



*Williamsburg*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

*Prepare the Way for the Lord*

**Week 1: Light in Dark Places**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

*Praeludium on “Veni Emmanuel”*  
(Marilyn Biery)

INTROIT

*Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*  
(Eleanor Daley)

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The day shall come when all creation seeks the Lord.

**We wait, in hopeful expectation for the good news God is unfolding.**

God has shown us the way to walk in faithfulness and truth.

**We listen to what is revealed in the prophets and in the life of Christ, following his way as we await the fullness of God’s reign.**

Our God calls us to turn from violence and division so all people can live in everlasting peace.

**We will beat our guns into garden tools and turn our efforts from waging war to seeking shalom.**

O people of God, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**Lead us through this darkness, God, trusting that in your goodness all shadows are penetrated by your light, all troubles calmed in your peace, and all of life redeemed in your love. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

213 (red book)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In the wilderness, the prophet Isaiah cried, “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

**In Advent, we prepare the way for God to show up in our world and in our lives.**

Even when the world feels uncertain, we trust the promise that Jesus is coming to make all things new.

**We prepare the way of the Lord, trusting that God is our hope.**

We light this candle as a sign of our hope in God’s coming kingdom.

**May Christ, the Light of the world, shine in the midst of this world’s darkness.**

HYMN

*Advent Candle Song*  
(Anthony Kouri Williams)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 (631 OT)  
The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Advent Message*  
(Martin How)

Sanctuary Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*Where Children Belong*

(11:00)

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.**

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 am, Grades K-3 are invited to Children’s Worship in the Godly Playroom (215) to encounter God in story, song, and creativity. Our Nursery, located in Rm. 207, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services and Sunday School.

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SECOND SCRIPTURE READING                   | Matthew 24:36-44 (27 NT)                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
|                                            | Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!                                                                                                                                                              |                       |
|                                            | <b>Thanks be to God.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
| MESSAGE                                    | “Prepare the Way”                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rev. Madison Ailinger |
| *HYMN                                      | <i>Toda La Tierra</i>                                                                                                                                                                                      | 210 (red book)        |
| A MODERN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH              |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 885 (red book)        |
|                                            | Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is one true church,<br>apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:                                                                                |                       |
|                                            | <b>We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love,<br/>whose mercy is over all his works,<br/>and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good.</b>                               |                       |
|                                            | <b>We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift<br/>of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope,<br/>and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.</b>             |                       |
|                                            | <b>We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives,<br/>whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ,<br/>and find strength and help in time of need.</b>         |                       |
|                                            | <b>We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love<br/>as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end<br/>that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.</b> |                       |
| PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| THE LORD’S PRAYER                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 895 (red book)        |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| OFFERING AND OFFERTORY                     | <i>Prepare the Royal Highway<br/>(Paul Manz)</i>                                                                                                                                                           | organ                 |
| *DOXOLOGY                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 94 (red book)         |
| PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| *HYMN                                      | <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>                                                                                                                                                                            | 211 (red book)        |
| *DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                       |
| CHORAL BENEDICTION                         | <i>Seven-fold Amen<br/>(Peter Christian Lutkin)</i>                                                                                                                                                        | Sanctuary Choir       |
| POSTLUDE                                   | <i>Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”<br/>(Andrew Carter)</i>                                                                                                                                                      |                       |

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God in memory of  
Joseph Pasquarello & Jessica Anne Pasquarello Vashaw by Cheryl Pasquarello.

# THIS WEEK AT WUMC



## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We're delighted to have you with us! Between services, follow the signs to our Fellowship Area for coffee, connection, and our Kids Corner. We'd love to welcome you and answer any questions you may have. We're honored you chose us to worship with today!

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the Narthex (or ask an usher for help). If you have a "t-coil" switch on your hearing aid, you may be able to simply activate the t-coil switch. If that does not work, use one of the listening devices with a loop instead of the headphones. The loops are in the basket next to the devices. Just leave the headphones and plug in the loop instead. *Please leave devices on the cabinet where you picked it up; do not put it back in the basket. That helps us know the batteries need to be charged.*

## DEAR CONGREGATION:

As Christmas approaches, we invite you to join us in expressing gratitude to our dedicated church staff through our traditional Love Offering. Our staff embodies Christ's love, working tirelessly for our community.

Your contribution, whether a card, gift, or donation, will make a meaningful impact. Please mark all contributions for the "Staff Love Offering." You can place them in the Sunday offering plate, mail to the church (500 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg 23185), or donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/wumcstaff> now through December 31.

