



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

Standing on the Promises
The Promises We Make



October 18, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE	<i>Prelude for a Celebration</i> (John A. Behnke)	Koinonia Bells
INTROIT	<i>O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord</i> (Carol A. Hunter)	Sanctuary Choir
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Adapted from Psalm 112
Praise the Lord!		
Those who honor the Lord and adore God's way are truly blessed!		
They shine in the dark for others to see.		
They are merciful, compassionate, and righteous.		
Those who live generously walk in God's ways—		
as do those who conduct their affairs with justice.		
They will stand firm.		
They will be able to face whatever comes their way.		
Their hearts are steady, trusting in the Lord.		
In the end, goodness will triumph.		
God calls us to care for others and bless our communities.		
God calls us to join in God's work.		
We gather to worship the God who is good, merciful, and just.		
Let us worship the God of love! Amen.		
*HYMN	<i>Standing on the Promises</i>	UMH 374
OPENING PRAYER		
Almighty God, you come to seek out and to save the lost. Open our eyes to see you, even when we are small in our own sight or hidden from others. Open our hearts to follow you, even when we are trapped in selfishness and self-centeredness. Call us each by name, welcome us into your presence, and turn our hearts to joyful repentance and generous living. We pray this in the name of the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity, who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.		
ANTHEM	<i>God of Life: Celebrating our Past: Consecrating Our Future</i> (M. Burkhardt)	Organ Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Bells, Flutes
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING		Proverbs 22:9 (604 OT)
The Word of God for the People of God.		
Thanks be to God.		
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Together We Rise</i> (Victor C. Johnson)	Youth Choir (11:00)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(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.

SECOND READING

Luke 19:1-10 (82 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"The Promises We Make"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH 87

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 Affirmation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20 UMH 888

This is the good news which we received, in which we stand and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross
reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Moderato (Sonata in E)
(Franz Joseph Haydn)

Piano

*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

We've a Story to Tell the Nations

UMH 569

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Amen
(Philip E. Baker)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

O God My Faithful God
(J.S. Bach)
Humoresque
(Jean Absil)

Organ

Piano

The flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Patricia M. Russell, Allison's mother,
by Allison & Roy Fuller.

An elementary school student who is part of our church will play the offertory
and the second postlude on the piano.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 18, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Standing on the Promises*

MESSAGE: *"The Promises We Make"*

Proverbs 22:9; •Luke 19:1-10

THE GOOD NEWS: Jesus sees Zacchaeus, not only as a tax collector who has harmed his neighbors, but as a person who is still loved, still sought, and still welcome in God's household. God's love comes **before** Zacchaeus changes. Jesus enters his life first; generosity follows. Zacchaeus does not give in order to earn grace. He gives because grace has already found him.

"You are beloved, no matter how you respond."

KEY POINTS

- God is faithful to God's promises. Because God is with us and for us, we are free to be with and for others.
- Generosity is one way we respond to what God has already done. It is not limited to money, and it is not the same for every person. **Each of us is invited to take our next faithful step**—offering our resources, time, gifts, love, and lives to join in God's work.

OUR RESPONSE

"Following Christ involves putting one's money [and life] at God's disposal."

—Christopher Hutson

Like Zacchaeus, we can say:

"Jesus, you have blessed me—and now I want to use what I have to bless others."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
2. What changes when you truly believe that you are beloved before you accomplish or give anything?

3. Where do you see God at work in our church and community?
4. What resources has God entrusted to you?
5. What might your next faithful step in generosity look like?

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. (You can do this at **WilliamsburgUMC.org/pledge**)

God is faithful. We get to respond.

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.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP - WUMC Prayers, Praises, & Questions

If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join our new Facebook Group. This is a place where we want to try to build online community outside of Sunday morning. You'll be able share prayers of joy or concern, ask questions about the church or area, and more. Maybe you're going to trivia night and would like to invite some church folks to join you. Make an invitation there. Maybe you are wondering what to do with a piece of furniture. Ask it there. There are a few rules you'll need to read as you join, but we hope you'll give it a try. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org or Stacey Gardner sgardner@williamsburgumc.org. Join now at tinyurl.com/wumc-fb-group.

