Faith Community United Methodist Church

5315 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21214
Pastor Ronald S. Dodson Sr.

Sunday, November 1, 2026 23rd Sunday After Pentecost
All Saints Sunday

WE GATHER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE — Keith Harmon

GREETING & VISITOR WELCOME — Wanda Mitchell

*CALL TO WORSHIP:
We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.
As we gather to remember the saints who formed us in the faith, we give thanks for their living witnesses to God's love, showing us that:
We belong to God, and through God, we live as family in Christ, bound together by Love.
We give thanks for the influence of the saints in our lives who
demonstrated God's love and saving grace, so that we could know in our bones that:
We belong to God, and through God, we are saved to love one another.
Come, let us worship God who blesses us with witnesses to divine love that we may be witnesses of Love with everyone we meet.
We come to worship God who chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as witnesses of Love in communion with the saints of every age. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: UMH #712 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

PRAYER FOR FAITH: **God, our teacher, please instruct us in the ways of humility and love. Help us to live in community with one another rather than in competition with each other. Give us your heart for serving our neighbor. Assure us of your abiding presence and release us from the hierarchies of this world. May your kingdom come with power and gentleness as we strive to live as embodied witnesses of the good news in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

[Silent prayers of confession and forgiveness of others]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children now. The Spirit of Christ is among us in this gathering, and the nature of Christ is revealed within us. We are becoming more and more like Christ each day, living witness to the good news of God's grace. Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people, saints and instruments of God's way.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: UMH p. 6

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 John 3:1-3

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 5:1-12
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PREPARATION: FWS# 2108 “O How He Loves You and Me”

HOMILY: Pastor Ron Dodson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

COMMUNION HYMN: FWS# 2264 “Come to the Table”

COMMUNION: UMH p.12-15

WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS: Living God, our Guide and Guardian, who sits on the throne and delivers us into eternal life, we give you thanks for the saints whose witness has shaped our lives and who now rest in the shelter of your embrace. As we remember those saints who have died and entered into glory during the last twelve months, we remember their witness to your love and grace with joy and gratitude. We bless you for the life and love of these dear saints and rejoice that they have entered into the fullness of life in your presence. We honor them now by lifting their names aloud or in our hearts.

As we light the candles, please lift up the names of loved ones who transitioned during the past year.

On this All Saints Sunday, we remember that we too are living saints, members of the family of God with all the saints of the past, the present, and the future. And so, we proclaim:

We are God's children, witnesses of God’s word that is at work in us and in the saints who have gone before. Today and every day, may we put on Christ and live as saints who tend the poor, comfort the mourners, learn from the meek, affirm those who seek righteousness, offer mercy alongside the merciful, and work for peace with the peacemakers until Christ comes in final victory and we feast as the family of God at Christ’s heavenly banquet. Amen.

WE OFFER THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY: UMH #95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*BLESSING WITH A MISSION

*CLOSING HYMN: UMH #732 “Come We that Love the Lord”

We are ever growing in Christ, inviting each one to make a difference.

Scripture Lessons for November 8, 2026:

- Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- Psalm 78:1-7
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Matthew 25:1-13

Faith Family November Birthdays and Anniversaries: Karen Chaney 11/17, Elsie Hanssen 11/22, Kate and Joe Ehrenberger 11/24.

May God's blessings and life's goodness follow you wherever you go.

- Kate will have Trails End popcorn available after worship in the Great Room - donations of $20-25 help support Cub Pack 161 in the community.
- Church Council Meeting today, 11:30 in the Great Room.