Men | Every Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Youth Bldg.

PK Men | Every Sunday | 9:00 am | Youth Bldg.

Choir Practice

No Practice July & August

United Methodist Men - Next Meeting:

Saturday August 2nd | 9:00 am | Youth. Bldg.

Come join us! **NO JULY MEETING**

United Women In Faith

Saturday August 16th | 11:00 am | Youth.

Bldg. Come join us! **NO JULY MEETING**

New Wednesday Women's Group

Meets Next on July 9th | 6:00 pm

*Family & Friends Prayer List & Requests are located on the
Prayer Corner Table and the Joys & Concerns Board in the Narthex*



Foundry United Methodist Church

Welcome Everyone to the Love of God



WORSHIP in AMERICA 250
HYMN REFLECTIONS

July 5, 2026 | 11:00 am

We're glad you're worshipping with us!

Rev. Dr. JaeHaeng Choi, Pastor

Meg Dornbrock, Choir Director

Karen Reno-Cobb, Pianist

2801 Virginia Beach Blvd | Virginia Beach | VA. 23452

Phone | (757) 340-0595 | Email foundryumc@foundryumcvb.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 10am-1pm

Friday - Visiting Offsite

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welcome
to our church family

Worship in America 250
Introduction to our Celebration Service

Over 250 years ago, our forefathers were drawn to these shores by the promise of freedom - a freedom that would allow them to pursue their dreams without restraint and to worship God in a more meaningful way. Indeed, it was to God that they turned for help and strength during those years of struggle that established this great nation.

As our country celebrates our national heritage since signing the Declaration of Independence, we must reflect as well on our spiritual heritage, as evidenced in America's rich hymns of faith... hymns that have taught and continue to teach us about God's grace, love, justice, provision, and salvation freely given to everyone.

Growing up as a nation and growing up in our faith is not easy. Just as America has struggled, so has the Church. We need reminders that God remains forever holy, powerful, compassionate and faithful... and hymns do just that. They remind us to keep trusting the Lord for God is always working in our lives. As our nation is torn by internal strife and as the threat of world conflict grows stronger, we can be encouraged by divine promises. God hears our prayers of thanksgiving, our prayers of confession, our cries for help, and our calls for peace. God will answer!!

May the hymns sung here today (and that have been sung countless times these past 250 years) remind you of your freedom in America and your freedom in Christ. May they deepen your faith and give you hope.

God Bless America



Some of you may remember hearing entertainer Kate Smith singing "God Bless America" on her radio show in the 1940's. In 1938, Smith had asked Irving Berlin, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, whose compositions had become quite popular, if he had anything she could sing in celebration of Armistice Day. He pulled out a song he had written 20 years earlier in 1918 - the year he became an American citizen and joined the army. He had written it for a comedy revue about army life but realized it was unsuitable, so it stayed "in the trunk" for 20 years. Once Berlin modified the lyrics, it became a plea for peace against the backdrop of rising European fascism. Berlin was so grateful to America for all his success in song writing that he assigned all royalties from the song to the Boy and Girl Scout Organizations.

Although not in most hymnals, its general message of American patriotism and seeking help from above has made this song a continued prayer to God for protection and guidance to this day. Irving Berlin died in 1989 at 101 years of age.



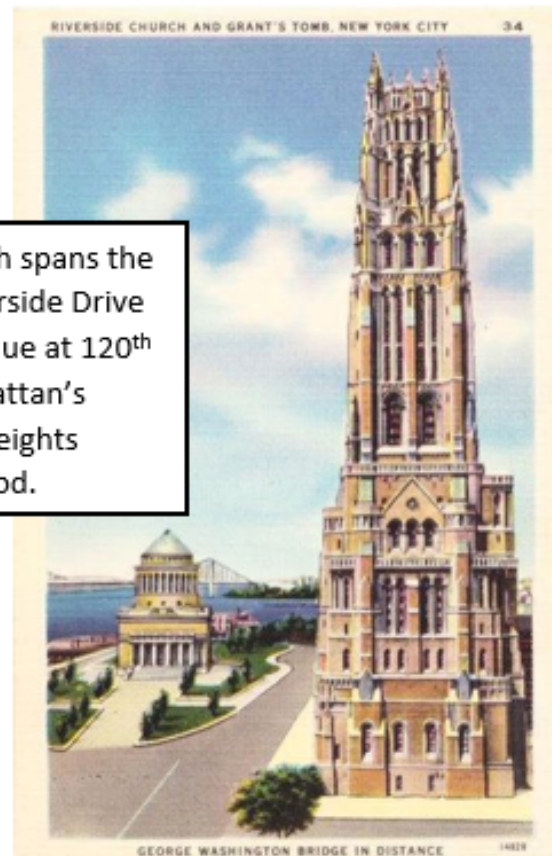
Other Notable Songs:
Alexander's Ragtime Band
Puttin' On The Ritz
White Christmas

