

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors - Nurturing Faith - Transforming Our World



“The Journey of the Magi,”
Gustave Dore, French Woodcut 1856

*“And having been warned in a dream
not to go back to Herod
they returned to their country
by another route.”*
Matthew 2:12

*Epiphany Sunday-January 5, 2025
8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services*

PRELUDE

Noël Or, dites-nous Marie
(Charles Alexis Chauvet)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Ephesians 5

Once we were in darkness, but now in the Lord we are in light.

**Let us then live as children of Light,
for the fruit of the Light is found in all that is good and true.**

Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you!

Let us be very careful, then, how we live – not as unwise but wise,

**making the most of the time we are given
and seeking to understand what the Lord's will is.**

Let us sing and make music to the Lord,

**always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*HYMN

There's a Song in the Air
(verses 1,2 4)

UMH 249 (red book)

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other that we are creatures who by either foolishness or wilfulness have often chosen darkness instead of light.

**Here and now, we surrender to you our anxieties and our pretence
of wisdom, our deep-seated sins and our apathy concerning change
and renewal.**

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others,
and restore the starlit hopes and dreams that will inspire us, and them.

**Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us."**

[a time of silent confession follows]

Nourish us by your grace, heal us by your power, and light our way by the radiance of
your Son, in whose name we pray. **Amen!**

ANTHEM

The Wexford Carol
(arr. Mark Hayes)

Lou-Anne Smith, mezzo-soprano

MOMENT OF TEACHING

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 a.m.,
Grades K-5 are invited to Children's Worship in the Fellowship Hall to encounter God in story, song,
and play. Our Nursery, located in the Education Wing, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (2 NT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Inexpressibly Vast, and Close as Breath* Rev. Dave Rochford
RESPONSE OF FAITH *A Covenant Prayer* UMH 607 (red book)
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
OFFERTORY *We Three Kings*
(arr. Mark Hayes)
*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!**

PRESENTING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(UMH 21 red book)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full – full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

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

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in
praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering
for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(UMH 22 red book)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

(UMH 22 red book)

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who prefer to remain in the pew may do so; an usher will bring elements to you when the time comes. Those wishing to come forward may either stand or kneel as they receive bread and juice, pray and then return to their seats by the side aisle. Finally, persons requiring gluten-free elements may obtain these both at the rail or from our ushers in the pew.

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

HYMN 254 *red book* *We Three Kings*

HYMN 188 *red book* *Christ Is the World's Light*

HYMN 189 *red book* *Fairest Lord Jesus*

HYMN 190 *red book* *Who Is He in Yonder Stall*

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

*PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have
given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

A Joyous Acclamation
(Lani Smith)

*At the conclusion of our services, those wishing to hear the Postlude in its entirety are invited to remain seated.
Please take the opportunity to meet your neighbors.*

**** 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, *The Gospel of Mark*, **Perspectives:** Rm. 171, **Walking the Footsteps Small Group:** Den, **Marvin Willard:** Rm. 174, *Early Christian Heretics: History Lessons*.

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.

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.

Volunteers Needed

Time to take down our Advent and Christmas decorations and pack away for 2025. Join us (change of date) January 8, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.



CARE Committee

...will provide rides to the doctor or will provide help when you are sick. Jan Boykin 757 565-2950 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.

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.

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.



Messy Church

Join us for Messy Church January 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome for a time of play, worship celebration, and dinner fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Micro Activism 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.

Save the Date: Early Childhood Music School Winter Carnival

It's almost time for our ECMS Winter Carnival at WUMC! Join us February 7, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. for a fun night of games, bounce house, face painting, slime bar, video gaming station, instrument petting zoo, silent auction, food truck, AND MORE! **All Access Wrist Band** will soon be available for \$15.

Want to help? Donate to the Silent Auction or volunteer to work at the Carnival for set up, work at event stations, or help the cleanup crew.

All proceeds go to benefit Elliot's Song, an outreach ministry of ECMS that provides free music education to at-risk preschoolers in WJCC. Questions? Contact Anthony Williams, Director of ECMS 757 229-1771.

Chancel Flowers for 2025

...may be ordered online now to beautify our worship space, as well as to honor or commemorate someone precious to you. 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>

Music Anyone?

Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Rm. 114. Experienced singers and music lovers join together to sing uplifting songs that inspire the choir and congregation.

Sanctuary Orchestra rehearses Monday nights from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Atrium. Two years' experience on your instrument as well as owning your instrument is required.

Koinonia Belles rehearse Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30 p.m. in the Bell Rm. 112. Beginners and experienced ringers come join us!

Covenant Ringers rehearse Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Bell Rm. 112. Some experience ringing is a plus!

For further information, contact Lou-Anne Smith, Director of Music and Worship Arts at lsmith@williamsburgumc.org



To all who served at WUMC in various volunteer capacities throughout the month of December and also throughout the year, a special thank you!!

This Week At WUMC

Today, 1/5

4:45 p.m. The Table Supper Service

Wednesday, 1/8

6:00 p.m. Welcome & Hospitality

Mission River District Training

Start the new year off with a day of Worship, Fellowship and Education! Come for the morning, the afternoon or the whole day! Link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/41JcAdg>

WHERE: Williamsburg UMC

WHEN: January 25 Tentative Schedule:

8:15 - 8:45 a.m.: Registration

9:00-10:00 a.m.: Worship

10:00 - 12:30 p.m.: Session One

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.: Catered Lunch

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.: Afternoon Sessions

Churchwide Fellowship Breakfast and Program

Join us January 18 for breakfast at WUMC and a program afterwards provided by Jay Gaidmore, the Marian and Alan McLeod Director of Special Collections in the Earl Gregg Swem Library at William & Mary. Parking will be available behind Swem Library for easy accessibility. Register early as space is limited! The cost for breakfast which includes a \$5.00 donation to our scholarship fund and other ministries is \$15.00. The UMM sponsored Fellowship Breakfast is for all members and guests of WUMC. Come, enjoy and learn about the Swem Library.

Today's Service

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou Anne Smith **Guest Organist:** Barbara Stahl

Readers 8:15: Terri Morgan **11:00:** Scottie Boyd

Acolytes 8:15: Eira Johnson **11:00:** Shane Johnson

Assisting with Communion 8:15: Nathalie Bacskey, Gayle Justice, Doris McElfresh, Terri Morgan
11:00: Linda Baker, Shane Johnson, Susan Jones, Karen Red

Greeters 11:00: Cindy Banek, Jan Boykin

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalannes Hoover, Tom Justice, Monty Mason, Brent Whitaker, Michael Johnson, Cindy Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Grace Bradley, James Bradley, Jennifer Bradley, Bonnie Knizatko, Laura Viancour

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 29 Worship Attendance Total.....	301
December 25	50
December 24.....	810
The Table.....	30

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, *Engagement and Administrative Coordinator* (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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