



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Standing on the Promises
God Keeps God's Promises

October 11, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Light Dawns on a Weary World* Covenant Ringers
(arr. Sandra Eithun)

INTROIT *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* Sanctuary Choir
(Carol A. Hunter)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is always working for our good.

God always keeps God's promises.

From the first light of creation to the rising of the sun this morning,

God is always faithful.

When we wandered away, God chased after us.

When we forgot, God remembered.

When we said "no," God said "yes" in Jesus Christ.

For every promise of God finds its "yes" in Jesus.

God's mercies are new every morning,

Great is your faithfulness, O God!

God has sent the Holy Spirit to us as a guarantee,

The Spirit is a down payment on the goodness that is still to come.

We gather as people of God's promise.

We gather to worship the God who is always faithful! Amen!

*HYMN *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* UMH 133

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, you spoke and the world began. You promised, and you kept your word, through wilderness and waiting, through the long years of exile, and through every season of our own lives. Not one of your good promises has failed. You are with us through joys and pain, through heartbreak and celebration, in weakness and in strength. You are faithful to us in all things. We confess that we are not like you. We make promises quickly and forget them too easily. We start with good intentions and sometimes lose our way. Yet our shortcomings cannot stop you from loving us. Our struggles cannot stop you from working for good in the world. No matter how many times we run away, you do not give up on us. No matter how many times we get it wrong, you always get it right. As we worship, open our hearts and our minds. Make us people who trust evermore in your promises, and equip us for the work of blessing others and the whole world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ANTHEM *The Work of Christmas* Sanctuary Choir
(Dan Forrest)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 21:43-45 (213 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sometimes My Prayers
(Karen Crane)

Wesley Choir (11:00)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND BIBLE PRESENTATION

(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-5 are invited to Children's Worship in the Godly Playroom (215) to encounter God in story, song, and creativity.

Our Nursery, located in Rm. 203, is open for Kids 6wks – 4yrs. during both services and Sunday School.

**Receive the Word of God. Learn these stories and encounter Jesus,
God's Living Word to us, in these pages. May these ancient words witness to
the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. These stories belong to us all,
and these words reveal God's true goodness to all. They tell us we
are God's beloved children. They tell us that we belong to one another,
for we are the people of God.**

Invitation To Encounter God in Scripture

**We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your
family, and us as you use these Bibles at home, in worship, and in the world. We will
learn together and grow in our love for Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word of God. Living
God, lead us through these words to live in your love revealed in Jesus, through the
guidance of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (179 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"God Keeps God's Promises"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

TFWS 2246

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

**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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES CREED UMH 882

**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.**

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *Delight in the Promise of the Lord* Organ
(James Southbridge)

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94
**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!**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN *Pass It On* UMH 572

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Amen* Sanctuary Choir
(Philip E. Baker)

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune* Organ
(G.F. Handel)

The flowers are given by Rachel and Henry Fowler in honor of the following September birthdays:
Michelle Fowler, Hazel Schroeder, and Rachel Fowler.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 11, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Standing on the Promises*

MESSAGE: *"God Keeps God's Promises"*

Joshua 21:43-45; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

THE GOOD NEWS: The Bible tells the story of a promise-making and promise-keeping God. From creation, through God's covenants with Israel, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and through God's continuing work through the church in the power of the Holy Spirit, God remains faithful—even when we fall short.

"Not one of all the good promises that the Lord had made...had failed; all came to pass." — Joshua 21:45

"For in [Jesus Christ] every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.'" —2 Corinthians 1:20

KEY POINTS

- God's promises come before our response: **grace always takes the first step.**

- God's faithfulness invites us to live faithfully—to love our neighbors and join God's work of mercy, justice, welcome, hope, and love.
- Money is one way we express our priorities and commitments. Financial giving can be a promise that says, **"This matters to me, and I want to be part of what God is doing."**
- Our place in God's love and work does not depend on what we give. We are invited to respond freely because God has already been faithful to us.
- **God keeps God's promises. No matter what.**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Where have I experienced God's faithfulness in my life?
2. What do my choices with my time, energy, prayer, and money reveal about what I value?
3. What promise might God be inviting me to make—or renew?
4. How could my giving help someone else experience God's love through this church?

THIS WEEK'S INVITATION: Prayerfully consider how you will invest in God's work through Williamsburg UMC in the coming year, and consider filling out and submitting an Estimate of Giving (EOG) for 2027.

WELCOME TO WUMC



We're delighted to have you with us! Between services, follow the signs to our Atrium 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, simply activate the t-coil switch. If that does not work, use one of the listening devices with a loop instead of the headphones.

FAMILY MINISTRY CHECK-IN STATION

If your children are participating in the Nursery or Children's Worship, at any worship hour, visit the kiosk in the Atrium to check them in for the programs they will attend. This helps us ensure your children's safety by knowing who is present and ensures we have emergency contact and allergy information. The station will also print out a name tag for your child and a matching security tag for their adult to use at pickup time.

