



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 4, 2026**

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Meditation on 'Let Us Break Bread'
(Anthony Giamanco)

organ

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Like the magi who followed the star, we come seeking the Christ.

We bring the gifts of our hearts and the hopes of our lives.

Darkness will not overcome the light. God's radiance leads us still.

We rejoice in the Light of the world, born among us and guiding our way.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

We worship the God who gathers us, guides us, and shines through us.

*HYMN

We Three Kings

254 (red book)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

**We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will,
we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

[a time of silent confession]

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6 (690 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

Matthew 2:1-23 (2 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Light in Unexpected Places”

Rev. Brian Johnson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH LEADERS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

O Holy Night
(Adolph Adam)

Chris Kirby-Saunders

*DOXOLOGY

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!**

PRESENTING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy

(21 red book)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full – full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union
with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died

(22 red book)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Amen

(22 red book)

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

THE 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who prefer to remain in their seat may do so; simply notify an usher, and they will make sure the elements are brought to you. You may go forward to receive communion when an usher dismisses your row. You will be able to choose between dipping the bread in the cup or receiving an individual cup of grape juice. You may return to your seat via the side aisle once you have received. Persons requiring gluten free elements may obtain these at the station at the front or have it brought to them in their seat.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION (Please join in the singing:)

<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	224 (red book)
<i>He Is Born</i>	228 (red book)
<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	237 (red book)
<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	240 (red book)
<i>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</i>	247 (red book)
<i>Go, Tell It On the Mountain</i>	251 (red book)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have
given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world
as those illumined by your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*HYMN

The First Noel

245 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Partita on 'People Look East'
(Joseph Bertolozzi)

organ

THIS WEEK AT WUMC



WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

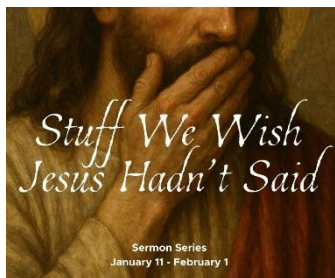
We're delighted to have you with us! Between services, follow the signs to our Fellowship Area for coffee, connection, and our Kids Corner. We'd love to welcome you and answer any questions you may have. We're honored you chose us to worship with today!

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.*

ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS January 5 & 7 @ 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.

WAYS TO CONNECT AT WILLIAMSBURG UMC



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.

WEEKLY MODERN WORSHIP Sunday, January 11, 9:30am | Fellowship Hall

Our new Sunday morning 9:30am Modern Worship Service begins meeting weekly in the new year. With weekly communion, a band leading contemporary Christian music, and a relaxed atmosphere, we hope you'll consider this new opportunity 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.



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

CLASSES

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.

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

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

January 17, 8:30am | Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and learn more about the Alzheimer's Foundation of Southeast Virginia. Our speaker will be Barbara Monteith, Senior Development Manager for 12 years of the Southeastern Virginia chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and a member of WUMC. Barbara will discuss the latest updates in Alzheimer's research, strategies for reducing risk, and resources available to caregivers and the general public. A complete breakfast will be served by the men of our church, featuring a selection of breakfast casseroles, sweet rolls, breads, and fresh fruit, along with juice, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. The cost for breakfast is \$10.00. All proceeds will be donated to support church ministries and outreach. This event is open to all.

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.



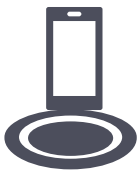
CREATION CARE TEAM

Millions of real Christmas trees end up in landfill every year. While trees eventually rot, it takes years for them to decompose in landfill, during which it will release harmful methane to the environment. Here are environmentally-friendly ways to dispose of your Christmas tree:

- Turn it into habitat for wildlife by putting the tree in your backyard to provide shelter for birds, or turn it into a birdfeeder by adding suet, fruit slices, or popcorn garlands.
- Chop it up and add it to your own compost heap. For guidance on composting your tree, check out resources or tutorials available online.
- Check your city's website (or Earth911) to find tree recycling programs in your area. These trees are often chipped into mulch, compost, or used in other eco-friendly ways.
- For all of these options, make sure to first remove all decorations and hooks.

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 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.

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

Brian Johnson, **Lead Pastor** (x110)
Madison Ailinger, **Pastor of Congregational Care** (x114)
Troy Sims, **Minister of Discipleship** (x108)
Mary Ellen Baker, **Finance Manager** (x106)
Ellen Bushman, **Respite Care Director** (x118)
Josh Clayton, **Digital Media Specialist** (x107)
Zach Griggs, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)
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)
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)

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