



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



"Joseph Forgives his Brothers," Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld
German Woodcut, 1853

You intended to harm me,
but God intended it for good
to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

So then, don't be afraid!
I will provide for you and your children.

Genesis 50:20-21a

First Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 1, 2024

8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
(Wayne Leupold)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from 2 Corinthians 5

Friends, Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all.

**He died for all, that we who live should no longer live for ourselves,
but for him who died for us and was raised again.**

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

**If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.
The old has gone, the new is here!**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Let us be reconciled to God!

*HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, as wintry nights grow longer, darkness comes early and lingers with us.

**We grow weary with busyness;
we feel burdened by anxiety, frustration, and bitter thoughts.**

Remind us this day, O God, that it is not the holiday season, but Christ who is our hope,

**and that as our hearts are turned to the One who is coming,
light will shine in the darkness around us, and within us.**

We confess that our thoughts do not align with our actions;
we feel less charitable with others, more inclined to judge
and to disdain those whose sins in fact are much like our own.

**Enable us to discern that the One who is coming
is the reconciliation for which we have waited.**

If we are truly yours, O God, then hear our confessions,
these regrets that would otherwise keep us from full communion with you...

[Silent Prayer]

Thank you that by the obedient and selfless leadership of your Son,
our Redeemer, we are forgiven and reconciled to one another.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candle is lit, the congregation will sing:

**People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way!

MOMENT OF TEACHING

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 a.m., Grades K-3 are invited to encounter God in story, arts, and song in the Children's Worship Room. Our Nursery, located in the Education Wing, is open for Pre-k and younger during both services.

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
(Tom Trenney)

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 50:14-21 (48 OT)
The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Gift of Reconciliation

Rev. Dave Rochford

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT Hope in the Mountains Water Project Rev. Bob Parsons
OFFERTORY

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
(Paul Manz)

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

PRESENTING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196 (red book)
A Sung Communion Liturgy adapted from Rev. Beth Quick

To the Table, you're invited. Lift your hearts to God and sing.

Praise to God, who has created all the earth, each living thing.

God, we lift our hearts in wonder at the love you share with us.

All to you our hearts surrender, all to you our lives entrust.

Holy, holy, you are holy! Blessed is the One who comes.

All your works are full of glory; join in the unending hymn:

Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna! Now your gracious kingdom bring.

Jesus in us shall reign forever; let all earth with praises ring!

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

Come, O Spirit, we call on you: be poured out upon these gifts.

Take these signs and change them into Body, spirit, life of Christ.

Nourish us now to serve God's people, sharing in Christ's gracious ways.

By your strength we live in witness, Prince of Peace, lead us today.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *(Please join in the singing:)*

HYMN 192 *red book* *There's a Spirit in the Air*

HYMN 198 *red book* *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

HYMN 206 *red book* *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HYMN 207 *red book* *Prepare the Way of the Lord* (sing 3 times)

HYMN 209 *red book* *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

*HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper
(verses 1-4)

UMH 551 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Finale and Chorale on "Wachet Auf!"
(Wayne Wold)

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God by Deborah Agee and family.

**congregation invited to stand*

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

If an event or ministry below captures your interest, we would love to
know about it. Please call us at 757 229-1771.

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

The First Sunday of Advent

A Special Welcome to Our Guests

To those visiting with us today, we are delighted to have you worship with us. Please stop by the Hospitality Table in the Connection Corner area after the service, so a team member can provide you with a welcome gift. Do come and celebrate Christmas with us; our full worship schedule can be found here: www.williamsburgumc.org

**Williamsburg United Methodist Church
WUMC Sanctuary Choir & Community Chorus
The Handel Chamber Orchestra & Soloists:**

*Branch Fields, bass
Ian Lane, tenor
Cecelia McKinley, contralto
Michelle Trovato, soprano*

Presents

Messiah

**Friday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.**



Daily Devotionals

Would you like to receive daily devotionals in your email during special times of the year like Advent and Lent? Visit www.tinyurl.com/wumc-devotional and share your email address!

Special Advent Offering

For each Sunday in Advent, we ask you to prayerfully consider financially supporting the organizations chosen by your Local & Global Outreach Committees. The worthy causes this year include:

- **Undue Medical Debt** — An initiative of the Virginia Conference of the UMC is working with this organization to purchase medical debt from insurance and other third-party companies for pennies on the dollar, erasing medical debt for the most vulnerable persons in our communities.
- **Williamsburg House of Mercy** — Provides food, shelter, comfort, and hope to our poor, unhoused, precariously housed, and less fortunate neighbors regardless of faith.
- **Hope Family Village** — A cohousing community planned for Williamsburg to offer acceptance and sustainable support for people with mental health conditions and their families.
- **Doctors Without Borders, Sudan** — Teams in Sudan are treating war-wounded patients with catastrophic injuries and providing humanitarian aid and medical care in refugee camps and displacement sites.
- **Hope in the Mountains: Water Project** — Our Covenant Partner is helping people in rural West Virginia get running, municipal water into their homes.

Your gift to the general Advent Offering will be equally divided among these projects. Continuing this year is a modified Alternative Gift Market. If you'd like to make a gift of at least \$25 to any of the organizations above, we'll provide a card you can gift to a loved one in support of that mission. If you give \$75, we'll give you 3 cards. Give online at www.tinyurl.com/2024-advent-gift or scan the QR code. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org or 757-229-1771, x108.



Poinsettias

You are invited to purchase a poinsettia for \$25 to be placed in Memory or in Honor of a loved one. Please complete the online Poinsettia Order Form on the church website <https://tinyurl.com/wumc-poinsettia>. For assistance, there will be a table in the Atrium today to place orders. **Today, December 1, is the last day to purchase.**

Messy Church

Our special Christmas Edition of the family friendly Messy Church will be **Tuesday, December 10** at 5:30 p.m. for a time of free play, crafts, games, worship celebration, and a delicious meal!



Adult Sunday School Classes

The following groups are meeting each Sunday at Church from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Aldersgate Fellowship: Wesley Hall, **Bishop McKendree:** Rm. 102, **Searchers:** Rm. 303, **Perspectives:** Rm. 171, **Walking the Footsteps Small Group:** Den, **Marvin Willard:** Rm. 174.

The Christmas Letters:

Celebrating Advent with Those Who Told the Story First

The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the Church to understand and celebrate the mystery of when God first came near in Christ. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before. Join the Searchers Sunday School today, December 1 – December 22, 9:30 a.m. Rm. 303 for this different look at the season of Advent. To get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

Holiday Nursery Help Needed

Our college student nursery workers are off from December 15–January 12 for Christmas break. We need some extra help with the Nursery ministry. If you are interested in helping with the Nursery team during either service on any of these Sundays, please contact Zach Griggs at zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org

United Women in Faith December Meetings

Heritage Circle will meet December 3, 9:45 a.m., Rm. 303; followed by lunch at Opus 9.

Ruth Simpson Circle will meet December 4, 11:00 a.m. at the home of Elaine Howell.

Friendship Circle will meet December 10, 11:00 a.m. at Maurizio's Restaurant.

Carol Scott Circle will meet December 10, 12:15 p.m. at Tuscany Ristorante.

Sisters in Mission will meet December 10, 5:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Griffin.

Sisters in Grace will meet December 10, 2:00 p.m. at KEΦI Greek Kitchen

Christmas Love Offering

One of the traditions at WUMC has been inviting our congregation to join in an annual Christmas Love Offering to our dedicated church staff. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee is inviting you to join us in making this a special

Christmas gift to them, a gift made voluntarily by those who wish to be part of this special effort. If you would like to participate, please mark all contributions "**Staff Love Offering.**" You can place your gift in the Sunday offering plate, or mail it to the Church.

Hat, Sock and Glove Christmas Tree

Bring warmth and happiness to children this Christmas season! Do not forget the "Hat, Sock, and Glove Christmas Tree" located near the front office. Bring in a warm hat or a new pair of socks, gloves, or mittens, and help a child experience the full meaning of Christmas! This is a great family activity. All donations will be given to FISH. Donations can be accepted during normal business hours from December 1 through December 15.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dec. 1 4:45 p.m. ... The Table Supper Service

Dec. 2 7:00 p.m. Endowment

Save the Dates

December 6, 7:00 p.m. & December 7, 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary: *Messiah Concert*

