

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **DECEMBER 21, 2025**

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead-show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Scott Stabler

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Christmas Joy Offering

Judy Austin

PRELUDE

Coventry Carol Joyful Ringers

arr. Julie Stitt

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDI F

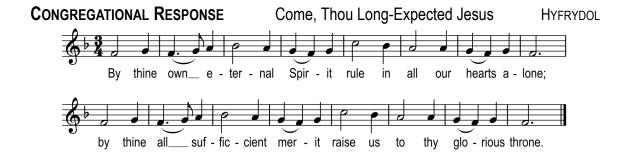
(9:30) Jodie, Gary, Megan & Audrey Davis (11:00) Lynn & Mike Savidis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today we light four candles, their brightness stretches across shadows. Hope, peace and joy blaze together, and now love joins the dance of light. This love is not shallow or fleeting, but deep enough to embrace all creation.

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

Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. Look for the blue sticker on the pews.



PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

O God of steadfast love, you came to us in a manger, not with force but in vulnerability. You call us to love as you love ... boldly, sacrificially, without condition. Teach us to embody your love in word and deed, until the world knows we belong to you.

Once In Royal David's City



Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

*A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God forgives you all your sins. You are God's beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.



On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL



(11:00) 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

Jim Kirkpatrick

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Scott Stabler

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

(9:30) FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

Scott Stabler

This is the Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

(11:00) FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

Esme Tuck

International Children's Bible translation

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (responsive)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

All: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Leader: Stir up your might,

and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

All: You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

Leader: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

All: Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

All: Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

Leader: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

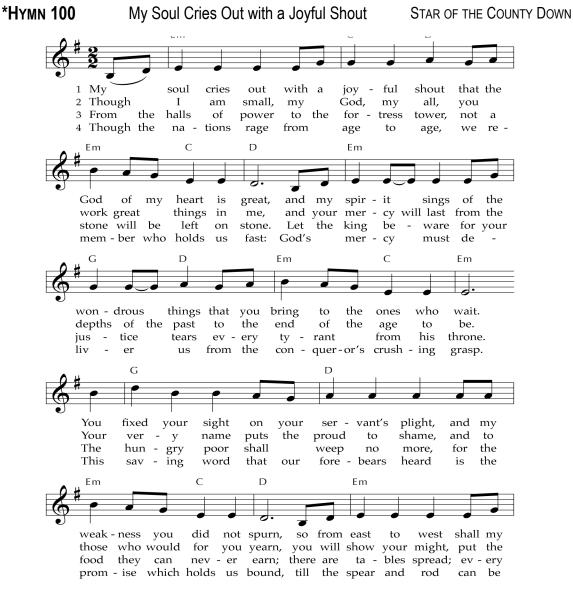
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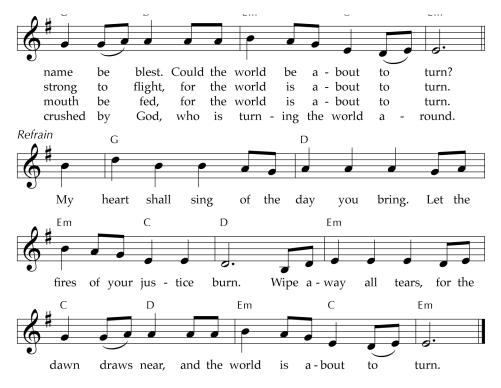
SERMON "Emmanuel" Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

reed ending to the we



By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 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

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth. For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.



*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 <u>mywpc.org/friendship</u> or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.





Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE La Nativité Langlais

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.

>> NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ◆

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" paints a picture of the town of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. The author of the hymn, Phillips Brooks, wrote the text after visiting Bethlehem himself on Christmas Eve in 1865. He rode to Bethlehem on horseback, and made a point of visiting the fields outside the town where, according to tradition, the shepherds heard "the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell." The music we sing today is the tune most popular for this carol in England.

