



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



"Jacob Is Reconciled with Esau," George Frederick Watts
English Woodcut, 1881

to see your face
is like seeing the face
of God

now that you have
received me

Genesis 33:10b

Third Sunday of Advent-December 15, 2024

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

PRELUDE

At the Coming of Christmas
(Claude Balbastre)

INTROIT

Joy to the World
(arr. Benjamin Roundtree)

Handbell Duet (11:00)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Romans 5; 2 Corinthians 5

Friends, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

**Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person,
though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

**If, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled with him
through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled,
shall we be saved through his life!**

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 with God.**

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Micah 7

Who is like you, O Lord, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

**You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham,
as you pledged an oath to our ancestors in days long ago.**

Though I have fallen, I will rise.

Though we sit in darkness, the LORD will be our light.

But as for me, I watch in hope for you, I wait for God my Savior; for you will hear us.

[for a moment we confess our need for grace]

It is your will to reconcile us with you, Lord, and by your forgiving grace do we find hope
that we would be reconciled with one another.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candle is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, 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

O Bethlehem
(Christin Kieckhafer)

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32:3-8; 33:1-12 (29 OT)
The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Reconciliation: gLIMPSING the Face of God

Rev. Dave

Rochford

*HYMN

God Made from One Blood

TFWS 2170 (black book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT

Undue Medical Debt

Mike Johnson

OFFERTORY

Come, See This Child in Bethlehem
(arr. Linda R. Lamb)

Covenant Ringers (8:15)

Sing We Now of Christmas
(arr. Anna Laura Page)

Koinonia Belles (11:00)

DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

**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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed One

UMH 203 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Noël Suisse
(Louis-Claude Daquin)

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our parents,
Hamlet & Gladys Smith, Andy & Sally, AC, Ham, Jr., Ray, our mother & sister Donna
from the Harris, Byrd & Smith families

****congregation invited to stand***

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

The Third 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 burdensome medical bills 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 safe municipal water into their homes.

Your gift to the general Advent Offering will be equally divided among these worthy projects. Continuing this year is a modified Alternative Gift Market. If you'd like to make a gift of at least \$25, we'll provide a card you can gift to a loved one in support of these missions. If you give \$75, we'll give you 3 cards. You may choose to designate your gift to any of the projects. 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:** Rm. 303, **Perspectives:** Rm. 171, **Walking the Footsteps Small Group:** Den, **Marvin Willard:** Rm. 174.

The Gospel of Mark

Sundays starting January 5, 2025, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Rm 303

Walk with the Searchers Sunday School Class through the earliest existing source for the life of Jesus with revered scholar Amy-Jill Levine. The good news message comes alive in Mark's telling of Jesus' story where we see Jesus as powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. To get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

Unlock The Power of Storytelling: Narrative Essay Workshop

Wednesdays, January 8 & February 5 – 6:30 p.m. | Location TBD

Have a story of faith to tell but don't know where to start? Join us for an interactive session where you'll learn tips on sharing your meaningful stories. Led WUMC's own bestselling author, Ellen Butler, the first session will equip you with the tools needed to write an essay. Over the following month, you will prepare a rough draft to bring to the second session, where it will undergo peer review, and you will receive guidance on refining your work. For more information or to register, visit www.tinyurl.com/2025-storytelling or contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

Wish You Well

We are saddened to share that **Conny Jude**, concluded her work as Executive Director of our Respite Care ministry on Friday, December 6. We truly wish her the very best in her next chapter of ministry! With her pastoral heart, Conny brought warmth and compassion to her work, as evidenced in her rapport with volunteers, staff, members/care-receivers and their families. We will miss her. We invite you to participate in a "love offering" should you wish to join in our church tradition of care and well wishes. Donations can be made to WUMC and placed in the offering plate or dropped off during the week; please indicate on envelope and/or check the notation "Love Offering/Cornelia Jude." If more convenient, this may also be mailed to WUMC, 500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

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 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.

**Festival Of Carols
Respite Care Benefit
Christmas Concert**



**Today, 2:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

Save the Dates

TODAY 2:00 p.m. Sanctuary: *Festival of Carols Benefit for the WUMC Respite Care Program* Join us today 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.

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*

A Service of Hope & Light

The holidays can be challenging for those with heavy hearts. You are invited to a Service of Hope and Light on December 18, Noon in the Atrium. The service will involve contemplative music, prayer, and reflection. Our Stephen Ministers, trained in congregational care, will be involved in the service. We pray this service will be a balm to weary souls. All are welcome.

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*
(See our full Christmas calendar at
www.williamsburgumc.org/christmas)

Youth Ministry Events

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

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

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.

Chancel Flowers for 2025

...may be ordered online now. With these orders, you may submit a check to church, use a credit card, or pay cash. You may also special order and pay the florist directly.

Lenten Greenery: <https://tinyurl.com/lentengreenery>

Chancel Flowers: www://tinyurl.com/wumcchancelflower



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."*



Generous Giving

Donating appreciated stocks and securities is a powerful way to support over 91 ministries at WUMC while benefiting from tax advantages. By giving securities that have increased in value, you can avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock. For your convenience, an online form is available on the WUMC website under the Giving section, "Other Ways to Give." <https://tinyurl.com/stockcontributions> This form will guide you through the process and ensure your donation is recorded accurately. If you plan to make a year-end donation, please allow enough time for processing before December 31, as some investment companies close during the holidays and for 2024 tax purposes the funds must be received by the church before 2025.

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***

Events and Meetings

- Dec. 15 12:30 p.m. Youth Ice Skating
- 2:00 p.m. Respite Festival of Carols
- 3:30 p.m. Grief Support Group
- 4:45 p.m. The Table Supper Service
- Dec. 16 4:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. KMO Board Meeting
- Dec. 18 Noon Service of Hope & Light
- 3:45 p.m. Respite Board
- Dec. 19 6:00 p.m. Trustees
- Dec. 20 6:00 p.m. "Family Friday" Christmas Party

Looking Ahead Book Study

Have you wondered how your strengths can be a part of making change for good in the world? On Sunday evenings, January 19 and 26, February 2 and 9, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Laura Emery will lead a small group book study on *Micro Activism* by Omkari Williams. This book helps you figure out the different ways activism can show up in our communities. Please register at tinyurl.com/wumc-be-an-ally Questions? Contact Pastor Meghan.

TODAYS SERVICE

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Organist: Tom Marshall

Acolytes 8:15: Gwen Hinton **11:00:** Aaron Yaneza

Reader 8:15: Gwen Hinton **11:00:** Neil Bright

Greeters 8:15: Fran Hermance, Barbara Neary **11:00:** Lois Cunningham, Linda Logerwell

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

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A-737740, Williamsburg UMC CCLI #3168974 CCS/WCL #12349

The Deadline for *This Also Is Our Worship*: Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. Please submit to Nancy Reynolds.

December 8 Worship Attendance Total.....	629
In Person 11:00 a.m.....	290
In Person 8:15 a.m.....	136
Online.....	80
The Table.....	20
Messy Church.....	103

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)

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

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www.williamsburgumc.org "Like" us on Facebook