



WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
EASTER TIDE • APRIL 20 TO JUNE 8  
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER • FAMILY SUNDAY • MAY 18, 2025

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Ron DeChirico

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Outreach Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Pete Osman

PRELUDE

Sarabande from *Holberg Suite*

Grieg

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing,

**All: Calling us to heal and transform the brokenness and the violence of our world.**

Leader: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing,

**All: Calling us to seek out the lonely and the lost and those who need to experience God's love.**

Leader: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing,

**All: Calling us to be disciples to the world, blessed, healed, and filled with joyous good news!**

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\*Please rise in body or spirit. The people's responses are in **bold type**.

## \*HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

## \*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST



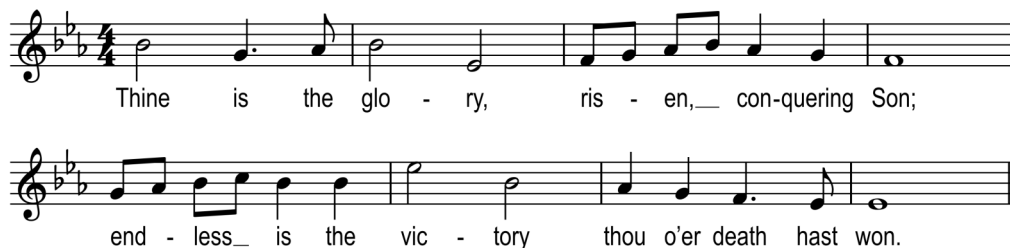
## \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God's promises are trustworthy and true; your sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your love.

## \*GLORIA

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS



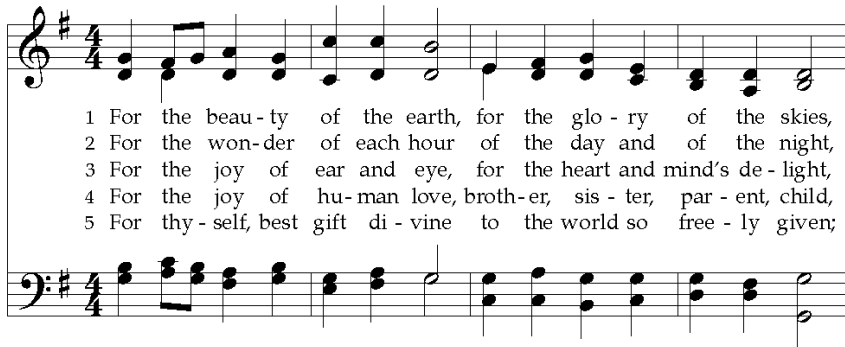
**At this time any and all children through the 5th grade  
are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.**

**(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

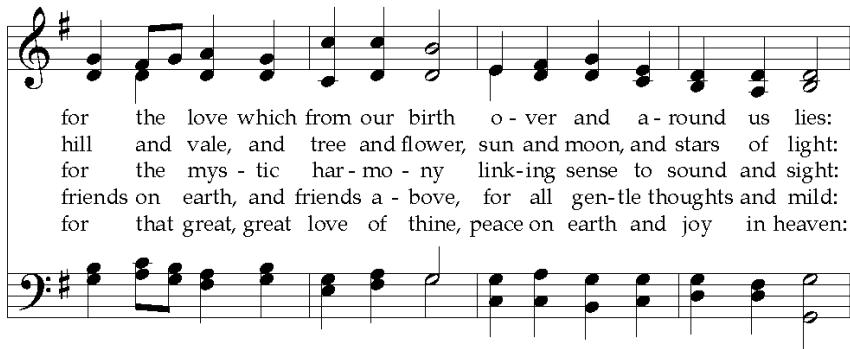
Laura Bechtler

## For the Beauty of the Earth

14



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

## Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

# THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Ron DeChirico

O God of promise, your word made flesh in Jesus Christ is trustworthy and true. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may it rise up in us this day like a gift from the spring of the water of life to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Revelations 21:1-6

Ron DeChirico

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**(9:30) PSALM 148** (responsive)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**All: Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!

**All: Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.

**All: He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**All: fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Leader: Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

**All: Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

(Psalm continues on the next page.)

