



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 28, 2025**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Judean Pastorate
(Franklin Ashdown)

organ

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God brings hope, God brings a child.

We are hungry for meaning, speak to us Lord!

We are eager to listen, speak to us Lord!

God's light has come, and God's redemption is near.

God's promises are true, and nothing can take them away.

Now, let us worship the God who died so we may live. Amen

*HYMN

Away in a Manger

217 (red book)

PRAYER

Holy God,

**You keep working, even when we struggle with waiting. Thank you
for opening the eyes of Simeon and so they could see Your salvation
in the face of a child. Open our eyes today. Help us to recognize**

**Your presence in the ordinary and your grace in the quiet. Teach us
to wait with hope, and to trust even when we cannot see the full picture.**

Now, we wait for you to move. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (734 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

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 2:22-38 (59 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Simeon, Anna, and the Surprise of Steadfast Faith” Rev. Madison Ailinger

*HYMN

What Child Is This

219 (red book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

895 (red book)

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Sing Joy
(arr. Mark Hayes)

Sara Woodward, soprano

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

94 (red book)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*HYMN

Joy to the World

246 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
(Alfred Fedak)

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.*

DEAR CONGREGATION:

We invite you to join us in expressing gratitude to our dedicated church staff through our traditional Christmas 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

CHURCH OFFICE STATUS - December 29-January 1

The Church office will be closed December 29 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 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.

CLASSES

WAYS TO CONNECT AT WILLIAMSBURG UMC IN THE NEW YEAR

ENOUGH - MARVIN WILLARD SUNDAY SCHOOL

4 Sundays beginning today, 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

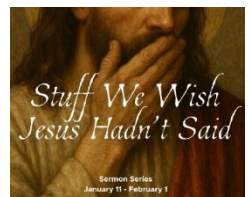
5 Sundays beginning January 4, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303

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.

JANUARY SERIES: THE STUFF WE WISH JESUS HADN'T SAID

4 Sunday's beginning January 11

Jesus has a way of saying things that challenge us, upset our expectations, and make us uncomfortable. We will be kicking off a four-week sermon series that we are calling "Stuff we Wish Jesus Hadn't Said" - discovering Good News from God even in the words of Jesus that are hard for us to handle.





NEW NEXT YEAR — SUNDAY MORNING MODERN WORSHIP!

Sunday, January 11, 9:30am | Fellowship Hall

You're invited to a fresh, contemporary, relaxed atmosphere, come-as-you-are gathering designed especially for families, young adults, and children (but ALL are welcome!). We'll experience contemporary Christian 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 hope you'll consider this new opportunity every week to connect with God together with us!

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, 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! Food will be surprises; afterwards, meet at Church. Questions? Contact Pastor Madison Ailinger mailinger@williamsburgumc.org.

THE GIFT OF YEARS: Growing Older Gracefully

8 Wednesdays beginning February 4, 10:30-12:00pm | Rm TBD

You're invited to reflect on the many aspects of our aging – its purposes and concerns, our struggles and the joys, and, importantly, the promise of the fullness of life with its profound meaning. Rusty MacMullan will lead this discussion group using the book *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. For more info or to get connected to Rusty, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org. Learn more or register at tinyurl.com/wumc-gift-years.



Scan the QR code to learn more about opportunities for you and your family to grow, learn, and find community at WUMC.

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 January coordinators are Connie Magruder (757) 258-3421 and Barbara Feagin (757) 707-3795. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.

CREATION CARE TEAM

After the holidays:

- Recycle cardboard boxes and plain, non-laminated paper wrapping paper and cards (Remove any tape or plastic).
- Reuse gift bags, fabric wraps, and decorations year after year. Get more use out of your cards by upcycling them into decorations or gift tags for next Christmas.
- Donate unwanted decorations, gifts, or gift cards to charity shops. Gift boxes can be donated to a local charity or thrift store (Many are always in need of containers for packaging donations or storage).

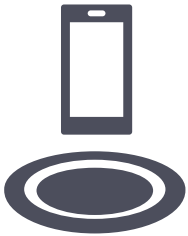


WAYS TO GIVE

"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 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: Madison Ailinger, Zach Griggs

Song Leader: Sara Woodward

Organist: Tom Marshall

Readers 8:15: Linda Upshaw **11:00:** Marian Currier

Acolyte 11:00: Nancy Donnelly, Fiona Lineberger

Greeters 8:15: Stephen Tingen, Linda Upshaw **11:00:** Mike Motes, Theresa Motes

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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Happy New Year from the Staff at WUMC

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