This morning's postlude is a four-movement meditative reflection on the nativity scene. It opens with a tender melody for the crib ("La Creché"), followed by a shimmering, transparent line depicting the angels ("Les Anges"). The piece moves along to a rustic, sturdy tune for the shepherds ("Les Bergers"). It concludes with all three themes woven together, with a new tune recognizing the Holy Family, depicting the scene on Christmas morning. Amidst the hustle of the holiday season, *La Nativité* reminds the listener of the serenity and mystery of the birth of Christ.

Composer Jean Langlais (1907–1991) was one of a number of famous blind French organists in the early and middle parts of the twentieth century. A devout Catholic, he studied at the Paris Conservatoire before launching a career as performer and composer.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ◆

On This Advent Sunday of Joy, the Chancel Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur G. Rodgers III, Jane and David Stabler and in honor of Bell-Jo Rodgers by the Stabler Family.

≫ THOSE SERVING TODAY ≪

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor and Head of Staff

Pam Hrncir. Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Joyful Ringers directed by Chris Bechtler

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES AND SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jim Kirkpatrick

GREETERS

9:30am Molly Lawrence, Jim Winthrop 11:00am Elizabeth Padgett, Tom Moul

USHERS

9:30am Pat Underwood, Rebecca Caprio, David Littell

11:00am Patty Yewcic, Maxine Cunningham, Martha Jean Howell, Rebecca Caprio

Youth Ushers: Kenzie and Ben Eritano, Roan and Jack Kirkpatrick

LITURGIST

Scott Stabler

11:00am Esme Tuck, Youth Reader

CANDLE LIGHTERS

9:30am Jodie, Gary, Megan & Audrey Davis

11:00am Lynn & Mike Savidis

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Jim Carey, Nancy Hylton, Joseph Kinard

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Linda Eichhorn

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Peter Moriarty and Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Roy Knox and John Schoenberger

^{*}Satellite campuses

> WPC Elders, Deacons & Staff ≪

*Moderator **Second Chair

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2026, 2027, 2028

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz

Administration: Larry Pulley* (26), Margie Newcomer (26), Pat Murray (28)

Christian Education: JD Due* (26), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), Megan Davis (28), Len Shartzer (28)

Christian Outreach: CW Stacks* (28), Joseph Kinard (27), Carolyn Morgan (28)

Communications: Ellen Peters* (27)

Facilities: Jerry Howell* (26), Ric Cheston (27), Greg Walton (28)

Resources: Marc Moyers* (27), Jay Eaton (26)

Worship: Becky McKinley* (27) ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Joseph Kinard* (26), Jim Austin (26), Martha Squire (27), Wray Russell (28) Mike Smith (28)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: CLASS OF 2025-26

Moderator: Ric Cheston, Kathy Chamber, Jim Kirkpatrick, Karen Lee, Carolyn Morgan, Nancy Moseley,

Jim Winthrop

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2026, 2027, 2028

Moderator: Eric Beckhusen (26) Vice-Moderator: Julia Smith (27)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor

Secretary: Robin Sabo (26)

CARE TEAMS

Care Connections: Jennifer LaDow** (26), Skip Perry (28), Patty Yewcic (28)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Barbara Smith** (28)

Williamsburg Landing: Carolyn Lodzieski** (26)

Windsor Meade: Martha Burian** (26), Jack Snell (28)

MINISTRY TEAMS

Celebrations and Concerns: Laura Osman** (27), Barb Timko (28)

Christian Fellowship: Bev Whitley** (27), Dave McLain (26) Jim Carey** (27), Jane Snyder (28), Steve Young (28)

Flower Sharing: Leigh Sutherland** (26), Carol Thomas (26), Linda Stewart (28)

New Member: Eric Beckhusen** (26), Rodney Lawrence (27)

Memorial Receptions: Rebecca Caprio** (26), Karen Lauritzen (27), Julia Smith (27), Cheryl Roettger (28)

Memorial Services: Ford Moseley** (27), Jack Lassiter (27), Kathy Chambers (27), Bruce Graham (28)

STAFF

Pastoral Staff: John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff; Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care Program Staff: Melody Dillon, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Caroline Johnston, Director of Collegiate Ministries.