References: hymnallibrary.org, hymnary.org, The Story Behind the Hymn Videos and Discipleship Ministries UMC (Hymn Editor Michael Hawn)

UMH 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

Written in 1930 by Henry Emerson Fosdick for the dedication of the famous Riverside Church in New York City, this hymn was a petition to God to grant wisdom and courage to face the hard times of the Great Depression. Fosdick was the pastor of Riverside after having served as a chaplain in WW1 and as pastor of both Baptist and Presbyterian Churches in the Northeast. He was a champion of the “social gospel”, a movement that recognized the plight of the poor, addressing urban poverty and inequality during the Industrial Revolution. Under his leadership Riverside Church was both interdenominational and interracial. At the center of Fosdick’s leadership was urban social ministry. The words of this hymn came together just as the church was moving into its new building.

This petition/prayer is needed just as much today as it was a hundred years ago. We are always tempted to believe that the evils that we face today far outstrip our resources to deal with them. We are tempted to retreat into a safe place and wait for the storm to blow over. But evil unopposed doesn't blow over. So we continue to pray that God grants wisdom and courage, bends our pride to His control, cures us from warring madness, and frees our hearts to work and praise as we minister to the lonely, poor, oppressed and unsaved.



This landmark church spans the block between Riverside Drive and Claremont Avenue at 120th Street in Manhattan’s Morningside Heights neighborhood.

Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive
New York, New York

Order of Worship

**Please stand if you are able*

Prelude

America, The Beautiful

arr. by Mark Hayes

Greeting with *Worship 250 Introduction*

*Introit

“America” (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee)

UMH 697 (v. 4)

*Call to Worship

Leader: Today we gather as God's people, giving thanks for His faithfulness through every generation.

People: We praise the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: For the blessings of liberty, justice, and opportunity, we give thanks.

People: Every good and perfect gift comes from God.

Leader: As we mark 250 years since our nation's founding, we remember that our ultimate hope is not in any earthly kingdom, but in the Kingdom of God.

People: The Lord reigns forever; His truth and mercy endure through all generations.

Leader: Let us worship the One who guides nations, strengthens His people, and calls us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

People: We come to worship God with grateful hearts and renewed commitment to serve Him.

All: Let us worship the Lord with thanksgiving and praise!

*Breakthrough Prayer

Announcements

Narration

*Gathering Hymn

“God of the Ages”

UMH 698 (vs. 1-4)

Giving Special Music

“Statue of Liberty”

Words and Music by Neil Enloe

Barbara Arnold



In New York Harbor stands a lady,
With a torch raised to the sky;
And all who see her know she stands for
Liberty for you and me.

I’m so proud to be called an American,
To be named with the brave and the free;
I will honor our flag and our trust in God,
And the Statue of Liberty.

On lonely Golgotha stood a Cross,
With my Lord raised to the sky;
And all who kneel there live forever
As all the saved can testify.

I’m so glad to be called a Christian,
To be named with the ransomed and whole;
As the Statue liberates the citizen,
So the Cross liberates the soul.

Oh, the Cross is my Statue of Liberty,
It was there that my soul was set free;
Unashamed, I’ll proclaim that a rugged Cross
Is my Statue of Liberty!



UMH 717 The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Patriotic songs have the power to bring people together in a musical celebration of unity and love of country, and this song finally did that - but not without enduring 4 years of war and the loss of over 600,000 lives. You see, this was The American Civil War!