**All: Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**

**Leader:** Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**All: He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!**

**(11:00) EMBODYING THE PSALM 148:1-6**

WPC Children

**SECOND LESSON:** Acts 11:1-18

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Peter's New Diet"*

Pastor John E. Morgan

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN 317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKEE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967** (unison)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** (unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## 317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -  
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your  
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -  
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the  
 race may be. All chil - dren of the  
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

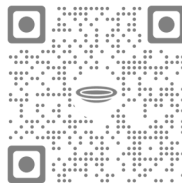
ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. Bechtler

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

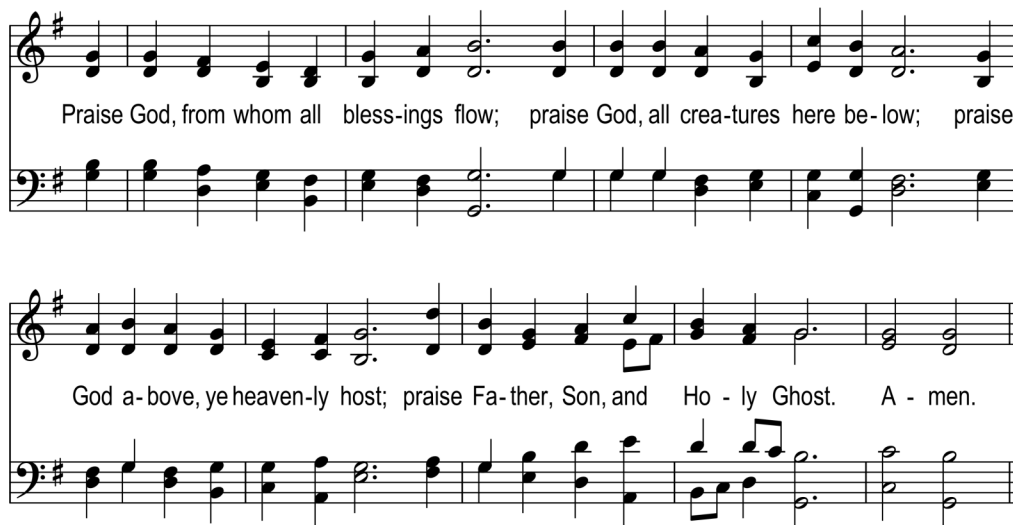
In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again;  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

**\*DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; praise  
God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

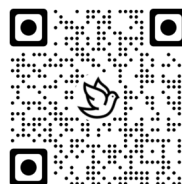
**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

**\*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING**

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship) or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.

**\*HYMN 269**

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**Rigaudon from *Holberg Suite*

Grieg

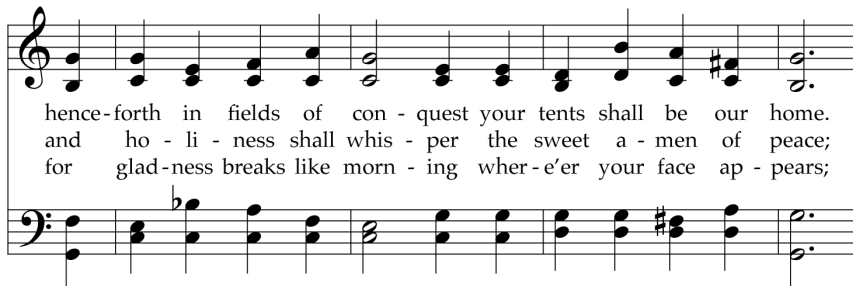
The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.



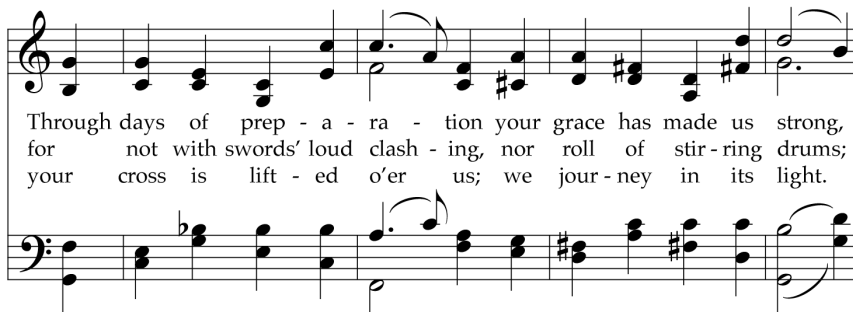
# 269 Lead On, O King Eternal!



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher-e'er your face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.  
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.

## ❧ NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ❧

This morning's organ music is drawn from Edvard Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, a set of five movements based on eighteenth-century dance forms. They were originally written for piano in celebration of the 200th anniversary of a famous Norwegian playwright. Grieg would later adapt them for string orchestra, but they are equally charming on the pipe organ. Throughout his career, Grieg drew inspiration from his native Norwegian folk music. His music is offered today in recognition of Norwegian Independence Day, May 17, by our organist, whose family proudly celebrates their Norwegian heritage.

## ❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents,  
Dot and George Marston and Judy and Ron Peele and  
in honor of their children, Robert, Matthew and Geoffrey by Lisa and Arch Marston.

## ⌘ THOSE SERVING THIS MORNING ⌘

### **PASTOR**

John E. Morgan, Pastor, Head of Staff

Pam Hrnclir, Associate Pastor

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

WPC Chancel Choir

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Melody Dillon, Director of Children and Family Ministries

### **SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN**

Laura Bechtler

### **LITURGIST**

Ron DeChirico

### **GREETER**

9:30am Cheryl Roettger, Ann Schulte

11:00am Gerry Ward, Dick Hubbard

### **USHERS**

9:30am Lynn Newcomer, Karen Lauritzen, Debby Philp, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Jeri Hardy, Ric Cheston, Rebecca Caprio

### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS**

Jim Carey, Copper Perry

### **\*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Bill and Janice McGuire

### **\*WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS:** Roy Knox and John Schoenberger

\*Satellite campuses

## ✧ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ✧

**Children are welcome at WPC!** We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during our 9:30am service. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

## ✧ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ✧

- **In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.**
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

## ✧ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ✧

To share a joy or concern, please visit [www.mywpc.org](http://www.mywpc.org), select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Jo Ann Youhas ([handbellringer2@gmail.com](mailto:handbellringer2@gmail.com)). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

**If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. During the week, please call the church office.**

**Sunday, May 11 – Saturday, May 17 • Pastor John • [jmorgan@mywpc.org](mailto:jmorgan@mywpc.org) • 757-903-7800**

**Please pray for:**

- Denny Yeignst, Bob Siclari, Nell Stowe, and families who have recently lost loved ones.

**Please pray for those:**

- Recovering from various surgeries, who are homebound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by the recent airplane tragedies, affected by the fires in California, still affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, serving our country in leadership roles, affected by the possibility of job loss, homelessness and hunger, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

## ∞ ANNOUNCEMENTS ∞

- **Our summer nursery hours will begin TODAY, May 18.** Throughout the summer, we will only have the nursery open during the 9:30 service. This is a great opportunity for us to engage in intergenerational worship, as we welcome children of all ages into the sanctuary!

On a related note, we are looking for volunteers for summer nursery! Please reach out to Melody Dillon or sign up online to help. Thank you!

- **Calling CE Volunteers!** If you are interested in volunteering with the many WPC children's ministries, please join us **TODAY** at noon in Stevenson Hall for lunch and a volunteer orientation. This workshop will provide information for volunteering with Sunday school, events, Kids Connect, and especially VBS.
- **Christian Outreach Ministry Initiative: "Offering of Letters."** Beginning on Saturday, May 17 and running through May 31, WPC will participate once again in the nationwide effort to urge our elected leaders to support anti-hunger programs. This year's effort urges congressional support of child nutrition programs in the U.S. and abroad. The "Offering of Letters" is a nationwide effort sponsored by the Bread for the World (BFW) organization. BFW is a well-known and established collective Christian voice urging Congress to help end hunger at home and abroad, and is supported by PC(USA). This initiative involves writing letters to our senators and representatives. As a PC(USA) Hunger Action Congregation WPC strives to be a public policy witness for programs such as the "Offering of Letters." We ask that you prayerfully consider participating in this effort.

The Offering of Letters will be conducted virtually via the church website. For participation details, visit [mywpc.org/letters](http://mywpc.org/letters). Contact Jim Winthrop\* or Pete Osman\* with any questions.

- **Summer Sign-Ups for Coffee Fellowship Hosts, Ushers, and Greeters Begin Today!** Have you been looking for an opportunity to share your smile and meet new people on Sunday mornings? Please stop by the tables in Stevenson Hall between services today through June 1st to learn more and sign up to host Coffee Fellowship, Usher, or Greet during the months of June and July. Coffee Fellowship Deacons, Ushers, and Greeters will be available to answer your questions. No previous experience necessary and all ages are welcome!

Feel free to sign up online from the comfort of your home by visiting [mywpc.org/usher](http://mywpc.org/usher), [mywpc.org/greeter](http://mywpc.org/greeter), or [mywpc.org/coffee](http://mywpc.org/coffee) to serve in any of these roles.

- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 2pm in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss *Where I Can't Follow*, by Ashley Blooms.** (The Book Club will not meet in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.)
- **Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025, immediately after the 11:00am worship service.** Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, see Pastor Pam ([phrncir@mywpc.org](mailto:phrncir@mywpc.org)) after the service.
- **The Flourish Tree is ready to bloom!** Inspired by nature, please pick up a flower from the basket or from the friendship register pad and add it to the tree with your response to the question, "*Where is God blossoming in your life and in the world?*"
- **Please start your Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. enjoying a delicious breakfast while you learn more about Williamsburg's Bray School.** In 1760-1774, this school for free and enslaved Black children was located one block from the present location of WPC.