Music Staff: Chris Bechtler, Director of Music; Norman Elton, Organist, Assistant Director of Music;

Rebecca Elton, Junior Carol Choir Director

Administrative Staff: Stephen Foster, Director of Finance and Administration; Vanessa Gamble, Church Secretary;

Martha Reier, Administrative Assistant; Sherry Volk, Director of Communications; Barbara Walker, Accounting

Assistant

Facility Staff: Elbert Fleming, Facility Manager; Hugh Jamerson, Sexton

Audio Booth: John Schoenberger, Technician

≈ 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 both services. Sharing Faith with Children returns to our 11am 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!

№ YOUTH STATEMENT ≪

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us every Sunday evening for WPC Youth Group! We meet from 5:30-7:00pm and enjoy dinner, singing, and a variety of activities from Bible study to Gaga Ball.

High schoolers in 9th-12th grade are invited to join for a midweek Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. Please reach out to Melody Dillon with any questions.

≈ FAMILY STATEMENT ≪

Every 3rd Sunday is WPC Family Sunday! However, this month our children are busy planning and rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Pageant. We look forward to celebrating Family Sunday together again in the new year!

During Sunday School, families are invited to gather upstairs in Room 227 for coffee, breakfast treats, and informal conversation and community building. Then, during the 11:00am service, all kids in preschool-5th grade are invited to sit together and help lead the congregation in Embodying the Psalm.

> T-LOOP ENABLED ≪



Did you know you can receive amplified sound in the Sanctuary with a t-loop enabled hearing aid? The "loop" signal is strongest in certain pews along the center aisle. Look for the blue symbol pictured here.

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.
- •The monthly grief support group resumes meeting the first Wednesday of the month, at 10am in room 227 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.
- •Caregivers Support Group meets weekly Mondays at 1:00pm in room 222 on the second level.

→ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES <</p>

To share a joy or concern, please visit 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*.

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.

Pastor-on-Call

Sunday, December 21 – Saturday, December 27 Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

Please pray for:

- Fran Shannon, granddaughter of Gene and Ellen D'Orsogna, and other Peace Corp workers in Tanzania during this turbulent time there.
- Robin Midlam (Cheyenne, WY), sister of Jodie Davis; Terry Hancock, 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 natural disasters, affected by the recent government shut down, serving in the military services and their families; serving our country in leadership roles, experiencing homelessness and hunger; affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

≫ FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY ≪

The Fourth Sunday of Advent brings us to the threshold of Christmas as we reflect on the theme of love and the final preparations for Christ's coming.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- Pastor John E. Morgan will spending time with family Thursday, December 25, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026. During this time, Pastor Pam will serve as Deacon-on-Call.
- Special Thanks to the WPC Christmas decorating elves for decorating WPC December 12 while getting a little help from Floral Guild Chair, Ruth Cobb, from a hospital bed! They all came together, remembering what needed to be done with some special help from Linda Eichhorn and others.
- Poinsettia Pick ups Poinsettias may be taken AFTER the 10 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. Thanks to all who purchased poinsettias to beautify and enhance our Christmas season.
- Christmas Joy Offering 2025: Each year at Christmas time, we share in the special offering
 called "Christmas Joy." Your gifts to Christmas Joy Offering provide life-giving assistance to pastors
 and church workers who are facing unexpected and critical financial need. It also helps to fund
 schools and colleges, and provides scholarships for communities of color to pursue higher
 education and grow in faith.
 - In this season of hope, please prayerfully consider giving generously to this special offering. Envelopes are in the bulletin. Checks may be made out to WPC with "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. You may also give online at the WPC website. Thank you for your continued support of this caring mission.
- The nursery will be closed during the 11am service from December 23-January 18. Our wonderful college student staff are home on break, so the nursery will be staffed by volunteers and only open from 9:15am-10:45am. Children are always welcome in the service! Thank you for understanding.
- Gift of Christmas 2025 continues! This is an opportunity to make a donation to one of the 19 charities that will be listed this year. Most of these are local programs that you are very familiar with, but a few listed are not based locally but still serve Virginia residents. The Gift of Christmas is a way for you to honor your families, grandchildren and friends by giving a gift in their name to one of the helping organizations that is listed in the insert included in the Sunday bulletins through December. With each donation, you will receive a Christmas angel ornament along with a card that you can give to the person you are remembering. For more information contact Karen Annoni*.
- Children's Ministry is GROWING and needs your help! During the school holidays, our college students who work in the nursery are enjoying a well-deserved break. Therefore, we need your help in the nursery from now through January 22 during the 9:30am service only. Your wisdom, experience, and knowledge are such a blessing to our families. The only qualification needed for this role is a heart for children! Please go to mywpc.org/nursery to sign up or contact Melody Dillon (mdillon@mywpc.org).

