

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



September 27, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

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18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Peace Piece

B. Evans

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor J. C. Austin

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

Be Still and Know That I Am God

J. Bell

Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Mark Bohlman

Leader: The Lord supports the cause of the needy,

People: And gives justice to those who are poor.

Leader: Will God not grant justice to those who cry day and night?

People: God will not delay in helping them.

Leader: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

People: Through Jesus Christ let us be reconciled to the Lord!

*HYMN 386

Come, Worship God

Verses 1, 2, 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pastor J. C. Austin

O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all. Christ tells us to turn towards him, all who labor and are heavy laden, for he will give us rest. Sometimes, we resist God's call to grace and peace. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI HYMN 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kathryn "Kat" Green, Director of Children's Formation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Mark Bohlman

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:8-11

SERMON

"Being Human in an AI Age: Being Over Doing"

Pastor Ashley Brown

Matthew 11:25-30

*HYMN 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verses 1, 3

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor J. C. Austin
Pastor Ashley Brown

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (the Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Congregational Vows

Do you, the members of Woods Church, promise to guide and nurture these new members as they seek to know and follow Christ? **We do.**

Will you listen to their voices, hopes and ideas for the future as we partner with them to help the church grow and change to the glory of God? **We will.**

Welcome and Promise

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING

Elder Mark Bohlman

A portion of today's offering supports our Youth committee as it nurtures the faith of our middle and high-school youth. This includes offering regular Sunday School classes, Confirmation instruction, WoodsWork mission projects, and other youth camps, trips, and Tuesday evening fellowship time.

To give: text **Woods** to **73256** or go to **"Give"** on **woodschurch.org** or use the **QR-Code** on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come And Be Joyful
Adult Choir

Arr. H. Hopson,
A. Vivaldi

*DOXOLOGY HYMN 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor J. C. Austin

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

*HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory
Verses 1, 2, 4

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Please stand if you are able

Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website (www.woodschurch.org). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

A Stephen Minister will be available, to the side of the chancel by the Stephen Minister banner, at the end of the service to listen and to pray with you. 9:30 AM John Dunham | 11AM Beth Hadley

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend J.C. Austin
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Prayer Requests



Pledge Card

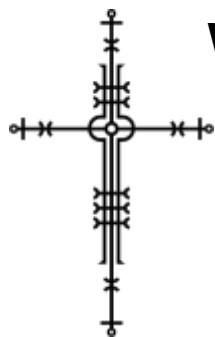


Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park, Maryland 21146

Telephone: 410.647.2550 · E-mail: info@woodschurch.org · Website: www.woodschurch.org



Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

September 27, 2026

**Our Vision: To be a voice of faith transforming lives
and society through Jesus Christ**

Our Mission: Welcoming all to grow and serve in Christ

Flowers today were arranged by Jenny Henry and Sally Saches and are given for the glory of God.

Join us for bagels, coffee, and fellowship after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education/Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Registration Forms are Located on the Welcome Desk

Time	Location	Time	Location
8AM Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual	10:30 AM Children's Choir	Choir Room
9:30 AM Spiritual Exploration Group	Conference/Virtual	11AM Genesis	Room 208/Virtual
Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110	Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110
2 & 3-year-olds	Room 115	All Children	Room 107
4, year-olds – 5 th graders	Room 107	12:15PM SEEK Band	Choir Room
1 st – 2 nd graders	Room 150	2PM Confirmation	Room 212
3 rd – 5 th graders	Room 155		
Middle & High School	Room 208/212		

Upcoming Events & Church News

Congregational Meeting – TODAY following the 9:30 AM service. The meeting is for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report.

Adult Formation Class 11AM Sundays, through October 25 Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning. This study invites readers into the foundational stories of the Old Testament with clarity, depth, and imagination. Dr. Amy-Jill Levine presents Genesis as a living text, one that continues to shape faith, identity, and our understanding of what it means to be human. Meeting in Conference Room and on Zoom Meeting ID: 827 4541 2791 | Passcode: 50 0840.

SEEK Band - Do you play an instrument, enjoy singing, or just love music? Then come on out! Any youth in **grades 6-12**, can join our SEEK Band. The SEEK Band offers music for worship regularly, with many wonderful solo and musical opportunities. Our first rehearsal is **Sunday, September 27, 12:15-1PM**, in the Choir Room. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Children's Choir - Do you have child that just loves to sing, or wants to give it a try? Then come on out to Children's Choir **grades 1st – 5th**! It's super fun, and the tunes are catchy and easy to learn. Our first rehearsal is **Sunday, September 20 from 10:35 – 11AM**. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org

Praise Band - Do you play an instrument, sing, or just love music? Then join our Praise Band! Our Praise Band leads worship at the **11AM service**, with rehearsals on **Thursday nights at 7PM**. Reach out to Sarah Kent with any questions at skent@woodschurch.org

Noah's Ark Blessing of the Animals will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 1PM** at the front of the church, all are welcome. For more info email noahsark@woodschurch.org

Men's Bible Study Celebrates 40 Years! Join the Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall between services on **October 4** as we celebrate 40 years together! Enjoy cake and refreshments, and be sure to stay for a **special song performed by the men**. All are welcome!

