

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors - Nurturing Faith - Transforming Our World



Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany - February 2, 2025
8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

PRELUDE

Psalm for Peace
(William Allen Pasch)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Michael T. McRay, adapted

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unfolding.

**Spirit who accompanies, inspire us with breath and boldness
to speak our stories.**

In the beginning is a story, and the story is universal.

**God of unity, draw us together with curiosity and humility,
because our story is theirs, and theirs is ours.**

In the beginning is a story, and the story is unexpected.

**We ask for wisdom to know there is more common ground
than we expected.**

In the beginning is a story, and the story is yours.

**Divinity within us all, pour over us the patience and perseverance
to hold with respect the experiences of those with whom we disagree.**

In the end there's still a story, and the story is everyone's.

**God of love, may we love ourselves enough to own our own stories
with confidence and courage. Amen.**

*HYMN

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise TFWS 2216 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites all to his table, hoping that in sharing a meal we may be transformed by his gracious mercy toward all. In this sharing, Christ invites us to have changed hearts and lives, so let us begin anew by confessing ways we have not allowed ourselves to be changed.

Merciful God, we confess that we put on airs.

We try to hide — even from you — who we fear we really are.

**We want for others — even you — to think only well of us,
forgetting that you love us just as we are, though too much to let us stay
the same. By putting so much time into hiding, we've failed to be obedient
to the way of Jesus Christ; we've failed to love all our neighbors,
which includes our perceived enemies; and we have not heard the lament
of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to love all joyfully,
in grace and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM

When We Are Tested
(arr. Robert Benson)

Sanctuary Choir

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

Psalm 13 UMH 746 (red book)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

On NOT Blowing Smoke

Troy Sims

A TESTIMONY

Our Lives as a Song to God

Jim Griffin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Cantabile
(Robert M. Speed)

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

PRESENTING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

adapted from enfleshed.com and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to you, Lord.

In awe and gratitude, we join together in praise of you, our Source of Abundance:

**Holy, Holy, Holy One,
God of justice and love,
heaven and earth are full of your wonder.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is your presence among us.
Hosanna in the highest.**

[The minister continues The Great Thanksgiving, concluding:]

And so in remembrance of these, your acts of love in Christ Jesus, we offer all of who we are in union with Christ's offering as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has lived among us. Christ has died.
Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we might become interdependent with each other as Christ's body, reflecting your diverse image in the world redeemed by Christ.

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

Through your beloved, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all love and devotion is yours, Gracious God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

BREAKING THE BREAD AND OFFERING THE CUP

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE 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 528 *red book* *Nearer, My God, to Thee* – verses 1 & 2

HYMN 533 *red book* *We Shall Overcome*

HYMN 623 *red book* *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee* – verses 1 & 3

HYMN 2208 *black book* *Guide My Feet*

HYMN 2215 *black book* *Cares Chorus*

*PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace
as you have promised. For our eyes have seen the Savior whom you have
prepared for all the world to see! Blessing and honor and glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

TFWS 2158 (black book)

COMMISSIONING OF THE HONDURAS MISSION TEAM

(8:15 a.m.)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F
(Dietrich Buxtehude)

Thank you for your Generosity in 2024

We are deeply grateful for your generous giving throughout 2024. Your support has made a tremendous impact, sustained over 90 ministries and enabled us to end the year on a positive note. Thank you for your faithfulness and for answering Christ's call to help those in need.

Be on the Lookout! Your 2024 Giving Statement is in the mail. If you do not receive it soon, please contact bblanton@williamsburgumc.org or call 757-229-1771.

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, **Young Adult:** Rm. 180.

Anxious About Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World

Sundays, beginning February 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Rm 171

Join the Perspectives Sunday School Class to consider how NOT to let worry and fear control our lives. Find ways to walk with God to find peace and calm in an anxious time. The class will use Max Lucado's book and videos by the same name. For more info, or to get connected with the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

SIGN UP FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS IN THE ATRIUM TODAY!

Pictorial Directory Progress

Progress is being made to update and include the most current information for everyone on the church membership roll. This includes data given during the photo session registrations and what is available from the database in our church records. We hope to have this completed soon, so we can send to the publisher. Today and the next two Sundays, our records are available at two Directory tables for final confirmation by those who had pictures made. Thanks!



Super Bowl Chili

Sisters in Mission Circle is sponsoring a Championship Chili Fundraiser to enjoy on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9. Vegan and standard meat/bean recipes will be offered for ordering ahead in the Atrium area between worship services today. Ordering online is available. 1-quart containers will be sold for \$12.00. All proceeds will be used for United Women in Faith 2025 mission's donations. Pickup on February 9.

Get Connected

Today 12:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Care to get to know the busy life of WUMC better? Are you 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.

Meetings & Events

Feb 2 4:45 p.m. The Table
Feb 6 7:00 p.m. Endowment Committee

Advance Care Planning

February 5, Rm. 174

It is a holy gift to proactively prepare for a thoughtful and intentional final stage of life. Thanks

to Commonwealth Senior Living, we welcome Crystal Scheer with Summit Care Partners. Crystal is a Qualified Advance Directive Facilitator and will guide participants in a Legacy Letter and Advanced Care Planning workshop. Please reach out to Pastor Meghan with questions or if you would like to attend.

Early Childhood Music School Winter Carnival

Join us February 7, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. 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.

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.

Winter Shelter Volunteers Needed

A vital ministry in our community, the CoFM Winter Shelter provides kindness, a warm meal, and overnight hospitality to our unhoused neighbors each year. WUMC will be hosting the Winter Shelter ministry February 16 – 23. We invite you to participate as a volunteer to assist our guests and make them feel welcome.

Please stop by the table in the Atrium to see which days and times your help is needed. Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ by showing hospitality to our guests.

Senior Fun, Games, and Pizza

The next Senior Fun and Games Day is Thursday, February 13, 9:30-noon, in Fellowship Hall. Bring a game or a puzzle and a Valentine card for the Valentine exchange. Pizza and sweet treats will be provided for lunch.



2nd Sisters in Spirit Retreat – The Cup of Our Life

March 28-30 Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano

Cost: \$125 per participant

This retreat is for any woman seeking a more intimate and disciplined life of prayer. Using ordinary cups as an illustration you'll see how each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and bring us into closer union with the Divine. Together, you'll explore how the cup is a rich symbol of life, with its emptiness and fullness, its brokenness and flaws, and its overflowing blessings. Rev. Nancy Robinson, former Minister of Discipleship here at WUMC, will lead this retreat for women of all ages. Questions? Contact Pastor Meghan Roth Clayton mclayton@williamsburgumc.org or Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org. Learn more or register at tinyurl.com/wumc-SIS-2.

Today's Service

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou Anne Smith **Organist:** Tom Marshall

Readers 8:15: Michael Starry **11:00:** Scottie Boyd

Acolytes 11:00: Aaron Yaneza, Alden Rochford

Greeters 8:15: Marilyn Riddle, Steve Tingen **11:00:** Will Moore, Donna Potts

Assisting with Communion 8:15: Ginger Barr, Bo Bohannon, Marjorie Crosswell, Rita Welty
11:00: Nathalie Bacskay, Linda Baker, Cindy Banek, Betsy Harrison

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:** Marijane Harper, Bonnie Knizatko, Joanne Lawson, James Jones, George Sallwasser, Susan Sallwasser, Buz Wilson

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.

January 26 Worship Attendance Total.....	430
In Person 11:00 a.m.	210
In Person 8:15 a.m.	126
In Person 8:15 a.m.	73
The Table.....	21

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)

Ginger Palmore, *Temp. Respite Director* (x118)

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

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 talk with 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.