



# I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

**THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

APRIL 21, 2024  
10:30 AM

## **OUR VISION**

To be a church that is creative, fearless, diverse, and vibrant, where everyone is welcome regardless of where they are in their faith journey.

# WELCOME!

*“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me welcomes  
the one who sent me.”*

**(Matthew 10:40)**

At Community of Faith, we believe each individual is of sacred worth and dignity as part of God’s creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the beautiful diversity of all races, nationalities, and ethnicities. We welcome and affirm you whether you are rich or poor; love the Church, have never been to Church, or have been wounded by spiritual communities; gay, straight, or whatever your gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation may be; married or single; a person with children or without children; able-bodied, differently-abled, or challenged with mental or emotional health issues; certain of many things or full of questions. We vow to be a safe community truly open to everyone to grow in faith - God’s love has no bounds.

## Getting Connected

We are truly glad you are here! We invite you to look over this week’s announcements. Feel free to participate in any upcoming activities that interest you. Pastor Abi, staff, or greeters are happy to answer any questions.

Check out **cofumc.org** for information about:

- ◆ Children & Youth
- ◆ Adult Learning & Small Groups
- ◆ Choir & Music Ministry
- ◆ The Food Pantry
- ◆ Local Mission & Outreach

## Prayer Ministry

You may submit prayer concerns and praises online at [pastor@cofumc.org](mailto:pastor@cofumc.org) at any time. These prayers are then collected and shared on Mondays with a small, faithful prayer team who commits to praying over all needs within the community.

## Holy Communion

As a United Methodist congregation, we practice an open Communion Table. This means that **all** are welcome to participate. For those with allergies, gluten free elements are available upon request.

## Guest Wi-Fi

To access wi-fi during worship, the guest password is: [Godlovesyou](#)



## Giving

No cash today but still want to give? No problem. To give online by credit card or EFT transfer, please scan the QR code. Thank you!

## WORSHIP GUIDE

*Welcome! We are glad we could worship with you today!*

*May you experience God's blessing upon you.*

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

- PRELUDE *I Will Rejoice*, Chambers Kelly Nam  
Olivia Martin, Acolyte
- WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Abi Foerster
- \*PASSING THE PEACE
- \*CALL TO WORSHIP
- \*OPENING HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* UMH #140
- \*OPENING PRAYER  
**My cup overflows! You are a God of excessive love, and you have poured upon me grace beyond measure. Help me now to do the same, that our worship may bear witness to our trust in you. Amen.**
- SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 15:11 –24 (NRSV, p. 73-74 NT) Sandra Baron  
*At the conclusion of the reading:*  
May God add a blessing to the reading of this Word.  
**Praise be to God!**
- CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Miracle Ryder
- \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
**Healing One, we don't have to look far to see that there are broken places in the world and in ourselves. Forgive us for ways we have contributed to brokenness through our sharpness, our carelessness, or our denial. Forgive us for ways we have tried to hide or fix ourselves.**  
**Help us not be afraid or ashamed of our brokenness but help us lift it to Jesus, the Great Healer. Help us believe that transformation is possible and that it shines like gold through the cracks. Forgive us, quench us, make us whole, all in the name of Jesus. Amen.**
- \*SONG OF PREPARATION *As We Forgive*, arr. Bill Wolaver Sanctuary Choir

A TIME OF CENTERING *I Can Only Imagine* Video Clip  
WITNESS TO THE WORD Imagine Forgiveness Rev. Abi Foerster

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & PRAYER

\*OFFERTORY HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be* UMH #399

*As the Spirit leads during the hymn of reflection, please bring your tithes and offerings and place them in the brass plate on the altar. Or you may give electronically through our website <https://cofumc.org/mycof-donate/>. Thank you for your generosity.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Hannah Godfrey

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH #895

\*CLOSING HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* UMH #454

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Abi Foerster

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we go to love. Amen.**

\*SUNG BLESSING & DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace* UMH #665

\*POSTLUDE *I Love Your Grace, Found* Kelly Nam



**Bless the Community**  
**AND Honor or Remember a Loved One!**



Sign Up to Dedicate  
a Flower Arrangement  
for Worship  
Using the QR Code!

**Available Dates April 14 - August 25**

## WAYS TO CONNECT, GROW & SERVE



**contemplative  
service**

Sunday, April 21  
6:00 - 6:45 Dinner  
Variety of Soups, Salad &  
Dessert by Donation

6:45 - 7:30 PM Worship  
At Epiphany Episcopal Church

The contemplative worship service in the Celtic tradition is rich with prayer, silence, scripture music, and Holy Communion. It is the antidote to our often-hectic schedules and frenzied pace of life. Dinner this month is being provided by Rev. Joanna Dietz — several soups and a simple salad, with dessert.