- One last chance to show off your WPC "Spirit!" WPC car magnets are still available to purchase, in order to show off your "WPC Spirit!" If you would like to purchase a car magnet for \$4, please reach out to Jodie Davis, or see Martha Reier in the Church Office.
- The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 2pm in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss *American Passage: The History of Ellis Island*, by Vincent J. Cannato.
- The Flower Calendar For 2026 Has 8 Openings. They are May 31, July 5, August 2, August 23, November 1, November 8, and November 29. The Master Flower Calendar for 2026 is in the back of Stevenson Hall. Fill in the required information by the date of your choice. Contact Ruth Cobb if you require further information.
- Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2026, immediately after the 11:00am worship service. Come and enjoy great food and 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, reach out to Pastor Pam (phrncir@mywpc.org) after the service this morning.
- Volunteers Needed: Our neighbor church, The Historic First Baptist Church of Williamsburg is gearing up for a busy celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country. They are expecting that many people will want to visit the first Baptist church for enslaved and free blacks established in 1776 in the country. They are looking for volunteers from area churches to serve as greeters in 2026. The tour schedule will be every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Church Office. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor John.

*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 or on the church calendar.

Volunteers Needed for Homeless Shelter

WPC is hosting the Community of Faith Mission Homeless Shelter this year from January 4 to January 11, 2026. Three other Williamsburg churches will staff the shelter and provide meals for four nights/mornings. We will need WPC volunteers for the shelter the other three nights/mornings, January 4-5, January 5-6, and January 10-11.

We will also help St Martin's Episcopal and Life Church to staff their shelters for one night/morning during their shelter weeks. We need volunteers to staff the shelter for five nights (and the following mornings):

- December 22, 2025 (at Life Church);
- January 4, Jan 5, Jan 10, 2026 (WPC) and;
- January 20, 2026 (at St Martin's Episcopal).

There are four shifts for each night:

- Shift 1--kitchen volunteers to prepare and serve dinner from 5 pm to 9 pm;
- Shift 2--check-in from 5 pm to 9 pm;
- Shift 3--overnight from 9 pm to 2 am (the next day) and 2 am to 7:30am
- Shift 4--breakfast and checkout from 5:00 am to 7 30 am (the next day)

Please sign up for a shift using Sign-Up Genius at: mywpc.org/shelter You may also contact Jim Winthrop* or Joe Avellar* to sign up.

>> THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ◆

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY • DECEMBER 21

11:00am Nursery open during 11am worship service
9:30am Sunday School / Christian Education Wing

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access 11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 222

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00am Christmas Pageant Family Service*

8:00pm Candlelight Service*

10:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church Office is closed for the Holiday

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office is closed for the Holiday. We will reopen on Monday, December 29.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27



> CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 ←

11:00am • Christmas Pageant Family Service*
8:00pm • Candlelight Service*
10:00pm • Candlelight Communion Service+

> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ◆

December 28, 2025 • 1st Sunday of Christmas

Pastor Pam will be leading A Service of Lessons and Carols

*Services will be live-streamed on mywpc.org & viewable any time +Service broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com