



COLESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

52 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

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Phone: (301) 384-1941 Website: cumc.org

OUR VISION

We seek to be a captivating beacon of God's Light to the community that draws people to Christ and provides spiritual sustenance and wholistic support to people's lives.

OUR MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Armstrong, Pastor

Mrs. Paulette Wright, Lay Leader

Rev. Dr. Ianther Mills, Tidal Basin District Superintendent

Mrs. Sherrill Cole, District Administrator

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Resident Bishop

Worship Service - 10am, June 28, 2026

Prelude begins at 9:45am

Worship In-person or Live on YouTube

Attending our Live Visual Worship Service

Open your internet browser and go to cumc.org

Scroll down to center page tabs

Click In-Person Worship or Live on YouTube tab

Enjoy Sunday Morning Worship

**Sunday Worship Service
Graduates' Day
Worship June 28, 2026**

Prelude

Amazing Grace: Latin-tinged (*arr. by Mark Hayes*)

Sylvia Crowder

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Michael Onojeta

Liturgist: Jesus says, "I am the vine, and you are the branches."

All: Apart from Christ, we can do nothing.

Liturgist: God has nurtured us, sustained us, and brought us to this moment.

All: We come to give thanks for God's faithfulness.

Liturgist: God calls us to bear fruit that blesses the world.

All: We offer our lives in worship and praise.

Liturgist: Come, let us abide in Christ.

All: We will worship God with glad and grateful hearts.

Morning Prayer

Liturgist: Let us pray: Loving God, we thank You for gathering us together on this Graduate Sunday. We thank You for every student, every teacher, every mentor, every parent, every grandparent, and every person who has helped shape our graduates and students along their journey.

All: As we worship today, remind us that true success is found not simply in achievement, but in abiding in Christ. Help us to remain connected to You, so that our lives may bear fruit that honors You and blesses others.

Liturgist: Fill this service with Your Spirit, guide every young person who leads, and inspire each of us to follow Jesus more faithfully.

All: In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: Gracious God, we confess that we often measure success by accomplishments, recognition, and achievement rather than by faithfulness to You. We become distracted by the pressures of life and lose sight of our connection to Christ. We seek our own way instead of Your way. We focus on results while neglecting the relationship that produces lasting fruit. Forgive us when we forget that every good gift comes from You. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and help us remain rooted in Your love. Teach us to abide in Christ so that our lives may bear fruit for Your kingdom. In Jesus 'name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Hear the good news: Jesus says, "Abide in my love." God's love is greater than our failures, stronger than our fears, and deeper than our mistakes. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Offertory Prayer

All: Generous God, every good and perfect gift comes from You. As we present our offerings today, receive them as signs of our gratitude and commitment. Use these gifts to nurture faith, serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ throughout the world. May the fruit of our lives and the work of our hands bring glory to You. In Jesus 'name, Amen.

Pastoral Announcement and Welcome

Rev. Dr. Michael Armstrong

Great Wolf Lodge Reflections

**Dr. Carla Bowens
Thaina Rakotondranisa
Alexis Jones
Enam Creighton-Randall**

Scripture

John 15:1–10

Michael Onojeta

Musical Selection

I Believe I Can Fly

**Thaina Rakotondranisa (*piano*)
Vocalists: Vona Onojeta
Michael Onojeta
Tsongaina Rakotondranisa**

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Hepzibah Agba

Sermon

“Make Your Juice Worth the Squeeze”

Bethany J. Young, J.D., Ph.D.

Prayer for Graduates

Liturgist: Gracious God, Today we thank You for our graduates. Thank You for the knowledge they have gained, the challenges they have overcome, and the growth they have experienced. As they move into new seasons of life, guide their steps and direct their paths. Give them wisdom when decisions are difficult, courage when challenges arise, and faith when the future seems uncertain. Help them remember that their value comes not from what they achieve but from whose they are. Keep them rooted in Christ, grounded in Your love, and committed to Your purpose. May their lives bear fruit that blesses their families, communities, and the world. In Jesus 'name, as we now pray as he taught us.

Lord's Prayer

All: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Michael Armstrong

Graduates Recognition

Simone Garcia

Graduation Processional

Pomp and Circumstance
(written by Edward Elgar)

Sylvia Crowder

Benediction

Liturgist: As you leave this place, remember the words of Jesus: “I am the vine; you are the branches.” Stay connected to Christ. Remain rooted in His love. Bear fruit that blesses others. And wherever God leads you, make your life—and your juice—worth the squeeze. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Medley: Bind Us Together/ On Eagle Wings
(arranged by Schraeder/ Hayes)

Sylvia Crowder

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. BETHANY J. YOUNG

Dr. Bethany J. Young is a policy strategist, lawyer, and sociologist whose work sits at the intersection of research, advocacy, and systems transformation. With experience spanning government, nonprofit, and academic sectors, she brings a multidisciplinary approach to complex organizational challenges. Her expertise lies in aligning strategy with equity, facilitating stakeholder engagement across lines of difference, and translating research into sustainable change.



Bethany began her career in capital defense, representing clients on death row through her work with the Equal Justice Initiative and the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. These early experiences deepened her understanding of systemic inequality and continue to inform her approach to institutional reform and culture change. She later served as Director of the DC Police Reform Commission, guiding a politically and ideologically diverse group toward 100+ consensus recommendations during a pivotal national moment. At the Urban Institute, she led national efforts to integrate research and lived experience in criminal justice reform, and she now directs policy and legislative strategy in the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, with a focus on addressing the root causes of crime through prevention and intervention strategies.

Bethany has served on independent school and nonprofit boards. She regularly speaks to student and professional audiences about equity, leadership, and the experiences of women of color in academic and professional spaces. She holds a B.A. in English from Spelman College, a J.D. from George Washington University Law School, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Duke University. She brings a thoughtful, analytical lens to organizational planning and decision-making, with particular attention to power, process, and long-term impact.



Congrats!

THE CUMC FAMILY IS SO PROUD OF ALL THE GRADUATES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EVERYONE JOINING US AT OUR BIRTHDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING SERVICE. ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUNDAY AND WISHING YOU A GREAT WEEK AHEAD!