The Community Connections Fellowship Breakfast will welcome Oral Historian Tonia Merideth who will speak on the contemporary community of individuals whose early ancestors attended the Bray

School. Genealogist Elizabeth Drembus will describe her ongoing search to trace the descendants of the Williamsburg Bray School. The re-located Bray School, now on the corner of Francis Street and Nassau Street will open for all visitors on Juneteenth, Thursday, June 19, 2025. Sign up at [mywpc.org/breakfast](http://mywpc.org/breakfast) or the Welcome Center table.

- **Letting the Cat Out of the Bag–The Presbyterian Women invite you to celebrate with us at the annual Birthday Luncheon on Wednesday, May 28!** Enjoy a delightful program about cats in art from Lisa Smith, a volunteer docent at CW and the Muscarelle Museum. Learn more and register at [mywpc.org/pw-spring](http://mywpc.org/pw-spring), or in person in the the back door lobby area.
- **Cookies are still needed: WPC members Michael Smith and C.W. Stacks will join 25 other men from churches throughout eastern Virginia for a Prison Ministry program June 4-8 at the Nottoway Correctional Center.** As part of this ministry, Michael and C.W. will distribute thousands of homemade cookies to all of the prison's inmates, and they need your help.

Cookie Kits are available in the Welcome Center. Each kit has three Ziploc bags and instructions. Cookies need to conform to those instructions and be dropped off at the WPC kitchen no later than Tuesday, June 3. If you drop them off before June 3, please put them in the freezer and label your cookies "Kairos" or "Prison Ministry."

- **Summer Meals for Kids Returns: This program supporting hungry students in the Williamsburg/James City County school system is in its 8th year of service.** Once again, this year we are partnering with Williamsburg Community Chapel, Walnut Hills Baptist, and Williamsburg Baptist churches to prepare lunches for 250 children who are hungry because they are the recipients of meals at school when schools are in session.
  - Volunteering is easy and fun! Please volunteer.
  - Lunches are prepared at the Meals on Wheels location (at WISC, 5700 Warhill Trail)
  - We start at 8:00am and are finished by 10:30am
  - Our teams are responsible for Wednesdays, June 18 - August 20
  - Contributions of home baked cookies for the lunches are also welcome and a great outlet for your baking talents!
  - Donate by making checks payable to Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels (subject line- Summer Meals for Kids) P.O. Box 709, Williamsburg, VA 23187

Learn more and sign up at [mywpc.org/summer-meals](http://mywpc.org/summer-meals). This is a great opportunity to serve those in need. Remember, Jesus said when we help the least of these, we are doing HIS will. It is also a great way to meet fellow Christians and to have fun as you work. **To help feed hungry children this summer, register at [mywpc.org/summer-meals](http://mywpc.org/summer-meals).**

\*Contact information can be found in our online directory.

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at [mywpc.org/news/](http://mywpc.org/news/) or on the church calendar.

☞ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ☞

**SUNDAY, MAY 18 • FISH Food Collection Sunday**

- Helene Mission Trip / NC  
9:30am ONLY Nursery open during 9:30am worship service  
9:30am Sunday School / Christian Education Wing  
9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) to access  
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Listen at FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or [wmbgradio.com](http://wmbgradio.com)  
12:30pm Volunteer Orientation: Children's Ministries and VBS / Stevenson Hall  
3:00pm York River Symphony Orchestra Concert / Sanctuary  
5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

**MONDAY, MAY 19**

- 1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123  
6:00pm WCG Annual Meeting / Stevenson Hall and LL010

**TUESDAY, MAY 20**

- 1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom  
2:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting / Rm 220  
5:30pm Resources Ministry Meeting / Rm 220  
7:00pm Christian Fellowship Committee / Rm 220  
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**

- 6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm  
7:00pm Administration Ministry Meeting / Rm 220  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

**THURSDAY, MAY 22**

- 9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning  
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Stevenson Hall  
6:00pm Confirmation Dinner  
7:00pm Session Meeting / Rm 220

**FRIDAY, MAY 23**

- 10:30am Soul Feast Class / Rm 220

**SATURDAY, MAY 24**

- 12:00pm International OCD Foundation Fundraising / Stevenson Hall and Sanctuary

☞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ☞

**May 25, 2025 • 6th Sunday of Easter**

Pastor John E. Morgan's sermon, "*Down by the Riverside*" will be based on Acts 9-15.