Flower Workshop – The Flower Ministry invites members and friends of Woods Church to a workshop on **Saturday, October 17, from 9:30 AM–12 PM in the Founders Room**. Space is limited to 25 participants. Cost is **\$20**, which includes materials. Please bring garden cutters (clippers). For registration assistance, contact **Pam Ward at 443.261.3263** or visit the church office.

World Communion is on Sunday, October 4, 2026 following the 9:30AM service **Home Communion will be offered**. If you would like to be included or know of anyone in the congregation who might enjoy having communion brought to their home, please contact Lauren Lohff at 410.647.2550 ext. 142 or email her at llohff@woodschurch.org.

Meet and Greet Pastor Ashley! Interested in participating in an in-home gathering with Pastor Ashley? Please email Karen Lerario at apnc@woodschurch.org for more information.

A Broadway Afternoon - From Golden Classics to Today - October 25 at 2PM in the Sanctuary – FREE. Come and join us for a fun filled, Broadway Afternoon on Sunday October 25 at 2PM! The concert features renowned singers - Andrew Fowler (Tenor), Jennifer Cooper (Alto), Shouvik Mondle (Baritone), Tabitha Popernack (Soprano), David Merrill (Tenor), and pianist Sandy Daelemans. We'll take you on a journey through some of the most beloved Musical Theater songs ever written! From West Side Story, to Cats, Phantom of the Opera, to Pippin there is something for everyone! This event is free, but a registration is required, please register at www.woodstix.org. For more information please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org. (Original concert concept created by Shouvik Mondle)



Register QR-Code

New Art Exhibit in the Gallery - Please visit the new art display in the Gallery. This month's art exhibit is entitled "*Art Ministry Celebrates*" by local ministry artists. This exhibit celebrates the creativity and artistic gifts of our ministry members.

Picnic Table Pre-Order - The Youth and Outreach & Service Committees are partnering for the annual Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake picnic table build. Want to reserve a picnic table 7 foot or bench 6 foot? Pre-order by **October 15**. Forms are available in the Welcome Area Woods News holder. Return forms to Beth Hadley at bbhadley@gmail.com. Questions? Call 443-668-2551. Delivery options are available.

Outreach and Service Partner SPAN is in critical need of canned meats, oatmeal, sides of all kinds, basic toiletries of all kinds, cleaning supplies and diapers sizes 4 and up. Please place your items in the SPAN boxes behind the Welcome Desk. Thank you for your kindness and caring by supporting our neighbors in need.

2026 Bazaar Sweet Shop Donations Needed! Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sweet Shop. This year's Bazaar is on November.

2026 Bazaar Games, Puzzles, and children's clothing Collection! Bring your new or gently used puzzles and board games to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 9/20 and get up to two free raffle tickets for a chance to win the Big Holiday Bazaar Gift Basket! We're also collecting children's clothing, infant through youth size 10. Save the date to shop on **Saturday, November 21, 2026!**

Did You Know Woods Has a Basketball Group? Looking for some fun, fellowship, and a little friendly competition? Join the **Woods Basketball Group** on Saturday mornings! All skill levels 18 and older are welcome. Interested in joining? Contact **Todd McDowell**, toddmcdowell@gmail.com for more information. Come shoot some hoops and meet some new friends!

Welcome New Members

Judith and Bill Blum have lived in the Annapolis area for 15 years. Prior to that they lived in Frederick where they raised their two sons. Their sons now live out west in Utah and Montana. Judy grew up in the Ithaca and Finger Lake region of New York and Bill grew up in Baltimore. They both had busy careers before retiring: Bill was in finance and Judy was an occupational therapist part of the time at the Kennedy Institute and then moved to CCBC and became Assistant Dean of the School of Health Professions. Bill enjoys playing Pickle Ball and tennis. In addition, Bill loves to travel, especially to the National Parks. He also enjoys hiking. While Judy enjoys Pickle Ball, she also likes weaving, working in pottery and baking. While attending another church, they met friends who were members at Woods and found they related well to the community of Woods. They are both interested in continuing their work in missions by working with our Outreach and Service Committee. Welcome Judy and Bill!

Barbara Brogan was born and raised in Montclair, New Jersey. She has been in the Annapolis area since 1976 and currently lives in Pines on the Severn in Arnold. She and her husband have two adult children and four grandchildren. The families live in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Barbara has had many careers over the years. She has been a substitute teacher, worked in Real Estate and served as a part-time librarian. She also has many hobbies and interests. You might find her traveling, painting and working with flowers or reading for Book Club. Barbara is also a member of the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club as she enjoys water sports. Barbara found Woods through her friends, the Daniel's. She was also looking for a church for spiritual growth and enrichment, and she found Woods to be that church. Welcome Barbara!