MINISTRIES

SISTERS IN GRACE CIRCLE October 13, 1:00pm | Rm 303

MESSY CHURCH October 13, 5:30pm - Play, Craft, Eat, Worship

FLU & COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC October 15, 9:00-1:00pm - Atrium

WUMC is partnering with *The Prescription Shoppe* to provide this opportunity to the community. Bring your insurance card and photo identification (save time by filling out the vaccine consent form). Walk-ins are welcome, but help us prepare by registering at tinyurl.com/wumc-vaccine. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST October 17, 8:30am Fellowship Hall

Learn more or register at tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast

THE HOLY SPIRIT - Searchers Sunday School 6 Sundays beginning October 25, 9:30am | Rm 303

You're invited to explore what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit — from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. Adam Hamilton's book used as a guide.

THE WILL OF GOD - Marvin Willard Sunday School 5 Sundays beginning November 1, 9:30am | Rm 174

Arguably one of the most misused theological phrases is "the will of God." You're invited to consider the classic book by British Methodist, Leslie Weatherhead, to get a handle on how to more fully understand God's will -- what it is and what it isn't!

Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT October 15, 1:00pm 2110 Jamestown Road

Join other WUMC senior adults for a group tour of the indoor galleries led by Anne Hardister. Come earlier for lunch in the cafe. Admission is free for Williamsburg, James City County, and York County residents. Register at tinyurl.com/wumc-jamestown-tour

PIZZA AND GAMES October 27, Noon -2:00pm WUMC Room 174

FITNESS CLASS Monday & Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Wesley Hall

BE THE CHURCH EVENT - Reverse Trick-or-Treating Sunday, October 18, 1:30pm

Bring joy to people at the Williamsburg Post Acute & Rehab by providing the contents and / or delivering bags of goodies! Visit with the residents as Jeannie & Barbara lead the group in playing "Name That Tune!" We also need folks willing to pack the bags! Sign up to make a difference at tinyurl.com/wumc-be-church.



CREATION CARE TEAM

Pick Local Pumpkins: Whether you use pumpkins as decor, to carve jack-lanterns or to create fall treats, pick pumpkins from a local farm or market. Purchasing local food promotes our state's food economy and cuts carbon emissions through decreased transportation needs.

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 October Coordinators are Nathalie Bacskay (757) 604-7279 and Elaine Howell (703) 463-7013. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance. Questions? Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

CHURCHWIDE PICNIC October 25, Noon | Fellowship Hall & Front Lawn

Bring a dish to share and get ready for games and activities on the front lawn of the church. Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org if you want to plan and help out.

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 4:00pm – Fellowship Hall

This is a yearly business meeting that is required by United Methodist operating policies. It will be attended by leadership from our district, including our District Superintendent. Several other churches will be joining us and holding their charge conference together with us in the same place, at the same time. All church members are welcome to attend.

ORDER FLOWERS ONLINE

Our chancel flower calendar is available to place online orders. Orders must be placed on this form tinyurl.com/wumc-flowers at least 9 days in advance of the Sunday requested. There are Sundays still available in 2026. Need help ordering? Contact wumcflowers@gmail.com. Orders will not be taken in the church office or placed in the offering plate. We appreciate your desire to help beautify our sanctuary in this meaningful way.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

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. Questions? Contact Zach Griggs zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org

- **Children (K–5th Grade):** Faith formation through worship, Godly Play Children's Worship, Messy Church, Tweens Outings, music programs, and more.
- **Youth (6th–12th Grade):** Holistic faith formation through Bible study, spiritual practices, creative expression, and mission opportunities.

YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 5:30 – 7:30PM - WUMC Youth Rm

PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP

Third Sundays | October 18 3-5:00 pm | Atrium

An afternoon play group for families with young children (newborn through starting Kindergarten). Space for kids to play and parents to build community. No cost to attend, free coffee and espresso drinks provided.

YOUTH PUNKIN CHUNKIN' October 18 5:30 -7:30pm

We're building catapults to see which team can launch a pumpkin the farthest! Bring a ridiculous pumpkin spice flavored food to share as we enjoy the Fall weather with fun, food, and a bonfire outside.

OCTOBER 4 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	415
In Person 11:00am.....	163
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	46
In Person 8:15am.....	121
Online.....	85

Deadline for Bulletin MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

*Permission to podcast/stream the music
in this service obtained from ONE
LICENSE, License #A-737740,
Williamsburg UMC CCLI #3168974 All*

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). Several convenient giving options are available: debit or credit card, ACH — direct from your bank account and now

Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Receipts are sent via email.

CASH/CHECK

Donations can be made via our collection plate on Sundays, mail, or to 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 williamsburgumc.org/articles to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.

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)

STACEY GARDNER, **Director of Congregation & Community Engagement** (x103)

ZACH GRIGGS, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)

KATHLEEN JONES, **Director Kid's Morning Out** (x113)

THOMAS MARSHALL, **Organist** (757) 713-0584

NANCY REYNOLDS, **Engagement and Administrative Coordinator** (x104)

ELLEN SIMON, **Bookkeeper** (x116)

LOU-ANNE SMITH, **Director of Worship Arts** (x105)

GREG WHITESIDE, **Director of Facilities** (x101)

ANTHONY WILLIAMS, **Assoc. Dir. Worship Arts, Director Early Childhood Music** (x115)

PAIGE HOLADAY, **Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation** (757) 229-6832

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
500 JAMESTOWN RD | WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185 (757) 229-1771

WEBSITE @WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG
INSTAGRAM @INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA
FACEBOOK @FACEBOOK.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMC