



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



“Because of our God’s
deep compassion,
the dawn from heaven
will break upon us,
to give light to those
who are sitting in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide us on the path
of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79 CEB

Second Sunday of Advent-December 8, 2024

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

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

(Rex Koury)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Malachi 3:1-4, *The Timeless Psalms*

In hope and humility, we come to worship the God who cleanses and renews.

**We come, aware that the fire of God's love is both warming,
and yet refining.**

In trust and honesty, we come to worship the God who forgives and restores.

**We come, aware that the cleansing of God's love
both purifies and liberates.**

*HYMN

The Candle of Hope

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(tune of O Worship the King)

**The candle of hope we light in this hour
proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
when Christ in his glory will make all things new.
The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
the wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
will give way to gardens that heal and restore.
The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
for God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.
The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
the one who would save us and set us all free.
The Christ candle's light that shines for us here
tells out the good news that God has come near!
God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,
to show all creation the wealth of God's grace.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

Beth Merrill Neel

**God of grace and truth, long ago your prophets told of your promises –
a promise of restoration and salvation. We confess that we have not
believed your promise, that we have preferred brokenness to restoration,
and have lingered with dis-ease rather than welcome salvation.
We have remained steadfast in the ease of the status quo,
not wanting to face the hard work of repentance and change.
Forgive our hard-heartedness, and renew our strength, so that we may
receive the fullness of your promise, and live into that joy.**

[a time of silent confession]

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candle is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Furrows be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in the course the flower may flourish.**

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

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

It's a Time of Waiting
(Anthony Kouri Williams)

Early Childhood Music School
Wesley Choirs 11:00 a.m.

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

The Flower of Jesse
(John Jacob Niles)

Ian Lane, tenor

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:68-79 (58 NT)

MESSAGE

God's Compassion

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton

*HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS 2171 (black book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT

Williamsburg House of Mercy

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
(Johannes Brahms)

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Toda la Tierra

UMH 210 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Robert J. Powell)

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of our daughter Kelly by Buddy and Brenda Cockrell.

The flowers honor Johanna Berry's 20th birthday from her parents

****congregation invited to stand***

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

The Second 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

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.



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:** The Christmas Letters: Celebrating Advent with Those Who Told the Story First Rm. 303, **Perspectives:** Rm. 171, **Walking the Footsteps Small Group:** Den, **Marvin Willard:** Rm. 174.



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!

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

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

Events and Meetings

Dec. 8	4:45 p.m.	The Table Supper Service
Dec. 10	5:30 p.m.	Messy Church
Dec. 11	6:00 p.m. ...	Carols' Round the Chrismon Tree

Methodist Men Breakfast

Please join the United Methodist Men for a hearty breakfast December 14, 8:30 a.m. There is no cost involved; however, we will accept donations for local students attending

seminary via the Harbor Scholarship Fund. Entertainment will be provided by the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra at 9:15 a.m. Please complete the reservation form located on the church's website tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast and select December 14 Breakfast or send an e-mail to John Tressler jbtresx3@outlook.com.

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.

Help Tidy the Sanctuary for Worship...once a month on a Friday for 1 1/2 hours. Give back to your church in this rewarding way. Contact Kim Johnson 757 784-4614.

Save the Dates

December 11, 6:00 p.m. Atrium: *Carols' Round the Chrismon 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, our ministry to dependent adults, will be appreciated. Join us for refreshments after the concert in the Respite Care Rm. 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Staff Love Offering



As Christmas approaches, we invite you to join us in expressing gratitude to our dedicated church staff through our traditional Love Offering. Our staff embodies Christ's love, working tirelessly for our community. Your contribution, whether a card, gift, or donation, will make a meaningful impact. Please mark all contributions for the "Staff Love Offering." Place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or donate online at www://tinyurl.com/staffloveoffering.

May this Christmas season be a time of abundant blessings, shared love, and profound gratitude. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee Philippians 4:19: "*And my God shall supply all you need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*"



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***

CARE Committee

...will provide rides to the doctor or will provide help when you are sick. Judi French 757 810-2925 and Mary Liz Sadler 757 229-8063 are the December coordinators. If you need **CARE**, please let the coordinators know at least 2 days in advance to arrange for assistance.

TODAYS SERVICE

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Assoc. Dir. of Worship Arts, Dir. Early Childhood Music: Anthony Williams

Organist: Tom Marshall

Acolytes 8:15: Nathalie Bacskay **11:00:** JD Tressler

Reader 8:15: Suzan Griffin **11:00:** Rita Welty

Greeters 8:15: Marilyn Riddle, Steve Tingen **11:00:** Gary Drake, Kathy Drake

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.

December 1 Worship Attendance Total.....	436
In Person 11:00 a.m.....	190
In Person 8:15 a.m.....	145
Online.....	78
The Table.....	23

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 Viancour, *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

500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 757 229-1771

www.williamsburgumc.org "Like" us on Facebook

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF WUMC?

Speak with any of our Pastors, Revs. Meghan Roth Clayton, Dave Rochford or Troy Sims, after the service or call 757 229-1771. They will be delighted to get to know you.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Live streaming of worship... will be available each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/livestream-services>, and the recorded service will be available at <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/sunday-worship> by mid-afternoon Sunday. Upon entering the Sanctuary, understand that we are posting images to our media platforms. If you are uncomfortable with this, please let the ushers know you need to sit in an area away from camera angles. We are happy to accommodate!

Assisted Listening devices... are available from the ushers. Those with a "*t-coil*" switch in their hearing aids can simply activate the switch. Please advise an usher if you have this need.

Need a Quiet Place During Worship? The Den, located behind the Sanctuary, is open as a quiet place during Worship. It's equipped to watch worship livestream, has a partitioned feeding area and a diaper changing station for parents and caregivers.

Nursery Care is available for Pre-K and younger in Room 207. Our trained and background- checked care providers are ready to welcome your little ones during Worship and Sunday School.

CLASSES, GROUPS, AND BIBLE STUDY...

Please see the church website at www.williamsburgumc.org for a variety of choices. These are conducted both in person and by Zoom. We are always eager to welcome guests and new friends.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church held every second Tuesday, 5:30–7:30 p.m. This is an all-age worship experience that includes crafts, games, Celebration Time and dinner. Questions? Contact Zach Griggs

FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are committed to walking alongside families of all kinds on the lifelong journey of faith. Children are invited to grow in relationship with God and each other through Messy Church, Children's Worship, and fun fellowship events. Youth meet weekly on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. to have fun, engage current events theologically, respond creatively to scripture, and imagine how God is calling them to mission. Resources are available for parents and caregivers, and Zach would love to talk with you anytime about the joys and challenges of family life. Contact Zach at zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org to learn more. Interested in Youth Choir? Contact Anthony Williams awilliams@williamsburgumc.org

PRAYER

Contact the church office to speak to a pastor or submit a prayer request via the church website. Prayer concerns will be added to the prayer chain if desired or shared with the pastors and our intercessory prayer group. Prayer cards are located at Connection Corner and in the Narthex.

SUPPORT AND CARE

We are a Stephen Ministry Church and provide trained, strictly-confidential lay pastoral care for our congregation and community. Contact one of the Pastors for information on how you be connected to one of our Stephen Ministers 757 229-1771.

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