

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Daniel Burton) organ

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord (Eleanor Daley)

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord has sent us a sign: a child whose name is Emmanuel—God with us.

We gather together in these last days before Christmas, hoping to receive God's promised presence.

Joseph heard God calling him, and embraced God's plan with trust and courage.

We, also, seek the courage to follow God's way, even when the path is unexpected or unknown.

Jesus is God's unexpected path. Jesus is God's way in the wilderness.

Jesus is the Light who comes to shine in our darkness.

We wait with joy. We watch with expectation.

We long for Jesus to come to us.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Come, Lord Jesus. Dwell among us, shine upon us, and make us ready for you to show up and save us.

*HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

203 (red book)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

Sometimes, the work of love calls us to courage.

As we prepare the way of the Lord, we seek to follow Mary's example—trusting God's promise and welcoming God's love made flesh.

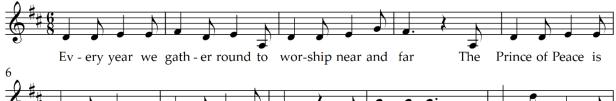
We prepare the way of the Lord, trusting God's death-defeating love.

We light these candles, grateful for the love that came down at Christmas.

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

HYMN

Advent Candle Song (Anthony Kouri Williams)



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 love to shine bright through the night!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16 (636 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM In Bethlehem (Dan Forrest) Sanctuary Choir and Strings

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 1:18-25 (1 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

"God With Us" MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN It Came upon the Midnight Clear 218 (red book)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

895 (red book)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Manger Song Medley (arr. David T. Clydesdale)

Sanctuary Orchestra

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Christmas Carol Medley

Sanctuary Orchestra

(arr. Bob Cerulli)

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

94 (red book)

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

220 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

BENEDICTION Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come to Thee Sanctuary Choir

(15th cent. French; arr. Thomas Helmore)

Nöel Nouvelet POSTLUDE (Anthony Giamanco)

organ







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.

NEW NEXT YEAR — SUNDAY MORNING MODERN WORSHIP!



You're invited to a fresh, contemporary, comeas-you-are gathering designed especially for families, young adults, and children (but ALL are welcome!). We'll experience inspiring music from our Modern Worship Band and a message that connects faith to everyday life. This service also features our **Prayground** — a special space where little ones can feel right at home during worship. Whether you're new to church, returning after time away, or simply looking for a different way to worship this season, you'll find a warm and welcoming place here.

Be part of the beginning! We're building toward the official launch of our Modern Worship Service January 11. Come see what's taking shape — and help us create a vibrant new worship community at WUMC!

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

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for a few helping hands to care for our poinsettias.

If you're able to water plants between services on Sundays, even just once during the season, your help would be greatly appreciated. It's a simple task that makes a big difference in keeping our sanctuary and Atrium bright and beautiful! **Please email Michelle Roy,**mroy@williamsburgumc.org to sign up to help!

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 Americans use around 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper each year? Lighten the load by skipping the non-recyclable foil, glitter or shiny wrapping paper and instead use recycled or reusable wrapping paper, kraft paper, or cloth bags. Minimize plastic tape and instead use twine, string or cloth ribbons. To decorate your gifts, use natural items like pinecones, fresh greenery, cinnamon sticks, or dried flowers or orange slices.

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.

CLASSES

ENOUGH - MARVIN WILLARD SUNDAY SCHOOL 4 Sundays beginning December 28, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 174

You're invited to this study of Adam Hamilton's Enough. This study is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices with the goal of finding the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity.

FEAR OF THE OTHER - Searchers Sunday School 5 Sundays beginning January 4, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303

This study invites participants to consider the gospel command to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be "other." Together you'll consider how to keep and love the "other" for there is no fear in love.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

Sunday, January 11, 12:15-2:00pm | Rm 303 followed by optional building tour New to WUMC? Grab a slice and say hi! Pizza with the Pastors is a casual, quarterly gathering after the 11:00am service to meet our pastors, connect with others, and ask questions about life at WUMC. No pressure—just pizza and people. Register now at tinyurl.com/pizza-pastor.

HEALTHY BODY, MIND, and SOUL in 2026 Monday, January 12, 10:45-11:45am | Rm TBD

It's time to think about your New Year's resolutions. You're invited to a gathering on Monday, January 12, 2026 from 10:45-11:45am. Led by Steve Nichols, the hour will review many lifestyle practices for improving your physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing while learning how you can have a happier, healthier life. For more info, contact Pastor Madison Ailinger mailinger@williamsburgumc.org. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-healthy-2026. For more information on any of the above classes or to get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

A SPIRITUALITY FOR THE 21st CENTURY - The Rule of Benedict Every Other Monday beginning January 12-May 4, 2026, 7:00-8:30pm | via Zoom You are invited to a small group, facilitated by Rev. David Hindman (retired United Methodist pastor and former campus minister at W&M's Wesley Foundation) in exploring the Rule of Saint Benedict, a helpful resource for tens of thousands of Christians from many Christian traditions. This study includes daily readings beginning January 1 from Joan Chittister's book The Rule of Benedict. Learn more or register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-21st.

THE BOOK OF JONAH - Pastors' Bible Study Wednesdays starting January 14, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171 Thursdays starting January 15, 10:30 noon | Zoom

Join Pastors Brian and Madison in a 4-week Bible study of the book of Jonah! Our primary text will be the Bible itself, but we can recommend commentaries if you'd like one! Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-pastors-study.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - For Students, Early Career Professionals, And Any Of Us Who Are Not Retiring For More Than 30 Years. We Got This!

Every third Thursday January 15, February 19, March 19 and April 16, 7:00pm Pizza Dinner for the first. Dinner will be provided or we will go somewhere fun! Questions? Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE STATUS - December 24-January 1

The Church office will be closed from noon December 24 through January 1. This is a way of us enabling our incredible staff to rest after the Christmas rush. The Finance Office will be open December 22, 23, 29, 30, and 31 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. There will also be someone available to open the banner entrance doors and receive dropped-off items from 10:00am to 2:00pm December 29 - 31.

CHRISTMAS WITH WILLIAMSBURG UMC

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 <u>williamsburgumc.org/articles</u> 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: Bob Crossan, Cindy Crossan 11:00: Bill Magowan,

Melissa Magowan

Readers 8:15: Suzan Griffin 11:00: Barbara Monteith

Acolyte 8:15: Linda Upshaw 11:00: Ella Bullock, Camden Brock

Greeters 8:15: Stephen Tingen 11:00: Brad Crain, Ginger Palmore

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalonnes 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. 14 Worship Attendance To	tal 563
In Person 11:00am	214
In Person 8:15am	143
Virtual	106
Modern Worship	100

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)

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

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