MINISTRIES

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE - TODAY, 4:00pm – Fellowship Hall

WE'RE HIRING! ECMS Part-time Director This is an administrative position, however, an understanding of music and teaching is preferred. Responsibilities include recruiting, hiring, scheduling, fundraising, financial management, advertising and reporting to the ECMS Advisory Board and staff. The pay range is \$25,000 - \$30,000 per year; onsite 25-29 hrs. per week. More information tinyurl.com/wumc-employment. Questions? Contact Emily Hayden emilyhayden127@gmail.com.

POINSETTIAS The time to order in honor or in memory is NOW. Each cost \$25. Deadline is Sunday, November 1 at 11:00pm. Order now at tinyurl.com/wumc-flower. If you need assistance with ordering, please send request via email to wumcflowers@gmail.com.

SISTERS IN MISSION CIRCLE October 20, 5:00pm | FISH – 7129 Pocahontas Trail. We will have our meeting there and tour their new facility. Contact Donna Potts for a list of donations.

HABITAT HOME REPAIR BLITZ DAY October 24, 8:00am-4:00pm | 8800 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, VA Help make repairs to homes of veteran, low-income, elderly and disabled people in the Grove Community. Projects include: exterior carpentry of handrails, porches, stairs, ramps, etc.; house & siding painting; minor exterior repairs of steps, gutters and fence. You must preregister tinyurl.com/wumc-habitat enter WUMC24 as the Join Code. Contact Deacon Troy Sims. tsims@williamsburgumc.org

PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY - Micah: Prophet of Justice, Kindness, and Humbleness
4 Wednesdays starting Oct 21, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171
4 Thursdays starting October 22, 10:30-12:00pm | Zoom

Join Pastor Brian & Deacon Troy for a study of the prophet, Micah. All you need is your Bible and your own insights and questions! Register now at: tinyurl.com/wumc-pastors-study.

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.

COAT DRIVE FOR HEADSTART CHILDREN

October is outerwear month when we collect new winter coats for children attending the Headstart program. The coats should be size 4T- 8 Child. Please bring them to the collection closet through October 25.

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.

KIDS MORNING OUT DINING FOR THE CAUSE October 27, 4-8:00pm Panera - New Town. All proceeds will go to the KMO Tuition Assistance Fund. Use code FUND4U on the app, online or the in-person kiosk. Thanks for your support!

KMO'S HALLOWEEN PARADE October 29, 12:15pm. | WUMC
Come see the cutest pumpkins, pirates, etc around.

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP

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

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

UMM SPAGHETTI DINNER November 7, 5-7:00pm | Fellowship Hall Tickets are on sale for dinner, live band entertainment and an auction. Monies raised will go towards Kids Morning Out tuition assistance fund. Buy your tickets here: tinyurl.com/kmodinner

WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED January 17-24, 2027

WUMC will serve as a host church for the shelter ministry assisted by St. Stephen Lutheran and Williamsburg Baptist Churches. There are many volunteer openings in the evening, overnight, and early morning shifts. Community of Faith Mission (COFM) will provide training on November 3, 6:30 – 8:00pm at Williamsburg Community Chapel, 3899 John Tyler Hwy in the Student Ministries Room -entrance doors West 4, East 4 or North. To serve as a volunteer or meal preparer, please visit tinyurl.com/wumc-shelter

CREATION CARE TEAM



Leave the Leaves: Fallen leaves provide a natural mulch that improves soil health, create natural wildlife habitats, and make a great addition to your garden beds and/or home compost pile. When possible, leave fallen leaves in place, or move them to a location on your property where they can break down naturally instead of bagging them up for disposal.

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 PUNKIN CHUNKIN' TODAY 5:30 – 7:30PM - WUMC Youth Rm

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.

PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP

Third Sundays | TODAY, 3-5:00 pm | Nursery (note change)

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.

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 Bacskey (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

OCTOBER 11 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	550
In Person 11:00am.....	198
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	59
In Person 8:15am.....	113
Online.....	111
Messy Church.....	69

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,
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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 PASTORAL STAFF

BRIAN JOHNSON, **Lead Pastor** (x110)

TROY SIMS, **Minister of Discipleship** (x108)

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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