**VOLUNTEER!**

### FOOD PANTRY

Pick up groceries. Distribute food.  
Support our food pantry

**TUESDAY  
DISTRIBUTION  
4 - 6 PM**

**GROCERY RUNS  
All Days Needed  
Mornings**

571-232-8819    [cofumc.org/foodpantry](https://cofumc.org/foodpantry)

**Food Pantry Volunteers:** Did you know the Food Pantry at Community of Faith feeds between 40,000—50,000 people annually? If you'd like to help support the Pantry, volunteers are needed most mornings to make food pick ups and sort groceries. Additionally, volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 4—6 PM to distribute food to our neighbors. Contact Hannah Godfrey, Food Pantry Director, [food@cofumc.org](mailto:food@cofumc.org), to volunteer.



APRIL 23 - MAY 3, 2024  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

...and  
**KNOW  
that I am GOD**

The United Methodist Church General Conference  
www.umc.org/gc2024

**Stay Informed. Pray.**

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is meeting, April 23—May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. Stay up to date with the latest news, decisions, and celebrations from this global gathering. Please keep all the delegates, including Rev. Rob Vaughn (the previous pastor of CoF), in your prayers during this time. Also, mark your calendars for **Pentecost Sunday, May 19** as Pastor Rob and another delegate from the Congo will be with us in worship to share more directly about their experiences at General Conference.



Attention Youth Cohort!

Hosted At  
**WESLEY CHURCH**  
Where God, Loving People

## Earth is Cool And So Are You!

April 28 | 12-2 PM

Planting, Zero Waste, Painting

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE PLANTING!



RSVP by April 25 to Miracle Ryder | [nextgen@cofumc.org](mailto:nextgen@cofumc.org)

**Calling All Youth (6th—12th Grades)!** Do you care about the environment? Then join us at our next Youth Cohort, a gathering of five youth groups from Oakton area UMCs. RSVP to Miracle Ryder, [nextgen@cofumc.org](mailto:nextgen@cofumc.org).

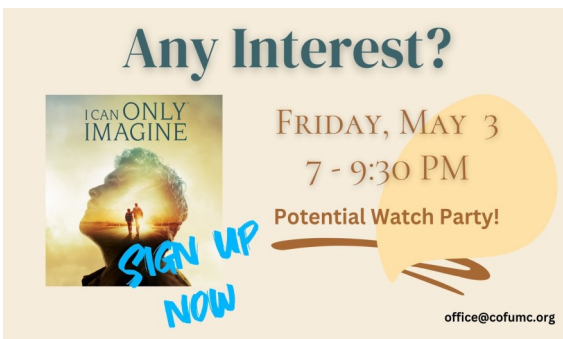
## HOLY WEEK SERVICE & WORSHIP EVENTS




**LGBTQ+ Round Table Discussion**  
Sunday, April 28  
9:45 - 10:30 AM  
with Eveyln BruMar  
Executive Director of CasaBruMar  
Come learn how to better support  
LGBTQ youth and young adults in VA



**LGBTQ+ Round Table Discussion:** The Mission Team has invited Evelyn BruMar, executive director and founder of Casa BruMar Foundation, to share more about her work with LGBTQ+ youth and the ways CoF might serve as a partner. Casa BruMar is a non-profit that helps to bridge the gap that leaves the LGBTQ+ community behind when it comes to equality that is equitable in education, social services, and human dignity in Prince William County and the Commonwealth of VA. RSVP on the clipboard today!

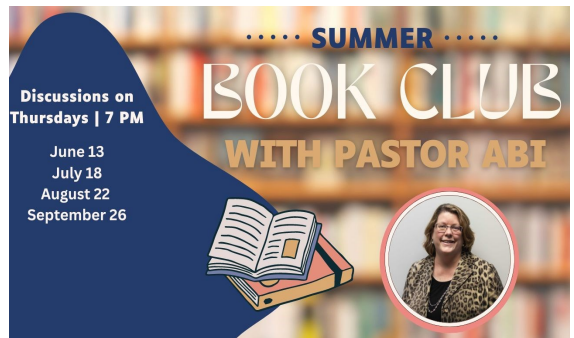


**Any Interest?**  
FRIDAY, MAY 3  
7 - 9:30 PM  
Potential Watch Party!  
SIGN UP NOW  
office@cofumc.org



**In tandem with our current sermon series:** We are considering whether to host a Watch Party for the “I Can Only Imagine” movie about Bart Millard’s life that inspired the current series. If interested in seeing the movie

with other folks from CoF, please sign up on the clipboard. We are targeting a movie night at CoF on Friday, May 3 from 7—9:30 PM (6:45 PM doors open). Movie is free, with request you bring a snack to share. Thanks!





..... **SUMMER** .....

# BOOK CLUB

WITH PASTOR ABI

Discussions on  
Thursdays | 7 PM

June 13  
July 18  
August 22  
September 26



**Summer Book Club:** Pastor Abi has some books she’d love to share with you this Summer! You choose which book(s) you’d like to read, and you choose which book(s) you’d like to discuss with Pastor Abi and with others.

One Thursday each month at 7 PM, Pastor Abi will head to one of our area restaurants to facilitate a discussion of the book over dinner and what it means for our faith and life.

**June 13 (Big Buns)** – Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism by Amanda Montell

**July 18 (Ned Devine’s Irish Pub)** – Why I Left, Why I Stayed by Tony and Bart Campolo

**August 22 (Pierro’s)** – Take This Bread by Sara Miles

**September 26 (Ned Devine’s Irish Pub)** – Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke

## PRAYERS

*Do you have an immediate prayer request?*

*There is an intercessory prayer team that prays for all submitted prayer requests each week.*

*Please email any prayer requests to Pastor Abi.*

### **For our members**

- Marcia, Gail, Kerry, Violet, Rob Lynn, Carl, Tom, Nancy, Gazal Chilean, Skip, Nancy Drake, Patty Zerges, Dhana Magness, David Durfee, Larissa Pepler, & June (Jocelyn's daughter) for health
- For Food Pantry donations and volunteers

### **For our parents and families**

- Welcome Haddie June Baron (granddaughter of Sandra Baron) born April 17 at 3:56 am and weighing 8 pounds! Praises!
- Levi during his recovery from surgery.
- Wes (Eva Barcia's uncle) & Bobby Esterline, (Terri Orvis's brother in law) for health
- Sandi (Terri's Orvis's sister), for comfort and strength
- Parents of Lara Fries (Shelby), Jeff Mowery (Fred), Chris Gohrband (Virginia), Terri Orvis, Di Hannum (Dottie) Don & Debbie Fultz (Dorothy), (Beth) Joanna Dietz mom

### **For our friends & neighbors**

- Brian & Eddie, coworkers of Gail
- Tom & Alice, friend of Gail
- David Paranzino, recovery double organ surgery and comfort for Tracy
- Kerry Cathcart, PT hip replacement, friend of Natalie Gohrband
- Josh Wall, friend of Mike Folsom as he recovers from a serious car accident
- Krystal, friend of Joe Mclean

### **For our state, nation, and world**

- Guide teenagers who are considering dropping out to stay in school.
- Israel, Gaza, and other nearby countries for the release of hostages, distribution of food, and an end to the war.
- Give patience, wisdom, understanding, and peace to families with complicated domestic issues.
- Communities dealing with gun violence
- US Military who are being deployed
- Support the people, resources, and leadership of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine
- Facilitate the distribution of food, water, and all humanitarian aid to Sudan
- In solidarity with the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, this week we pray for the people, resources and leadership of **Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.** [The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](http://www.oikoumene.org).
- For the VAUMC delegation preparing for General Conference, including retired pastor, Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn

### **Expression of Christian Sympathy**

- Family of Randy Wakefield, upon his untimely death, friends of the Gohrband's
- Comfort the family of the Dogwood Elementary custodian who passed.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING & UPCOMING DATES

### **SUNDAY, April 21**

In-Person Worship, 8:30 AM  
Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM  
In-Person & Livestream Worship, 10:30 AM  
Confirmation Class, 12 — 1 PM  
Christian Worship Assembly, 1 PM  
Contemplative Worship at Epiphany, 6:45 PM  
Dinner at 6 PM

### **MONDAY April 22**

Food Prep, 11 AM

### **TUESDAY, April 23**

Food Prep, 11 AM  
Food Distribution, 4 — 6 PM  
Vespers, 7 PM  
UMC General Conference begins

### **Wednesday, April 24**

Boy Scouts Meeting, 7 PM

### **Thursday, April 25**

Praise Team 6:30 PM  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM

### **SUNDAY, April 28**

In-Person Worship, 8:30 AM  
Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM  
CasaBru Mar Round Table, 9:45 AM  
In-Person & Livestream Worship, 10:30 AM  
Confirmation Class, 12 — 1 PM  
Youth Cohort, 12 — 1 PM  
Christian Worship Assembly, 1 PM  
Girl Scouts Meeting, 4 — 5 PM  
Mercy Me Concert, 7 PM (GMU)

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 23 — MAY 3**

UMC General Conference in Charlotte, NC

## LEADERSHIP & CONTACT INFORMATION

### ***Ministers - The Entire Congregation***

#### *Leadership Board 2024*

Gwen Zanin, chair | Terri Orvis | Jocelyn Gabriel (Lay Leader) | Greg Carter | Larry Gittings  
Gina Lindquist | Sandra Baron | Bill Huff | Carol Larsen | Abi Foerster

*Music Director:* Dr. Mary Ann East | *Music Accompanist:* Dr. Kelly Nam

*Food Ministry Director:* Hannah Godfrey | *Children & Youth Ministry Director:* Miracle Ryder

*Bookkeeper* — Di Hannum Beatty | *Receptionist* — Tierra Whitlow

*Nursery Care* — Ali Greenberg

*Resident Deacon* — Joanna Dietz ([revjodietz@gmail.com](mailto:revjodietz@gmail.com))

*District Superintendent* — Sarah Calvert | Bishop — Sue Hauptert-Johnson

### ***Community of Faith United Methodist Church***

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Rev. Abi Foerster ([pastor@cofumc.org](mailto:pastor@cofumc.org)) | (703) 887-6952 cell