



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

Stuff We Wish Jesus Hadn't Said

Week 1: Love Your Enemies



JANUARY 11, 2026

8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE	<i>At the Name of Jesus</i> (Anthony Giamanco)	organ
INTROIT	<i>Sing Praise and Glory</i> (Bach/Liebergen)	Sanctuary Choir
WELCOME		

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord says, "You shall be holy, for the Lord your God is holy."

We come, longing for holiness, even when it challenges us.

God calls us to love our neighbors, to seek justice, and to do no harm.

We hear the call—even when it feels difficult to follow.

Jesus says, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you."

These words unsettle us, challenge us, and reveal our need for grace.

Come to Jesus, not because the way is easy,

But because the Christ who calls us also promises to give us the strength.

Let us worship the God who makes us holy in love.

Let us worship the God who is our hope and our strength.

*HYMN	<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	384 (red book)
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OPENING PRAYER

Holy and gracious God, you call us to be holy as you are holy, to love our neighbors, to seek justice, and to reflect your mercy in the world. Yet we confess that some of Jesus' words unsettle us. Loving our enemies feels risky. Turning the other cheek feels impossible. Praying for those who hurt us feels beyond our strength. Meet us here, O God, not to leave us as we are, but to shape us by your grace. Soften our hearts, strengthen our faith, and teach us the way of love that promises us more than what we deserve. Teach us to trust that you are the One who gives us the power to love and serve others as Jesus taught us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, form us into people who live your holiness with humility, your justice with compassion, and your love with courage. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us and gives us the strength to follow. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 (106 OT)
	The Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM	<i>Jesus Loves Me/We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus</i> (arr. Robert Hobby)	Sanctuary Choir
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	<i>Where Children Belong</i>	(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.

PRAYER OVER CONFIRMATION CLASS

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:38-48 (5 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Love Your Enemies"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us Tune of 581 (red book)
(Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

**Christ, your words of love confound us, even as we give you praise,
for the lessons that you teach us seem so far from this world's ways.**

How can we love those who hate us? How can we love enemies?

What of people who abuse us? How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action, not a feeling that uplifts.

In each daily situation, love's the greatest of all gifts.

It's the wiser, stronger person who will break the chain of hate.

Love can usher in redemption; love can make a people great.

**Faced with those who seek to hurt us, make us confident and free:
you don't call us to be helpless but to stand with dignity.**

**Lord, when others are demanding, may we know they matter more
than our money or possessions. May we share, not keeping score.**

If we love just those who love us, where's the giving? Where's the grace?

Even sinners try to do this; they have friends that they embrace.

May we do, Lord, unto others as we'd have them also do.

You have shown us: Love is action. May we love, and make things new.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Bob and Audrey Webster

(11:00)

APOSTLES' CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *Jesus, Name Above All Names* with *O How I Love Jesus*
(arr. Mark Hayes)

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 94 (red book)

*HYMN *The Gift of Love* 408 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Amen! Alleluia! Amen!* Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE *Celebration*
(James Mansfield) organ

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of
Henry and Rachel Fowler's 56th 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.*

WAYS TO CONNECT AT WILLIAMSBURG UMC

ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS January 12 & 14 @ 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.

JANUARY SERIES: The Stuff We Wish Jesus Hadn't Said

4 Sunday's beginning TODAY

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 TODAY 9:30am | Fellowship Hall

Our new Sunday morning 9:30am Modern Worship Service begins meeting today. 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

TODAY 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.

HEALTHY BODY, MIND, and SOUL in 2026

Monday, January 12, 10:45-11:45am | Rm 309

It's time to think about your New Year's resolutions. You're invited to a gathering on Monday, January 12 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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLE MEETINGS

Sisters in Grace - January 13, 1pm in Room 303. Diane Robbins will provide the program

Sisters in Mission - January 13, 6:30pm in Room 309. Michelle Roy will provide training on the church's new online network, Realm.

CLASSES

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.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Aldersgate Fellowship Sunday School

6 Sundays beginning January 18, 9:30-10:30am | Wesley Hall

The Sermon on the Mount of Matthew 5-7 contains what are arguably some of Jesus' most profound and challenging teachings with a solidly grounded call to obedience. You're invited to the Aldersgate Fellowship Sunday School to consider this important part of the Bible in a more lecture-type format.

WRESTLING WITH DOUBT: Finding Faith

6 Sundays beginning January 25, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 174

Everyone has doubts, and too often, we treat doubt as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our trust in God is lacking. You're invited to the Marvin Willard Sunday School as they wrestle with doubt and find faith - trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers.

For more information on any of the above classes or to get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

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

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.

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, Barbara Monteith, 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. The cost for breakfast is \$10.00. All proceeds will be donated to support church ministries and outreach. This event is open to all.

KID'S MORNING OUT January 22, 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Information session intended for parents to learn about Kid's Morning Out, however, all are welcome. Session includes what we teach, how we teach it, and what to expect for the 2026-27 school. We will have a brief presentation, an open "Q&A" and tour classrooms. Registration begins in February.



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 Jan Boykin (757) 565-2950 and Barbara Feagin (240) 463-4565. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.



CREATION CARE TEAM

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till.

Now is the time to renew our commitment to be good stewards of our earth. Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation—using less plastic, saving water, or reducing food waste. Small choices can be acts of faithful stewardship.

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.



SCAN ME

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.

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INSTAGRAM @INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA
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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, **Director Respite Care** (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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