

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMASTIDE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS **DECEMBER 28, 2025**

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Loving God, as we celebrate your birth this Christmastide, may we continue looking for you in the world around us. As you did with Simeon, help our eyes to see your salvation, and may that lead us to ever more praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Pam Hrncir

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Ken Keating

PRELUDE

Good People All, This Christmas Time

arr. Shows

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen, Leader:

All: longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts, Leader:

All: that this world can change for the better.

Here, in the stillness of a winter's day, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that Leader:

shines in the darkness

We gather in the wonder of Christmastide to share our joy and thanks for new life All:

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.

Angels We Have Heard On High



This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: As we celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior, let us acknowledge our failure to receive him fully into our world, trusting in the mercy of God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The angel said to Joseph, "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Indeed, he did and still does. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.



(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.

(9:30) SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Lucy Laine Hartzog, daughter of Madeline Sibley Hartzog and Zachary Hartzog, granddaughter of members Karol and Jerry Sibley.

Sung Response by Choir and Congregation:

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

THE WORD: A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Scott Stabler

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.

FIRST REFLECTION "It's Still Christmas" Rev. Pam Hrncir

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

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

Thanks be to God!

CAROL • HYMN 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem St. Louis

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-4

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

Thanks be to God!

CAROL • HYMN 144 In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM

THIRD LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23

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

Thanks be to God!



FOURTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

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

Thanks be to God!

SECOND REFLECTION

Rev. Pam Hrncir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 112

On Christmas Night All Christian Sing SUSSEX CAROL Chris - tians sing, 1 On Christ - mas night all to hear the Then why should we earth sad, Re be since our on When sin de - parts be fore his grace, then life and 4 All dark - ness have light, which the out of we made (G) (A) (D) (G) Вþ ВЬ C F bring; news the gels on Christ - mas night all an glad; why deem er made us then should we on place; health come in its when sin de - parts be an gels sing this night; all out dark - ness (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D) Вþ C F C F Chris - tians sing, hear news the an - gels bring, to earth be sad, since our deem er made us glad, fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place; sing have light, which made the gels this night: we an (A) (Em) (D) (A) C Gm F C of great joy, news of mirth, news great when from sin he set free, our us heav and earth with joy sing, en may "Glo to God in high est heaven; ry (G) (G) (D) (A) (D) ВЬ F ВЬ C F of ci ful King's birth. news our mer all for to gain our lib er ty? all for to the King. see new born earth and good - will. Α men!" peace on

The words of this carol first appeared in 1684 in a collection by an Irish bishop, Luke Wadding. Whether they were his own work or something gleaned from popular use is not clear. The tune name recalls that the tune was collected in 1904 from Mrs. Verrall of Monk's Gate, Sussex.

TEXT: English carol MUSIC: English carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1912

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: I DO BELIEVE (unison)

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never overcome it.

I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.

I believe that on a night in Bethlehem there was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

I believe the kingdom of God will increase with Jesus' unique peace—there will be no end.

The zeal of the God of hosts will do this. This I surely believe!

Adapted from Rev. Bruce Prewer, Uniting Church Australia, "Christmas Affirmation of Faith." bruceprewer.com. Used with permission of the author.

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, forever. 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

Mary, Did You Know Katherine Bechtler and Sumner Long

Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you?

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man?
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God?
Oh Mary did you know?

The blind will see,
The deaf will hear,
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap,
The dumb will speak,
The praises of the Lamb.

Will one day rule the nations?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am?



*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.





Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Joy to the World

Phillips

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.

"Mary, Did You Know" by Buddy Greene and Mark Lowry © 1991, 1993 Rufus Music; Curb World Music CCLI License no. 1248418

≫ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ≪

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Bill, sister, Sandra Ward and brother-in-law, Williams D. Whittaker by Barbara Brink.

THOSE SERVING TODAY ≪

PASTOR

Pam Hrncir. Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Katherine Bechtler and Sumner Long

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Melody Dillon

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

GREETERS

9:30am Molly Lawrence

11:00am Bruce Powell, Jay Hardy

USHERS

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, Rebecca Caprio, John VanAken

11:00am Jeri Hardy, Martha Jean Howell, Donna Powell, Rebecca Caprio

LITURGIST

Ken Keating

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Cherie Wodarski, Karol Sibley, Sarah Smith

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Bill & Janice McGuire

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Peter Moriarty and Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dick Sahlen 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! 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 28 – Saturday, January 3, 2026 Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

 WPC member Judy Garret on the death of her husband, WPC member Bernie (Lloyd) Garrett, who went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Friday, December 19, 2025. A Memorial Service will be held at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church at 1pm followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall. Pastor Pam is officiating.

Joy:

Peace has returned to Tanzania.

Please pray for:

• 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.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- Pastor John E. Morgan is spending time with family through Friday, January 2, 2026. During this time, Pastor Pam will serve as Pastor-on-Call.
- The nursery is closed during the 11am service until January 18, 2026. 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.
- Join us for PEVA's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. worship service on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 3:00pm at Wycliffe Presbyterian Church, 1445 N. Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach VA 23454. The PEVA Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Wycliffe Presbyterian Church and PEVA's Peacemaking Ministry Team are hosting this wonderful service. Interested in carpooling OR riding the WPC bus? Sign-up at the table by the back door. We will leave WPC at 1:30pm.
- 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 3, 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 to the shelter for the other three nights/mornings, January 4-5, January 5-6, and January 10-11.

We will also help St Martin's Episcopal to staff its shelter for one night/morning during its shelter week.

We need volunteers to staff the shelter for four nights (and the following mornings):

- 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 <u>5 pm to 9 pm</u>;
- 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 <u>5:00 am to 7 30 am</u> (the next day)

Several shifts are full, but openings remain. 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 ◆

1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS • DECEMBER 28

11:00am Nursery open during 11am worship service 9:30am Adult Sunday School / Lower Level Rooms

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 29

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 222

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Church Office is closed for the Holiday

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Church Office is closed for the Holiday. We will reopen on Monday, January 5.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3