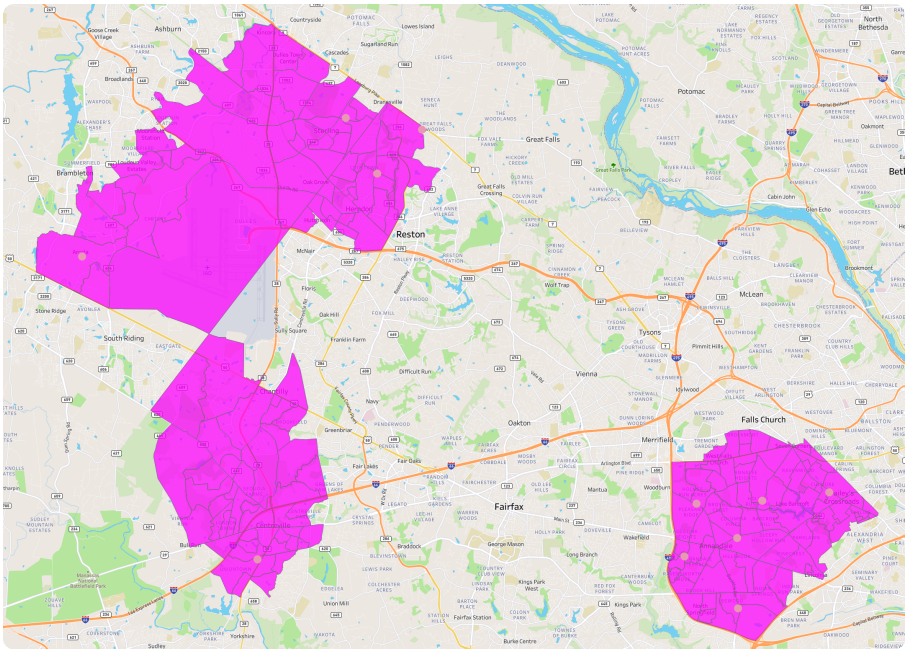
A MICRO-COMMUNITY PORTRAIT

Immigrant Cultural Belt

Suburban density with concentrated multi-unit housing, retail corridors, and business parks.



Micro-community shown with block group boundaries

334,713	12	1,551	18
residents in 2025 350,938 projected by 2030 (+4.8%)	UM churches	average in worship	appointed UM clergy

WE ALREADY KNOW MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS

1,551 average in worship × **150** Dunbar's Number* = **232,650** Number of people within the Micro-community we may already know

That is 70% of everyone who lives here.

It can seem daunting to reach a community of 334,713. Yet as neighbors we are already within meaningful relationship with about 232,650 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 Northern Virginia's immigrant heart, gathered in tight-knit enclaves from Annandale and the Bailey's Crossroads corridor out through Herndon, Chantilly, Centreville, and Sterling. We come from Central America, Korea, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Vietnam, and we have built places that feel like home: Korean markets, Salvadoran pupuserías, Afghan bakeries, and halal grocers often share a single strip mall. Unlike the assimilated suburbs around us, here we live close together on purpose, keeping our languages, our food, and our faiths alive within walking distance of one another.

THE LIFE WE'VE BUILT

Our lives run on family, faith, and hard work. Many of us are multigenerational households where parents work long hours, often more than one job, while investing everything in our children's education. Our mosques, temples, gurdwaras, and churches are not only places of worship but the center of our social world, alongside informal networks that pass along jobs, childcare, and news from home. Our schools teach in many languages, and community centers help us with translation, job training, and the long road to citizenship.

CHALLENGES WE FACE

This past year has been marked by fear. Since early 2025, stepped-up federal immigration enforcement has reached into our neighborhoods — arrests were reported in Herndon, and our own delegates say agents have appeared near school drop-off — leaving many of us anxious about everyday errands, work, and even sending our children to school. That fear compounds older strains: high housing costs push families into crowded, shared homes, language barriers persist, and our elders can grow isolated. We carry on, but more quietly than we used to.

THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING

We are putting down deeper roots, not pulling them up. Our businesses keep reshaping whole corridors — Centreville alone now has more than 100 Korean restaurants — and our second generation is moving into professions and public office. They are investing in us, too: a new Bus Rapid Transit line is being planned along Route 7 through our Culmore and Bailey's Crossroads corridor, and our schools keep expanding dual-language and newcomer programs. Some of our delegates are immigrants themselves, and they are writing our concerns into law.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND HOPE

There is real pride in what we've made. Ours is part of the third-largest Korean American community in the country, and our food and festivals now draw the whole region to us — the 2025 Taste of Annandale filled its civic space with more than 100 vendors and thousands of visitors. Herndon has become known regionally for its Indian restaurants, and one of our own, Del. Irene Shin, now represents us in Richmond. And when enforcement raised fears, county offices and legal-aid groups in Annandale stepped up to help us know our rights.

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THE CONNECTION

United Methodist Churches

12 congregations – our faithful presence within the micro-community

- **Annandale UMC**
  6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003-3458
  (703) 256-8330
- **Arcola UMC**
  24757 Arcola Mills Dr, Dulles, 20166-3402
  (703) 327-7878
- **Centreville UMC**
  6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, 20121-2628
  (703) 830-2684
- **Culmore UMC**
  3400 Charles St, Falls Church, 22041
  (703) 820-5131
- **Dranesville UMC**
  1089 Liberty Meeting Ct, Herndon, 20170-2369
  (703) 430-3137
- **Friendship UMC**
  3527 Gallows Rd, Falls Church, 22042-3527
  (703) 560-5454
- **Herndon UMC**
  701 Bennett St, Herndon, 20170-3105
  (703) 707-6271
- **Korean of Koinonia UMC**
  6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, 20121-2628
  (703) 939-0559
- **New Light UMC**
  7901 Heritage Dr, Annandale, 22003-5201
  newlightumc@outlook.com
- **Saint John's UMC**
  5312 Backlick Rd, Springfield, 22151-3313
  (703) 256-6655
- **Sleepy Hollow UMC**
  3435 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Falls Church, 22044-1006
  (703) 534-6461
- **Sterling UMC**
  304 E Church Rd, Sterling, 20164-2926
  (703) 430-6455

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