May this Christmas season be a time of abundant blessings, shared love, and profound gratitude. Thank you for being a vital part of our church family and for contributing to the warmth and unity that define our Community in Christ.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Blessings, Williamsburg UMC Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee



## **ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS December 1 & 3 @ 9:30am | Fellowship Hall**

Come experience sessions crafted with care, featuring heart-boosting chair aerobics, muscle-strengthening light weight training, and equilibrium-enhancing balance exercises.

## **MESSIAH CONCERT AT WUMC**

**Friday, December 5, 7:00pm Saturday, December 6, 5:00pm**

**Featured Soloists: Michelle Trovato, soprano; Cecelia McKinley, contralto; Ian Lane, tenor; Branch Fields, bass**

## **DAILY DEVOTIONALS?**

Wanna receive daily devotionals in your email during special times of the year like Advent and Lent? Visit [www.tinyurl.com/wumc-devotional](http://www.tinyurl.com/wumc-devotional) and share your email address!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SAVE THE DATES**



Local Outreach will collect hats, socks and gloves for children throughout Advent. Donated items will be delivered to FISH for distribution to local children in need. Bring items to church and place them under the Christmas tree set up near the Welcome Desk. Question? Contact Sherry Phipps (757) 810-4658.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY MESSY CHURCH December 9 @ 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall** This Christmas edition, Away in a Messy Manger, features free play, crafts, worship celebration, and delicious meal. New this year will be a Christmas Gift Making Fair.

**CAROLS 'ROUND THE CHRISMON TREE December 10 – 6:00pm | Atrium** All ages join together in singing music that tells the story of the Nativity.

**FESTIVE BREAKFAST FOR ALL December 13 – 8:30am | Fellowship Hall**

Experience the “Joy of Christmas” with breakfast and a jazz quartet from Lafayette High School. Cost: \$15 per person. Sponsored by the United Methodist Men



**MODERN WORSHIP PREVIEW SERVICE December 14 @ 9:30am | Fellowship Hall** Help us prepare for the new Modern Worship Service by joining in this preview service.

**YOUTH OUTING Ice Skating & More December 14 @ 12:30pm |**

**Youth Room** Youth grades 6-12 are invited to celebrate Christmas with lunch, games, and decorating cookies followed by ice skating in Merchant's Square! Cost: \$5.

**RESPITE CARE CHRISTMAS CONCERT December 14, 2:00-3:00pm | Sanctuary**

Bring family and friends to celebrate the season along with the Bell Choirs, Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, and Organ. Following the concert, join us in the Respite Room from 3:00 to 4:00pm for a reception with cookies and beverages. The concert will benefit the Respite Care program. Attendance is free; donations are welcome.”

# WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## ADVENT OFFERING & ALTERNATIVE GIFT OPTION

Prayerfully consider financially supporting the organizations chosen by your Local & Global Outreach Committees. The worthy causes this year include:

- **Community of Faith Mission** is a shelter program that works with partners like WUMC to serve those experiencing homelessness in Greater Williamsburg during the coldest months of the year.
- **Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center** cares for Greater Williamsburg's uninsured and medically under-served by providing quality, cost-effective, coordinated and preventative health and dental care, regardless of ability to pay.
- **Project ARK** challenges human trafficking by equipping and restoring livelihood and dignity through the construction trade while building quality, affordable family homes in Cambodia.
- **Virginia Peninsula Food Bank** distributes food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition, and encourage self-reliance through education.
- **World Central Kitchen** distributes food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition, and encourage self-reliance through education.

Your gift to the general Advent Offering will be equally divided among these projects. Consider the Alternative Gift Option. Make a gift of at least \$25 to any of the organizations above, we'll provide a greeting card that you can then gift to a loved one, noting that you gave a gift in their honor to support that mission (i.e. if you give \$75, we'll give you 3 cards). Give online at [williamsburgumc.org/advent/](http://williamsburgumc.org/advent/) Questions? Contact Deacon Troy

## CARE COMMITTEE

The CARE Committee is a dedicated group of volunteer members who provide rides to medical appointments, meals for the sick, and funeral receptions. Our December Coordinators are Judi French (757) 810-2925 and Mary Liz Sadler (757) 229-8063. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.

## CREATION CARE TEAM

Buying Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate supports living wages for farmers and helps lift families out of poverty. Fair pay also allows communities to care for their land sustainably. Look for Fair Trade items at many grocery stores, Ten Thousand Villages, or online from Fair Trade-certified retailers. A simple purchase becomes an act of justice and creation care.



## CLASSES

### CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY - An Advent Study Sundays, November 23, December 7, 14, & 21, 2:00-3:30pm; OR Tuesdays, November 25, December 2, 9, & 16, 10:30-noon

Charlie Brown exclaimed, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Maybe you've felt this way at times when being confronted with the way our culture approaches Christmas. Join Deacon Troy for a 4-week Advent Study as we let Mike Slaughter's book, Christmas is Not Your Birthday, help us navigate the Christmas season. Register now at [tinyurl.com/advent-bday](http://tinyurl.com/advent-bday).

**PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD - Pastors' Advent Study - continues**  
**Wednesday December 3, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171**  
**Thursday December 4, 10:30-12:00pm | Zoom**

**FAITHFUL - Marvin Willard Sunday School**  
**4 Sundays beginning today, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 174**

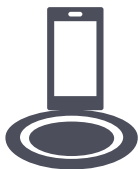
Join the Marvin Willard Sunday School to examine Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Using Adam Hamilton's book of the same name, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own, encountering and working through circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves.

**VOICES OF ADVENT - Searchers Sunday School**  
**4 Sundays starting today, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303**

Searchers Sunday School invites you to listen to the voices of Advent in preparation for Christ's coming! Listen to Jesus' promises, John the Baptist's preaching, and to faithful people, poets, and angels who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus' birth and praise God. You'll hear hope. For more information on any of the classes, contact Deacon Troy Sims [tsims@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:tsims@williamsburgumc.org).

## WAYS TO GIVE

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give..." 2 Corinthians 9:7*



### TEXT TO GIVE

"GIVETOWUMC" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. You do not need an account to give; simply text your gift amount in any format (\$10, 10, 10.00). Receipts are sent via email.

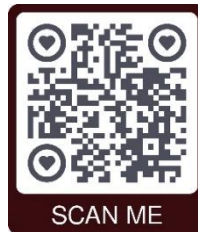
### CASH/CHECK

Donations can be made via our collection plate on Sundays, mail, or the church office Mon - Fri. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and makes a real difference in the lives of those

we serve!

### Giving Makes an Impact

Your generosity changes lives and empowers ministries. Visit our Resources page at [williamsburgumc.org/articles](http://williamsburgumc.org/articles) to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.



## CONNECT



**WEBSITE** [WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG)  
**INSTAGRAM** [@INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA](https://www.instagram.com/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA)  
**FACEBOOK** [@FACEBOOK.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMC](https://www.facebook.com/WILLIAMSBURGUMC)

### SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED? SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST  
FOR THE LATEST NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND  
WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT WUMC.

# TODAYS SERVICE LEADERS

**Worship Leaders:** Madison Ailinger, Brian Johnson, Troy Sims, Zach Griggs

**Director of Worship Arts:** Lou-Anne Smith

**Organist:** Tom Marshall

**Lighting the Advent Candle 8:15:** Bradley Sperl, Alexis Barton **11:00:** Becky Naramore, Susannah Naramore

**Readers 8:15:** Linda Upshaw **11:00:** Ben Ailinger

**Acolyte 11:00:** Sadie Yaneza, James Foley

**Greeters 8:15:** Steve Tingen **11:00:** Cindy Banek, Linda Logerwell

**Ushers 8:15:** Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalonnies Hoover, Monty Mason, Michael Johnson, Cindy Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Drew Alexander, Val Dobson, Van Dobson, Walter Hall, Greg Johnson, Bonnie Knizatko, John Tressler, JD Tressler

**Sound and Livestream:** Jimmy McCarter, Todd Lindley, Josh Clayton

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737740, Williamsburg UMC CCLI #3168974 CCS/WCL #12349. All rights reserved.*

**Nov. 23 Worship Attendance Total 487**

**In Person 11:00am 240**

**In Person 8:15am 170**

**Virtual 77**

**Deadline for Bulletin Submissions:  
MONDAY, NOON**

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds  
[nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org).

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Madison Ailinger, **Pastor of Congregational Care** (x114)

Mary Ellen Baker, **Finance Manager** (x106)

Ellen Bushman, **Respite Care Director** (x118)

Josh Clayton, **Digital Media Specialist** (x107)

Zach Griggs, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)

Brian Johnson, **Lead Pastor** (x110)

Thomas Marshall, **Organist** (757 713-0584)

Laura Pittman, **Director Kid's Morning Out** (x113)

Nancy Reynolds, **Engagement and Administrative Coordinator** (x104)

Michelle Roy, **Director of Congregation & Community Engagement** (x103)

Ellen Simon, **Bookkeeper** (x116)

Troy Sims, **Minister of Discipleship** (x108)

Lou-Anne Smith, **Director of Worship Arts** (x105)

Greg Whiteside, **Director of Facilities** (x101)

Anthony Williams, **Assoc. Director Worship Arts, Director Early Childhood Music** (x115)

Ryan LaRock, **Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation** (757 201-8850)

**WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
500 JAMESTOWN RD | WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185  
(757) 229-1771**