Julia Ward Howe

The words of The Battle Hymn were written by Julia Ward Howe in 1861 using the music of the popular tune “John Brown’s Body.” The melody was rooted in an old Methodist hymn, “Say Brothers Will You Meet Us at Canaan’s Happy Shore.” This song was sung in camp meetings throughout the rural South in the early 1800s. Blacks and whites, slave and free, were welcome at the outdoor meetings where traveling evangelists preached fire and brimstone sermons and emotions ran high. Everyone knew the tune and some Union soldiers in Massachusetts changed the words to reflect the life of John Brown, the famous radical abolitionist who was hanged in 1859 for his crimes in his fight to end slavery. Howe, a popular writer, activist, abolitionist and later suffragist, wrote the song to inspire Union soldiers in their fight to abolish slavery.

As the story goes... In November 1861, Julia Ward Howe and her husband visited Washington, D.C. While there, Howe, already a published poet, heard Union troops belting out a well-known marching song called “John Brown’s Body,” which did have morbidly descriptive words. A preacher standing with Howe encouraged her to write new lyrics to the tune. *“I replied that I had often wished to do so!”* Howe later wrote- *“I awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don’t write it down immediately. I began to scrawl the lines almost without looking. Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me.”* JWH

There has always been controversy around this hymn. Southerners felt the song was claiming God was on the North’s side. And Howe confronted the issue of slavery in her lyrics. Her version was packed with Biblical imagery and scripture references. Julia Ward Howe’s efforts for social justice continued after the war. She was active in prison reform and the fight to win equal rights for women. Today, this hymn has become incredibly meaningful in the quest to seek truth and in marching for equal rights of all people.

Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Scriptures *Psalm 33:12* *Philippians 3:20* *1 Chronicles 29:11-12*

**Please stand if you are able*

UMH 696 America the Beautiful



Katharine Lee Bates (born 1859) was a professor of English literature at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. In addition to teaching, she wrote poetry, children's stories, textbooks and travel books. It was during a summer teaching trip to Colorado College in 1893, that she wrote this hymn. While traveling by train through the Kansas wheat fields and observing the majestic mountains of the West, Bates was struck by the vast landscapes and the promise of the nation's future. While in Colorado, she went to the top of Pike's Peak. Inspired by the beauty of the view she wrote all four verses of "America the Beautiful" which was an instant hit when it was published. *"It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind."* KLB

Her words weren't paired with Samuel Augustus Ward's tune until 1910. Unlike purely patriotic songs, often written to boost civilian morale in times of war, this hymn blends appreciation of America's natural beauty with prayers for moral and spiritual renewal. Its enduring message connects national identity with humility, justice and righteousness, making it both a patriotic and spiritual expression.

HYMNS with Narration

**Please stand if you are able*

Please see next pages for all Hymn Narration Reflections

Narrators: Colleen Ignacio and Gary Melander

Narration

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

UMH 117 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)

Narration

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

UMH 57 (vs. 1-5)

Narration

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

UMH 301 (vs. 1-4)

Children's Time "Jesus Loves Me" *Colleen Ignacio*

UMH 191

Narration

"Amazing Grace" *Ericka Ignacio on Flute v. 3 Solo*

UMH 378 (vs. 1, 2, 4-6)

Narration

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

UMH 400 (vs. 1-3)

Narration

"America the Beautiful"

UMH 696 (vs. 1-3)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE *Watkins Bracey*
with Congregational Prayer **"For Our Country"**

UMH 429

Narration

Reflection Anthem

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Foundry Choir

Words by Julia Ward Howe, Music by William Steffe, arr. Peter J. Wilhousky
Congregation to join when directed

Narration

*Sending Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH 577 (vs. 1-4)

Benediction

Narration

*Benediction Hymn

"God Bless America"

Choir & Congregation

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

Solo: Scott Strickland

Postlude

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. by Cindy Berry

WORSHIP in AMERICA 250 HYMN REFLECTIONS

Celebrating just a few hymns that have endured the
test of time and faith these past 250 years

UMH 698 God of the Ages

Originally titled "God of Our Fathers", this hymn was written by Daniel Crane Roberts, a New England Episcopalian priest specifically for the 1876 Centennial Celebration. It reflects gratitude for God's providence for our nation and references the Biblical themes of Psalm 33 and Daniel 2, that God's supreme power as Creator has sovereign control over the nations which encourages the righteous to sing out and praise God. It is set to the tune "National Hymn" by George William Warren and has been widely used in civic observances and worship services to honor God's faithfulness throughout history.