Carly and Spencer Disque live in Severna Park very close to Woods Church. They were looking for a church where their boys could be raised within a church community. Carly and Spencer have two boys, Ethan and Bodhi. Bodhi attended CDC here at Woods. Both boys are now in elementary school. Carly and Spencer were born in Maryland. Carly is a nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center and is pursuing a Master's in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Salisbury University. Carly also volunteers at community events through the hospital. Spencer is a Systems Engineer in Aerospace Engineering. He also volunteers at community events and helps with maintenance. Although busy with family and jobs, they find time for their hobbies. Carly loves yoga and hiking and spending time with the family. Spencer enjoys fishing, sailing, kayaking and fitness programs. Welcome Carly and Spencer!

Kathryn "Kat" Green is a Christian Educator since 2003, she has served small churches, and church collectives. She holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Eden Theological seminary, Masters in Information Science and Learning Technologies from University of Missouri with an emphasis on community/public service collaborations, and a Masters in Education with emphasis on trauma informed learning, mindfulness, and social emotional learning through Woolf University and Breathe for Change. She was a leader with the White House Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge under the Obama Administration.

Nancy and Ken Hein live in Severna Park within walking distance of Woods. They have two adult children who also live in the area. Ken's father and grandfather were Lutheran ministers. They started attending Woods with friends who are members. Before retiring, Ken was a mechanical engineer with the Navy for 58 years and Nancy has worked in retail, in schools as a substitute teacher. At one time, Nancy was a volunteer at Sunrise. They both have hobbies that they enjoy. Nancy has started art projects for the Woods Bazaar and Ken enjoys gardening and reading. Welcome Nancy and Ken!

Janet Hilt was born in Baltimore and now lives in Crofton. She has been both Presbyterian and Lutheran during her life. Jane and her husband have an adult daughter. Jane found Woods through friends who attend our church. Now that she is retired, she loves to spend time crafting and sewing. Jane also enjoys all pets but particularly cats! Before retirement she was a Physical Therapist. Welcome Jane!

Rob Mennie was born in Columbus, Ohio but grew up mostly in the Chicago area. He and his wife Terry lived in Gaithersburg for more than 20 years before moving to Florida for seven years and then returning to their current home in Arnold. He has been a Presbyterian his whole life and a very interesting fact is when his former pastor in Florida heard Rob and Terry were coming back to Maryland, he recommended Woods as he knew and liked our pastor at that time. Rob also participates in an online Bible Study with friends of his from various places. He has four children and four grandchildren, two of whom attend CDC at Woods (the other two will be there soon!). Before retiring, Rob was a TV Executive in Columbus, Atlanta, Phoenix, Dayton, Washington DC and Jacksonville. Now that he has more time, he enjoys many outdoor activities including boating, fishing, golf, yard work and more, but his favorite pastime is spending time with his family. Welcome Rob!

Sue Meyer is a "Jersey Girl" before moving to Sussex County, North Carolina. She then moved to Southport, North Carolina. She lived in North Carolina for 22 years. After her husband passed, she moved to Maryland to be closer to her two adult children. Sue is the happy grandmother of three grandsons, Aydan, Gareth, and Connor. She was a Kindergarten teacher for 35 years and was active in her church in Southport, North Carolina. Sue has been a Presbyterian her whole life and sees herself more as a Christian not just a Presbyterian. She enjoys Woods because of our Pastors and our music program. The size of the church can be a bit overwhelming at times. She has worked with Habitat, Adopted Families and Congregational Care. Sue is looking forward to learning more about our Outreach and Service Committee. Welcome Sue!

Jill Robinson was born in Washington, DC and now lives in Severna Park. She was born and raised a Catholic but has been at Woods for two years now. She loves theater and has participated in our musicals "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Prince of Egypt". Jill has also been singing in the choir for six months. She and her husband have three children in their 20's. Two of them are still in college. Jill is an engineer but finds time for her hobbies. She is a member of the Annapolis Striders, her Book Club and volunteers with the Children's Theater. What she enjoys the most about Woods is the structure of our services and how welcoming the church is to everyone. Welcome Jill!

Beth Straub was born in Harrogate, England but now lives in Severna Park. She and her husband, Dan, have two teenage sons, Denver and Ivan. Her previous church was Lutheran and now she is joining Woods, as are her parents. Beth works for Women Traveling Together and stays busy with watching her kids on their sports' teams. She enjoys running, paddleboarding, hiking, skiing and spending time with friends. Beth particularly likes all the activities and events here at Woods, which she learned about online, from friends and through her parents. Welcome Beth!

Jan and Jim Withers were born and raised in Red Wing, Minnesota. They moved to Maryland in 1980 and now live in Gambrills, Maryland. They have one daughter, Beth Straub who is also joining Woods today. Jan and Jim were members at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park before attending Woods. In fact, several of our new members today were encouraged to attend Woods by Jan and Jim. Both of them are retired from NSA and now have time for many hobbies. Jim loves gardening, wood working, and collecting Red Wing Pottery. Jan loves music, particularly our programs. She also enjoys crocheting, reading and traveling. They both love attending their grandsons' sports activities. They were attracted to Woods because of its feeling of community and from what they have heard from others about Woods. Welcome Jan and Jim!