December 11, 6:00 p.m. Atrium: *Carols Round the Christmas Tree*

December 15, 2:00 p.m. Sanctuary: *Festival of Carols Benefit for the WUMC Respite Care Program*

December 18, Noon Atrium: *Service of Hope and Light*

December 22, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary: *Sounds of Joy: A Christmas Service of Music & Worship*

December 22, 4:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall: *The Table Supper Service*

December 24, 5:00 p.m. *The Road to Bethlehem: A Family Christmas Eve Service*

December 24, 7:00 & 9:00 p.m. *Carols, Candlelight & Communion: Christmas Eve Services*

December 25, 10:00 a.m. *Christmas Day Service*

(Additional information on Save the Dates may be found in the Messenger online)

Youth Ministry Events

December 15, 12:30 p.m. *Ice Skating at Merchants Square*

December 20, 5:30 p.m. *Family Ministry Christmas Party*

Festival of Carols

Join us Sunday, December 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for this family-friendly, free concert featuring the bell choir, sanctuary choir and orchestra and organ. Donations to support Respite Care will be appreciated. Join us for refreshments after the concert in the Respite Care Rm. 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Contributions

According to the **IRS rules**, any donation recorded for 2024 must be dated December 31 or earlier and must be delivered to the church by December 31. Exception: mail to the church and be postmarked December 31 or before. Donations postmarked January 1 or after (even if check is dated in December) will be recorded as a 2025 donation. ***Please direct any questions about your 2024 contributions to Barbara Blanton 757 229-1771 x106***

Generous Giving

A big thank you to everyone who has already responded so generously with your Estimate of Giving. We have now received Estimates of Giving Cards from 285 people/family units totaling \$1,329,249 which is vital in your support of over 90+ ministries. Our goal of 325 cards totaling \$1,500,000 remains within reach.

You can still submit your Estimate of Giving by taking a card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, dropping it off at the office, mailing it to the church, or submitting it online at www.tinyurl.com/WUMCPledge

Ways to Give: For giving by text, simply send a text message to 757-992-9862 with the amount you would like to contribute (example 35). To give online, scan our QR Code or visit www.tinyurl.com/WUMCGiveNow or give by dropping your offering in offering the plate or at the church office.



TODAYS SERVICE

Worship Leaders: Dave Rochford, Meghan Roth Clayton, Troy Sims, Zach Griggs

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith **Organist:** Tom Marshall

Greeters 11:00: Dianne Colestock, Charlotte McCarter

Acolytes 11:00: Shane Johnson

Reader 8:15: Linda Upshaw **11:00:** Melissa Johnson

Assisting with Communion 8:15: Nathalie Bacskay, Bo Bohannon, Gwen Hinton, Joy Mair

11:00: Linda Baker, Susan Jones, Karen Red, Beverly Tressler

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalannes Hoover, Mike Johnson, Tom Justice, Monty Mason, Dan Squier, Cindy Garman-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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The Deadline for *This Also Is Our Worship*: Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. Please submit to Nancy Reynolds.

November 24 Worship Attendance Total.....	547
In Person 11:00 a.m.....	254
In Person 8:15 a.m.....	179
Online.....	76
The Table.....	38

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Barbara Blanton, *Finance Manager* (x106)

Josh Clayton, *Digital Media Specialist* (x107)

Meghan Roth Clayton, *Pastor of Congregational Care* (x114)

Zach Griggs, *Family Ministries Coordinator* (x109)

Cornelia Jude, *Director Respite Care* (x118)

Thomas Marshall, *Organist* (757 713-0584)

Mike Motes, *Temp. Bookkeeper* (x116)

Laura Pittman, *Director Kid's Morning Out* (x113)

Nancy Reynolds, *Administrative Assistant* (x104)

Dave Rochford, *Lead Pastor* (x110)

Michelle Roy, *Dir. of Congregation & Community Engagement* (x103)

Troy Sims, *Minister of Discipleship* (x108)

Lou-Anne Smith, *Director of Worship Arts* (x105)

Rick Vancour, *Facilities Manager* (x101)

Anthony Williams, *Assoc. Dir. of Worship Arts, Dir. Early Childhood Music* (x115)

Ryan LaRock, *Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation* (757) 229-6832

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.williamsburgumc.org "Like" us on Facebook