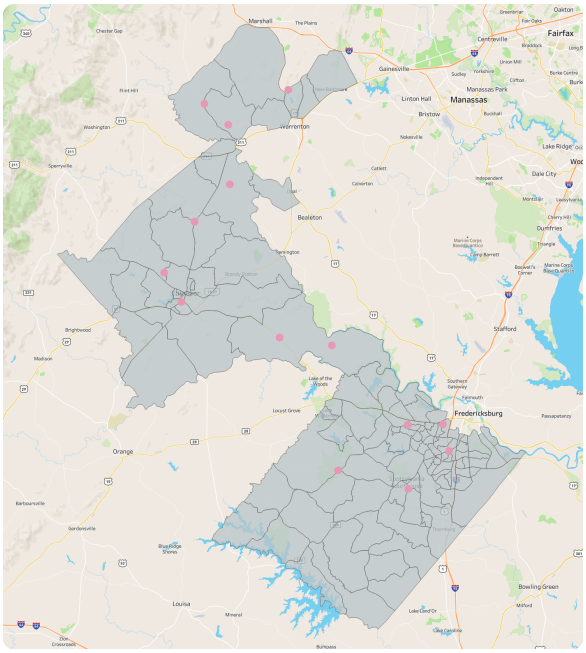
A MICRO-COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Culpeper-Spotsylvania

Rolling Piedmont hills, forested parcels, semi-rural subdivisions, exurban growth corridors



Micro-community shown with block group boundaries

229,201	14	723	11
residents in 2025 238,603 projected by 2030 (+4.1%)	UM churches	average in worship	appointed UM clergy

WE ALREADY KNOW MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS

723 average in worship × **150** Dunbar's Number* = **108,450** Number of people within the Micro-community we may already know

That is 47% of everyone who lives here.

It can seem daunting to reach a community of 229,201. Yet as neighbors we are already within meaningful relationship with about 108,450 of our neighbors.

***Dunbar's number (150)** the number of meaningful relationships a person can sustain, per anthropologist Robin Dunbar — a conservative gauge of a community's existing relational reach.

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WHERE WE CALL HOME

We are a classic Virginia transition zone — where the agricultural legacy of the Piedmont meets accelerating exurban expansion. Culpeper's core remains grounded in small-town tradition and farmland; Spotsylvania's eastern half is defined by suburban sprawl radiating from Fredericksburg. Fauquier's southwest fringe adds Warrenton-area commuter neighborhoods to our fence. Rural churches, historic crossroads, and country stores sit alongside new cul-de-sacs, chain stores, and highway strip malls. Our landscape is threaded with forests, open pasture, and creeks, but is increasingly dotted with townhouses and commuter infrastructure.

THE LIFE WE'VE BUILT

Our lives balance heritage and adaptation. Long-time residents live with deep generational ties to land and tradition, while newcomers among us commute to jobs in Northern Virginia or Fredericksburg along I-95 and US-29. Our two populations — rural and suburban — coexist, often with different rhythms. Access to healthcare, groceries, and services can differ sharply across short distances. Churches, 4-H clubs, high school football, and local markets still hold strong for us even under pressure from shifting demographics and land use. Culpeper Battlefields State Park anchors our heritage identity, and Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center serves as our anchor hospital.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

Our challenges are real and stacked. After nearly five years, Culpeper's rural broadband contract with All Points collapsed in March 2025 with only one home connected out of 4,300 promised — forfeiting more than $30 million in state and private funding. A year later, our Board of Supervisors fired the county administrator and ordered a forensic audit of county finances. Spotsylvania's schools are still stabilizing after years of board conflict, its housing pipeline stacks nearly 8,000 approved units against a Route 3 already carrying 35,000 vehicles daily, and our Culpeper water systems ran under mandatory restrictions through the driest Virginia stretch since 1941.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

Our future is being built even as we argue about its shape. Six data-center campuses are approved or under construction inside the Culpeper Technology Zone — DataBank and CloudHQ started site work in 2026, EdgeCore's 1.4-million-square-foot campus is expected to energize by 2028, and Culpeper Town's minimum-revenue agreements promise $1.5 million per building each year for fifteen years. Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center is investing $37 million to expand its emergency room and add a new freestanding ER by 2028. Culpeper Battlefields State Park keeps adding acres through phased transfers running through 2027.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND HOPE

Hope shows up in people doing work. Downtown Culpeper's Renaissance program grew its façade-grant budget in 2025 and launched a new Business Collaboration Grant in 2026; the town's Culpeper Competes contest backed four local entrepreneurs with $30,000. Our Sips of Culpeper craft-beverage trail was nominated for the International Economic Development Council's top annual honor. Regional partners including the Piedmont Environmental Council helped conserve more than 4,000 acres in 2025, with new easements protecting 700-plus acres at Brandy Station. Our Culpeper Food Closet, staffed by more than 80 volunteers, has served the community since 1984.

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THE CONNECTION

United Methodist Churches

14 congregations – our faithful presence within the micro-community

- **Bethel UMC (Fauquier)**
  6903 Blantyre Rd, Warrenton, 20187-7151
  (540) 347-4874
- **Culpeper UMC**
  1233 Oaklawn Dr, Culpeper, 22701-3331
  (540) 825-0764
- **Eastland UMC**
  10718 Courthouse Rd, Fredericksburg, 22407-7794
  (540) 898-6430
- **Hopewell UMC**
  23557 Lignum Road, Lignum, 22726
  (540) 399-1843
- **Jeffersonton UMC**
  5085 Jeffersonton Rd, Jeffersonton, -22724
  (540) 825-0041
- **Oak Shade UMC**
  9066 Rixeyville Rd, Rixeyville, -22737
  (540) 825-0041
- **Orlean UMC**
  7029 Leeds Manor Rd, Marshall, 20115-2227
  (703) 593-5340
- **Peace UMC**
  801 Maple Grove Dr, Fredericksburg, 22407-6826
  (540) 786-8585
- **Richardsville UMC**
  29235 Richards Ferry Rd, Richardsville, 22736-1950
  (540) 219-1111
- **Shady Grove UMC**
  11007 W Catharpin Rd, Spotsylvania, 22551-5303
  (757) 784-5353
- **Tabernacle UMC**
  7310A Old Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, 22407-8625
  (540) 786-6162
- **Wesley Chapel UMC**
  10023 Wesley Chapel Rd, Marshall, 20115-2149
  (540) 347-6646
- **Woodland UMC**
  14280 Woodland Church Rd, Culpeper, -22701
  (540) 825-0041
- **Zion UMC (Spotsylvania)**
  8700 Courthouse Rd, Spotsylvania, 22553-2513
  (540) 582-6532

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