The Centennial International Exhibition, officially known as the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures, and Products of the Soil and Mine, was held in Philadelphia from May 10 to November 10, 1876. This event was the first official world's fair in the United States and celebrated the centennial of the Declaration of Independence,

UMH 400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Born in 1735, seventeen-year-old Robert Robinson ran the streets of London with gangs, not caring for anything spiritual. He was just a small boy when his dad died and without a father to guide and steady him, Robert fell in with bad companions. Robinson, half serious and half in fun, decided to go to a tent meeting to hear the Methodist preacher George Whitefield. He told his buddies, "*Let's go laugh at the deluded Methodists.*" Robert left in dread, under a deep sense that George Whitefield was preaching to him alone. When he was 20, Robert made peace with God and immediately set out to become a preacher himself. He wrote a letter to George Whitefield and told him that he envied the happiness that he saw on the faces of those people in that tent. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote a hymn which expressed his joy in his new found faith: "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above."

Years later Robert did indeed wander away from God. In a spiritually backslidden condition, Robert was traveling in a stage coach one day. His only companion was a young woman unknown to him. In the providence of God, and not realizing who it was she spoke with, the woman quoted *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, saying what an encouragement it had been to her. Try as he might, Robinson could not get her to change the subject. She asked him what he thought of the hymn she was humming. He responded, "*Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then.*" Gently, she replied, "*Sir, the 'streams of mercy' are still flowing.*" He was deeply touched by that. As a result of the encounter he repented. His fellowship with the Lord was restored through the ministry of his own hymn, and a Christian's willing witness.



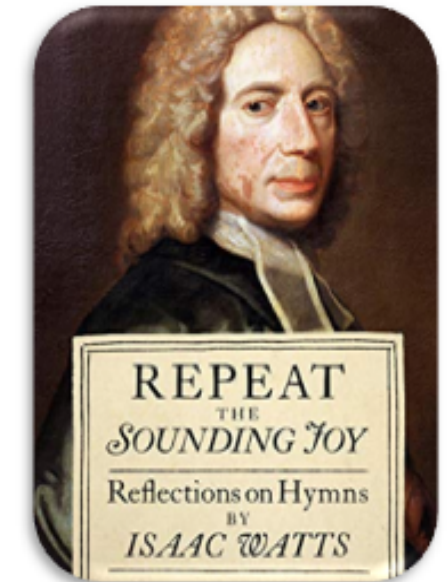
UMH 378 Amazing Grace

This is by far the most sung and most popular hymn of all time. It is actually 254 years old! Few songs in history have touched as many lives as “Amazing Grace.” John Newton, who wrote the text, was born in England in 1725 and was raised in the faith. When his mother died, he then lived with his father (a ship’s captain) and adopted the riotous lifestyle of those around him. He became reckless, rebellious, and abandoned his faith. He found himself involved in the Atlantic SLAVE TRADE which was a horrific business, yet lucrative for those employed. However, his employer abused him and treated him no better than the oppressed slaves. He emerged as a man lost in sin, cruelty and guilt from the degradation he experienced.

Off the coast of Ireland, the ship on which he was working became shipwrecked. Newton cried out to God for mercy and God heard and answered his prayer. The ship survived which led to a profound transformation. His faith grew over time but there were many setbacks. He still had major issues with drinking, witchcraft and a promiscuous lifestyle... indeed “a wretch.” Once John Newton abandoned the slave trade completely, he studied theology and became a Christian minister. In 1772, while writing his New Year’s Sermon, he wrote a song intending to touch the soul of his people and make them understand God’s grace. He fully accomplished that goal. Newton’s story is a song of hope for the oppressed, a prayer for the broken and an anthem for those seeking redemption. His life is proof that our darkest chapters can be our future testimonies.



UMH 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



This hymn was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, also known as the Father of English Hymnody. His hymns introduced a new style of metered songs and provided a fresh approach to hymn singing, which up to this time had only been in monotone recitation that Watts felt was boring. Though small in stature and sickly in his youth, he had a great gift for words and could set scripture to heartfelt poetry. Isaac grew up in England during fierce persecution of Christians who refused to conform to the state church. In fact, his father was imprisoned because of his faith, and his persistence in expressing the need for freedom of worship.

