



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



"The Visitation," Master E.S.
Copperplate engraving, Germany, c. 1455

why am I so favored

that the mother of my Lord
should come to me?

Luke 1:37

Fourth Sunday of Advent-December 22, 2024

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

PRELUDE

Variations on 'Adeste Fideles'
(Raynor Taylor)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Micah 5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephratha, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth one who is to rule Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient of days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor
has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to Israel.

**And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of his name.**

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great until the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace!

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(verses 1-3)

UMH 234 (red book)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of Incarnate Wonder,

We can scarcely conceive that your son was conceived and born among us, more humbly
than most, to offer his life for the sake of our reconciliation with you.

**We would not speak the truth if we said that humility and reconciling grace
come easily to us. We are quick to exploit the freedom you have given us,
eager to enjoy comforts and pleasures of this world, and slow to make
room in our hearts for the one whom Mary bravely welcomed.**

**Perhaps it is the beginning of wisdom when we ask for your mercy,
for we are not ready for his arrival just yet. We are unprepared to submit
to your way of love, to 'let it be with us according to your Word.'**

But we want to be so. We need mercy; we ask for your help.

[for a moment we confess our need for grace]

Thank you that expectancy is still your way and wonder is still at work in your world.
(Our world.)

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the candle is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.**

**Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming!**

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

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Dan Forrest)

Sanctuary Choir
Barbara Stahl, Tom Marshall

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God for the People of God.

Luke 1:39-45 (57 NT)

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Expecting this Christmas

Rev. Dave Rochford

*HYMN

The First Noel

UMH 245 (red book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

ADVENT OFFERING MISSION MOMENT *Doctors without Borders*

Bill Herman

OFFERTORY

A Festive Fanfare
(Brian Balmages)

Sanctuary Orchestra

DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Neil Harmon)

****congregation invited to stand***

Our Sanctuary Orchestra will play between services today. Get your coffee and share a moment of festivity with the orchestra who will be playing Christmas carol favorites. Between Sunday School and 11:00 a.m. worship, stop again as our string orchestra plays more favorites. Our musicians are faithful and dedicated! Amongst them are professionals, strong non-pros, and folks who are learning new instruments. They are persistent no matter what. Take a moment to enjoy their hard work!

Merry Christmas from Williamsburg UMC's Music Ministry!

Save the Dates

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)

Offering Envelopes Are Here!

Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up on a table near the Banner Entrance (arranged alphabetically). If you do not see your envelopes, please advise Finance Manager Barbara Blanton bblanton@williamsburgumc.org or call 757 229-1771 x106.

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

The Fourth 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 - Williamsburg House of Mercy - Hope Family Village -
Doctors Without Borders, Sudan - Hope in the Mountains: Water Project**

Your gift to the general Advent Offering will be equally divided among these worthy projects. Give online at www.tinyurl.com/2024-advent-gift 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

Join us for an interactive session where you'll learn tips on sharing your meaningful stories. Led by 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.




The following Poinsettias are given in memory of:

*My Husband, Dr. John Alewynse from Joyce Alewynse
Judy Angles and Kevin Angles from Gordon Angles
Frank Bacskay from Nathalie Bacskay and Stefan Bacskay
Faye Holt from Rex & Jana Bishop
Colonel & Mrs. Wayne Blair; Beth Blair Crowder from Gem Blair
Reverend Reber & Maxine Bright from Sarah Bright
Bob & Phyllis Moyer from Preston and Logan Broderick
Bonnie Brothers from Roger Brothers
Ralph & Phoebe Stephens; Mahlon & Blanche Bruss from the Bruss family
Carlton Coleman & Olive Downing Casey from Robert and Marilyn Casey
Our Daughter Kelly from Buddy and Brenda Cockrell
Manya Joy Daniel from Doug and Gloria Daniel
My Parents, Joe & Leatha Daughtrey from Eddie Daughtrey
Our son, Shawn Desmond from Dan and Barbara Desmond
Dr. Jack Donley from LoAnn Donley
Terry Donnelly from Nancy Donnelly
Glenn Feagin from Barbara Feagin, Laurie and Kevin
Mom & Dad, Aunt Bobbie, Ella, Carrie, Andrew, Mary, Louise & Lucille
from Henry and Rachel Fowler
Elizabeth's Father, John Cross from Stephen and Elizabeth Foxx
Our Parents from Tom and Judi French
Bobby Lee Glover from Barbara Glover and Beth Glover
My Husband Albert Golding from Vivian Golding
Our Parents Gifford & Lucille Arntson and David & Mary Lou Griffin from
Jim and Suzan Griffin
Walter & Jill Hall from Walter Hall II
Lynn Suzanne Reynolds from Linda Hansell
Our Mother, Allene Weaver Scott from Anne Hardister and Chris Robertson
My Husband Christopher Harvey, my Parents John & Louise Knemeyer
from Linda Harvey
My Parents George & JoAnn Weber from Emily Hayden
Our Parents from Russ and Janet Henke
Matthew Hershberger from his parents
Jim Hewitt; Joe & Venita Allen from the Hewitt family
Lester W. Higbee, Jr. from Dorothy J. Higbee*



