



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Week 3: My Soul Magnifies the Lord

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Good People All
(Brian Childers)

Koinonia Belles (8:15)

Now the Green Blade Riseth
(Kevin McChesney)

Covenant Ringers (11:00)

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord
(Eleanor Daley)

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest of all mountains, and all peoples will draw near to learn the ways of the Lord.

We gather in search of God's light - so that we may walk in the paths of peace.

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, for God's favor rests upon you."

We gather in the name of the God who is always faithful, trusting that the God who cared for Mary will also care for us.

Mary sang, "My soul magnifies the Lord, for the Mighty One has done great things!" We lift our voices along with Mary - rejoicing in God's mercy, justice, and steadfast love.

May Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, shine on us, shape us, and lead us in God's way of peace.

*HYMN

People Look East

202 (red book)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

From the prophet we hear, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom."

We prepare the way of the Lord, the one who brings life and love in the most unexpected places.

Even in waiting, even in uncertainty, God's joy cannot be contained.

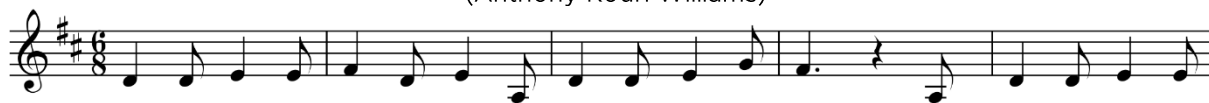
We prepare the way of the Lord, trusting that God's joy cannot be contained.

We light this candle, rejoicing in the goodness of God who draws near.

May Christ, the Light of the world, shine in the midst of this world's darkness

HYMN

Advent Candle Song
(Anthony Kouri Williams)



Ev - ery year we gath - er round to wor-ship near and far The Prince of Peace is



com - ing soon The light we see a - far. Pre - pare our hearts__ minds and souls to



make room in our lives. Now let us burn this light of joy to shine bright through the night!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10 (663 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

All Praise to Thee
(Elaine Hagenberg)

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

Luke 1:26-56 (56 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Prepare the Way"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

Like a Child

2092 (black book)

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

883 (red book)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and Risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

895 (red book)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Fantasy on Noël Nouvelet
(Theodore Ripper)

organ

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

94 (red book)

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

221 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come to Thee
(15th cent. French; arr. Thomas Helmore)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary on 'Regent Square'
(Daniel Burton)

organ

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God by Bob & Margaret Hershberger
in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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.*



MODERN WORSHIP PREVIEW SERVICE Today @ 9:30am |

Fellowship Hall Help us prepare for the new Modern Worship Service by joining in this preview service.

YOUTH OUTING Ice Skating & More Today @ 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 Today @ 2:00-3:00pm | Sanctuary

This beautiful, free, family-friendly concert will feature the WUMC Sanctuary Orchestra, Sanctuary Choir, Covenant Ringers, and Koinonia Belles, as well as Tom Marshall on the organ. Come sing Christmas Carols and get in the spirit of the holidays. Donations are appreciated and will benefit the Respite Care program. The concert will be followed by a reception from 3:00pm to 4:00pm in the Respite Care Room. Can't attend? Donations may be made using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/givetorespice>

ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS December 15 & 17 @ 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.

SERVICE OF HOPE AND LIGHT December 17, Noon & 6:00pm | Atrium

This service recognizes that for many, the joy of the season is tempered by great pain.

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

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HAT, SOCK AND GLOVE CHRISTMAS TREE

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 near the Welcome Desk by December 21. Question? Contact Sherry Phipps (757) 810-4658.

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



Did you know that LED Christmas lights use significantly less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs? You can save energy and reduce light pollution by setting a timer for your lights to ensure they are not left on overnight (especially outdoors). Try to fix any lights that are not working instead of throwing them away.

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 this area 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/ Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

You don't have to be a member of an Adult Sunday School class to join in on a study they're offering! You're always welcome—and encouraged—to become a regular participant, but it's not required. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

At WUMC, our goal is to help Children, Youth, and their families become disciples of Jesus Christ through nurturing relationships, practicing an active faith, and connecting their stories with God's Story.

- **Children (K–5th Grade):** Faith formation through worship, Godly Play Sunday School, Messy Church, monthly Family Days events, music programs, and more.
- **Youth (6th–12th Grade):** Holistic faith formation through Bible study, spiritual practices, creative expression, and mission opportunities. **Youth meet every Sunday from 12:30 - 2:00pm** in our Youth Room.

CHRISTMAS WITH WILLIAMSBURG UMC

SOUNDS OF JOY: A Christmas Service of Music & Worship Sunday, December 21, 8:15am & 11:00am | Sanctuary

Hear the harmonious blend of choir and orchestra in celebration of the season.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Wednesday, December 24, 5:00pm Family Worship

Join us for a service filled with wonder and excitement as we journey “The Road to Bethlehem.” This special service engages our children, involving them in the telling of the Christmas story, reminding us of the joy and anticipation that leads us to the manger. It is a unique opportunity to worship and celebrate together with song, scripture, and the exuberant participation of our young ones.

7:00 p.m. Live Streamed Candlelight Worship & Holy Communion
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship & Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service Thursday, December 25, 10:00am

Join us a simple, casual service of festive hymns, the Christmas story in Scripture, prayer and a brief reflection. The service will be live-streamed as well.

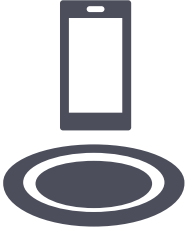
Learn more about Christmas opportunities at Williamsburg UMC here:
<https://williamsburgumc.org/christmas/>

WAYS TO GIVE

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

According to the **IRS rules**, any donation recorded for 2025 must be dated on or before December 31 and must be delivered to the church by December 31. Exception: checks dated on or before December 31 and postmarked on or before December 31 but received in January will be considered a 2025 donation. Donations postmarked January 1 or after, even if check is dated in 2025, will be recorded as a 2026 donation. **Please direct any questions about your 2025 contributions to the Finance Department, mebaker@williamsburgumc.org or (757) 229-1771 ext 106. Holiday Hours December 22, 23, 29, 30 and 31 from 8:00am – 2:00pm.**



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

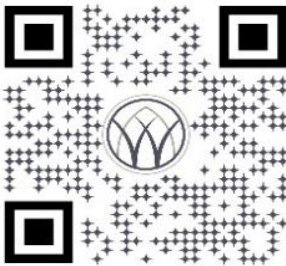
Your generosity changes lives and empowers ministries. Visit our Resources page at williamsburgumc.org/articles to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.

CONNECT

WEBSITE WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG

INSTAGRAM @INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA

FACEBOOK @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: Brian Johnson, Madison Ailinger, Troy Sims, Zach Griggs

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Organist: Tom Marshall

Lighting the Advent Candle 8:15: Joyce Alewynse, Amadea Mitchell **11:00:** Rob Perkinson, Lindsay Perkinson

Readers 8:15: Warren Harper **11:00:** Gerald Bullock

Acolyte 11:00: Brody Brock

Greeters 8:15: Joyce Alewynse, Diane Robbins **11:00:** Brad Crain, Ginger Palmore

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalannes Hoover, Monty Mason, Michael Johnson, Cindy Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Sherry Brubaker, Debbie Bruss, Gene Bruss, Nancy Donnelly, Barbara Monteith, Marty Monteith, Clark Wallace

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

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Dec. 7 Worship Attendance	Total 659
In Person 11:00am	400
In Person 8:15am	177
Virtual	82

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
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
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(757) 229-1771