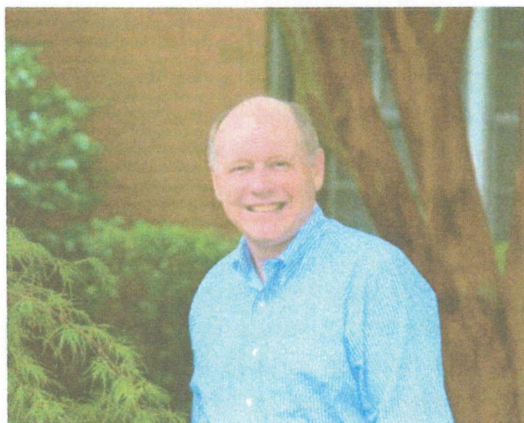


Monumental

United Methodist Church

John Dixon Organist



Monday, September 29, 2025

12 noon

PROGRAM

Composed by John Dixon

Trumpet Intrada

Welcome Voice - "Gwahoddiaid"

O Waly Waly

Turlough O'Carolan's Donkey

Hornpipe in D

Aria in D

Trumpet Tune on "Westminster New"

Variations on an Irish Folk Tune

Theme - Aria - Duo - Intermezzo - Solo for pedals - Finale

Postlude on "America the Beautiful"

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Trumpet Intrada, an original composition, was premiered in Florida in 2019.

The beautiful melody **Welcome Voice** was written in Iowa in 1872, but has been embraced by the Welsh, hence that curious Welsh name. Then follows a trio on the Scottish tune **O Waly Waly**. The title **Turlough O'Carolan's Donkey** refers to the mode of transportation used by this blind virtuoso Irish harpist, a contemporary of J.S. Bach and a rock star of his day, as he moved from the patronage of one wealthy Irish family to another. Listen for the donkey in this arrangement of an O'Carolan tune from 1691.

Hornpipe in D, written for the wedding recessional of a Navy couple married at my church, is my most popular and widely-shared composition. **Aria in D** might remind you of Procol Harum's 1967 hit, "A Whiter Shade of Pale". The chap who wrote it and sang about turning cartwheels on the floor went to the rival high school in my hometown in Essex, England. The unique original copy of the tune **Westminster New** is framed and hanging on the Delaware wall of a friend, from where we rescued this strong

melody and restored it to life. Ideas for new music come to composers from so many directions.

My challenge in **Variations on an Irish Folk Tune** is to show as many facets of this glorious instrument as possible, from the delicate high notes down to the deep pedal notes. Your challenge is to identify the tune. Hint: you probably know it as a sea shanty.

We conclude with **America the Beautiful**, a paean to our magnificent country.

JOHN DIXON

Born in England in 1957, John Dixon learned to play the pipe organ at his high school which, to this day, has a two manual organ in the assembly hall. He was not active as an organist when he moved to America in 1988. However, he filled the organ bench at his church, Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, during an emergency in 1998 - and has now been organist there for more than twenty-five years.

He has been composing seriously since 1990 and currently has more than one thousand compositions to his credit, for organ, choir and orchestral ensembles. Today's program features selections from this catalog.

John's current project is to share his own music in person in all 50 states between his 60th and 70th birthdays. To date he has played in 44 states - and Washington DC.

In 2003 John was appointed executive director of the Academy of Music, a non-profit community music school headquartered in Norfolk, a position he still holds. He currently serves as Treasurer of the American Guild of Organists, which gives him the pleasure of connecting with organists across the country.

MONUMENTAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Celeste Heath

Services are regularly held at 11:00am on Sundays.

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Upcoming Concerts

FREE Friends of the Groom Theater Workshop

Saturday, October 18th 9:30am-12noon

Performance by Friends of the Groom

Sunday, October 19th 4pm

Norcom High School Choral Ensemble

Monday, October 27th 12 noon

James River Ringers Handbell Quartet

Monday, November 24th 12 noon

Annual Lancaster Christmas Concert

with the Deep Creek Middle School Choir

Sunday, December 7th 4pm

Southside Community Band

December 13th (time to be announced)

Christmas Dinner Theater

Sunday, December 21st, 5pm

Reservations necessary

A \$5 lunch is available after all 12 noon concerts.

An offering will be collected at most events.

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Hymn Festival with Tom Trenney

March 1st 2026, 4pm