In 1719 as England faced wars abroad and uncertainty at home, Watts crafted a text that brought faith and hardship together, history and future together, reminding us that the same God who helped our ancestors would surely carry us too. The lyrics provide us with unshakable trust in God when we shift our focus from our troubles to the eternal God, our ever-present guard and keeper.

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” became an anthem of the Great Awakening in England and America and was used when the Wesley brothers published and sang it when they came to Georgia as missionaries. This hymn is often sung in times of crisis, at funerals, and by soldiers going into battle. Believers everywhere sing it as a prayer of confidence in God’s unchanging faithfulness, from generation to generation!

Other Notable Hymn Texts: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”, “Joy to the World”



UMH 57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley, 18th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley and preaching partner with brother John Wesley wrote the words of this great hymn in 1739. His poetry was perfectly suited to the spiritual needs of the 18th-century church in England. It was as though God raised Charles Wesley to take up the poetic mantle from Isaac Watts, ensuring that the Church's song continued with fresh vitality and fervent devotion. Charles' legacy is now a library of over 7,000 hymns for us to sing about God's saving grace.

Charles and his brother John Wesley, both students at Oxford University, were disturbed by the spiritual complacency they saw around them. In response, they formed a small group dedicated to disciplined Christian living, prayer, and study. Their methodical lifestyle earned them the nickname "Methodists." After their studies, both brothers were commissioned by the Church of England to travel as missionaries to the American colony of Georgia. Their mission was to minister to settlers and evangelize Native Americans.

During their voyage across the Atlantic in 1736, the Wesleys encountered a group of German Moravians—devout Christians known for their missionary zeal and vibrant hymn singing. In the midst of a violent storm at sea, the calm and steadfast faith of the Moravians stood in stark contrast to the panic of the English passengers. This left a lasting impression on John and Charles. Although their mission in America proved largely unsuccessful, the Wesleys returned to England where they once again encountered the Moravians—this time at a meeting at Aldersgate Street, London. It was there, in May 1738, that both John and Charles experienced personal conversions. Though deeply religious and active in ministry, neither had previously known the inner joy and assurance of salvation that now filled their hearts. From that moment on, their ministries were transformed. They began to preach with renewed power and conviction, emphasizing personal faith in Christ and the inward work of grace.

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was written to commemorate the one year anniversary of Charles' conversion. The hymn was inspired by a comment from Peter Böhler, a Moravian leader and mentor of Charles who once said, "*Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with all of them!*" Charles took this exclamation to heart and created a hymn of thanksgiving and praise. It was originally composed with 19 stanzas, and 17 of them are on page 58 in our Methodist Hymnal! It has been the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide since 1780, except for the 1933 publication (where it was "Holy, Holy, Holy"). The subsequent hymnals published in 1964 and 1989 went back to the Wesley tradition with "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" listed as the first hymn.

Other Notable Hymn Texts: "Rejoice, the Lord is King!", "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 301 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Fannie J. Crosby, who wrote more than 8,000 hymns, wrote the words of this beloved hymn in collaboration with William H. Doane, a song writer who knew of Fannie's sacred poems and thought his tunes and her words would be the perfect match. It was published in 1869 during the "Gospel Hymn Movement" which focused on teaching theological doctrine in Sunday School to children and adults alike, yet also emphasizing a personal relationship with Jesus.



Fannie was born with an eye infection that was medically mistreated which resulted in permanent blindness. She always felt her blindness was a gift and said "*if perfect eyesight were offered to me tomorrow, I would not accept it. For when I reach heaven, the first face I shall see will be that of my Savior.*" As a child she memorized 5 chapters of scripture each week which strengthened her faith. Scripture became her eyes to see God's truth. Fannie prayed to "see with her heart." For her, the cross was not just a symbol of suffering, but of forgiveness, strength and everlasting hope. This hymn encourages us to live near the cross, find our identity in the cross and to express our glory in Christ alone. Its theology, imagery and memorable melody have made it an enduring hymn. Crosby's career was pivotal in the rise of Methodist Revivalism and the Rescue Mission Movement in America in the 1800's.