



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



"The Boy Jesus in the Temple" by He Qi.

"Why were you searching for me?"

Luke 2:49

Epiphany Sunday-December 29, 2024

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

PRELUDE

Pastorale for Christmas
(Johann Valentin Rathgeber)

INTROIT

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Ministry Matters

How are we to live as God's beloved children?

We are to have attitudes and actions of compassion and justice.

How are we to live as neighbors with one another?

We are to put on the garments of love and peace.

Let us come before the Lord in gratitude for all we have been given.

Lord, thank you for all you continue to do in our lives. AMEN.

*HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Bruce Prewer

Most Loving God, because you knew how twisted
and corrupted our humanity had become, you sent us your Holy Son—

We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he has saved us from our sins.

Because you have stood in our shoes and understand how difficult it is to live
by the rule of law in an often cold, unfeeling, and ruthless world—

**We name him Jesus, our Savior,
for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.**

Because you have given us a gracious spirit, forgiving those who sin against us,
and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation in a fractured world—

**We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior,
for he will save our world from its many sins**

[for a moment of silence]

God of Christmas, God of unspeakable grace, forgive and renew us all,
that our lives may declare the wonders of that Holy Love
that has called us out of darkness into glorious light.

Amen!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Scott and Liz Foster

(11:00)

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you
in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew
our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by
our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Helen Kathryne Foster

(11:00)

Born March 4, 2024

Daughter of Scott and Liz Foster

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Helen and this family with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

SUNG RESPONSE

God Claims You
(sing "Helen" for child's name)

TFWS 2249 (black book)

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain with Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Sarah Woodward,
(arr. Mark Hayes) soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:41-52 (59 NT)

MESSAGE

Searching for Jesus in all the Wrong Places

Rev. Ryan LaRock

*HYMN

Sing We Now of Christmas

UMH 237 (red book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

**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.**

OFFERTORY

Shepherds
(Wilbur Held)

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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Tidings of Joy
(Alice Jordan)

****congregation invited to stand***

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

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. Come back to be with us again!

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, 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.

Early Christian Heretics: History Lessons starting January 5, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Rm 174

Join the Marvin Willard Sunday School Class as Jeff Marston, a member of the class, will repeat his course that he taught in 2023 with Pastor Dave on the conflict of ideas between the "orthodox wing" of Christianity and those eventually deemed heretics. Jeff will use Old Testament and New Testament sources to explore the rocky road that was the development of early Christianity leading up to the famous Council of Nicaea in 325. Some of the issues to be explored will be: what is the nature of God; who did people think Jesus was; did a Christian have to be a Jew; and, should the age of Christian prophesy be closed? Although this will be a lecture course, questions will be encouraged. If you would like supplemental reading, *Heretics for Armchair Theologians* is an accessible read. 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.

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.

CARE Committee

...will provide rides to the doctor or will provide help when you are sick. Connie Magruder 757 258-3421 and Barbara Feagin 757 707-3795 are the January 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>

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***

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.

United Women in Faith Circles

Heritage Circle will meet January 7, 9:45 a.m. in Rm. 303.

Ruth Simpson Circle will meet January 8, 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 309.

Carol Scott Circle will meet January 14, 1:00 p.m. in Resource Rm. 206.

Sisters in Grace will meet January 14, in Rm. 303.

Sisters in Mission will meet January 14, 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 309.

Get Connected



Sundays, January 12, 19, 26; February 2, 12:30 p.m. | Rm 303

Care to get to know the busy life of WUMC better? Are you perhaps curious about joining your story with that of our historic church? We invite you to attend this "get connected" discussion of ways to engage with one another and in the life and ministry at Williamsburg UMC. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org, Pastor Meghan Roth Clayton mclayton@williamsburgumc.org, or Pastor Dave Rochford drochford@williamsburgumc.org or call at 757-229-1771. Let us know if you are coming at tinyurl.com/wumc-connected.

TODAYS SERVICE

Worship Leaders: Ryan LaRock, Meghan Roth Clayton

Hymn Leader: Sara Woodward

Organist: Tom Marshall

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

Reader 8:15: Terri Morgan **11:00:** Linda Rhodes

Greeters 11:00: Tom Gates, Michele Gates

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 22 Worship Attendance Total.....	583
In Person 11:00 a.m.....	303
In Person 8:15 a.m.....	184
Online.....	72
The Table.....	24



Happy New Year from our WUMC Staff

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

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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