Betty Jessie from Evelyn Jessie
Our family members who have passed from Arthur and Mary Kefalas
Ronald Keith from Lois Keith
Martin Kline from Trish, Stacy, Brian, Lily, Sawyer and Hayes
Joseph & Helen Knizatko from Bonnie Knizatko
Loved Ones from Kathy Kohler
Gloria Lang from Fred Lang and family
Wilbur Larkin from Madelyn, Leslie Hanson, Karen Young,
Karen Hanson and David Larkin
My wife Phyllis & Loved Ones from David Lee
Bob MacDowell from his family
Walker & Dorothy Thompson from Damarius Marion and
John Williams
Bridget, Judy, Jay & Tammy from Lew and Carole Maviglia
Jane Hafner Squire Anderson from the McCarter's and
the Van Rooyen's
Our Parents from Hugh Siggins and Penny McClellan
Robert & Betty Hutchison, Yancey McGann, Melissa McGann from Brian
and Tracey McGann
Ray & Bettie Blair; Cecil & Adele Shay from Mark Blair and
Jane McNeil
Richard & Virginia Ruddle, John & Thelma Michalowski,
David Hamilton from the Michalowski family
My Father Dwight Mitchell from Amadea Mitchell
Our Daughter Grace; Our Parents Juanita Monteith; Bryan & Vi
Gresham from Martin and Barbara Monteith
Richard & Jean Morgan; Don & Betty Boyd from Terri Morgan
Kathy Frey from Virginia Morgan
Al & Helen Bonacci; George & Bobbie Nelson from Rich and
Susan Nelson
Mary Louise Hind from Peyton Lee Palmore III
Richard Prosl from Carol, Elizabeth and Karen
My Parents Tex and Ann Rathkamp from Grace Rathkamp
Dad, Jan, Charlie, Mom & Marion from Karen Red
Rachel Rochford from a friend
David Anderton from Gordon and Dale Sauls & family
Anita Clegg from the Searchers Sunday School Class
Loved Ones from Lynda B. Sharrett



Charley Skillman from Jan
Dr. Robert Soulen from Richard and Margaret Soulen
Vicki Ann Cason Staggs, George Shipp, Chester & Martha Staggs,
Joseph & Lantha Cason from Ryan, Jenn, Liana and Maya Staggs
Our Parents from Mike and Gail Starry
John & Raye Tabb from their children
John & Mary Walker, Ethel Carper from Judy Talley
Mary Beth Preas from JD Tressler
Ken & Kevin Ward from Nancy Ward
Roy & Drew Welty from Rita Welty & family
Our Parents from Neal & Donna Wixson
David Ziskind from Betsy & family

The following Poinsettias are given in honor of:

Sam & Mary Liz Sadler & family from the Arbuckle family
Granny Margaret Phillips from Rex & Jana Bishop
My daughter, Beth Francis; friends Marian & Brian Currier, Jeanelle Carter
& Margaret Wooding from Betsy Campbell
Our Parents from Stephen and Elizabeth Foxx
Russ & Janet Henke from Wendy Geiger
My nieces, nephews & loved ones from Vivian Golding
Nella Griffin
My children from Jim Hanchett
Margaret Hershberger from Bob and Yogi
The Men & Women serving in America's Armed Forces who are
deployed far from home, families and friends from Rick Hillyer
The Birth of Our Savior from Wayne & Deb Johnson
Bill & Cheryl Baumgartner from Lois Keith
Hasbrouck & Mera Hughes from Damarius Marion and John Williams
James Holden Van Rooyen & Ezra Jane Van Rooyen from Grandpa
and Gigi McCarter
Evelyn, Aria & Ellie from Mark Blair and Jane McNeil
Dianne Colestock from Kim Norton
My Wonderful Church Family & Guardian Angels from Karen Red
Dianne Colestock from Ralph and Marilyn Shore
The Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Orchestra, Covenant Ringers, Koinonia
Belles. Tom Marshall and Anthonv Williams from Lou-Anne Smith
My Wife, Bonnie from Buz Wilson

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 to beautify our worship space. 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: <https://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 "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."



TODAYS SERVICE

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Organist: Tom Marshall

Acolytes 8:15: Ella Bullock **11:00:** Sadie Yaneza, Johanna Foley

Reader 8:15: Russ Henke **11:00:** Donna Herman

Greeters 8:15: Marilyn Riddle, Linda Upshaw **11:00:** Lee Hauser, Vicki Hauser

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 15 Worship Attendance Total.....	454
In Person 11:00 a.m.....	220
In Person 8:15 a.m.....	144
Online.....	72
The Table.....	18