



Williamsburg
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EST. 1785

Welcoming Neighbors –
Nurturing Faith –
Transforming Our World



Stand firm in the Lord
Philippians 4:1

Second Sunday in Lent - March 16, 2025

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

PRELUDE

Variations on Morning Has Broken
(Franklin D. Ashdown)

INTROIT

More Like You
(Scott Wesley Brown)

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Thom Shuman, modified

Lent calls us to stand firm in the Lord, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

*HYMN

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Beth Merrill Neel

**Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile,
getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own
short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good,
but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will
center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center,
and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside
all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies,
all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more
into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world.**

[Silent Prayer]

Friends, this Good News is for all the world: Christ was born, lived and died,
and rose again that we would be freed from sin and death.

Know that indeed you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Molly Charlotte Epler
Born July 21, 2023

(8:15)

Daughter of Alex Epler and Emma Philipoom

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according
to the example of Christ. We will surround Molly 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 "Molly" for child's name)

TFWS 2249 (black book)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Dorayne Pietsch, Becky Crews, Mike Gabel, Nina Gray (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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
(arr. Jeff Reeves)

Wesley 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.

ANTHEM

Be Thou my Vision
(Kyle Pedersen)

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1 (pg. 198 NT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Stand Firm in the Lord

Meghan Roth Clayton

*HYMN

We're Citizens of Heaven
(to the tune of Hymn 396)

**We're citizens of heaven; we know where we belong.
O God, your love surrounds us; we sing your kingdom song.
The grace of Christ transforms us; in him our life is found;
we sing with joy and gladness, for we are heaven-bound.**

**We're citizens of heaven here in an earthly home;
Lord, it can be a challenge to live as you have shown.
With loyalties divided, we wonder what to do —
to follow wealth and power, or bravely follow you?**

**We're citizens of heaven; renew our sense of call.
Lord, deepen our commitment to serve you overall.
For we are your creation; by grace, we are your own.
Forgive our sinful wanderings and bring your people home.**

**Lord, give your church the courage to love and serve you more —
to worship you more gladly, to welcome in the poor,
to pardon as you pardon, to give in all we do —
that, heaven-bound, your people may daily live for you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895 (red book)

LENTEN OFFERING BENEFICIARY Latisha's House Heidi Wallace

OFFERTORY *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* Sanctuary Orchestra

(arr. Richard Kingsmore)

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95 (red book)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*
(to the tune of Hymn 384)

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

BENEDICTION An Irish Blessing Sanctuary Choir

(H. Hallström)

POSTLUDE *Machs mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt*
(J.S. Bach)

The greenery in the Chancel is given to the Glory of God by

...Barbara Feagin, Laurie & Kevin in memory of Glenn Feagin.

...Kelli, Doug, & Kit in honor of the wedding of Claire Matthews Arbuckle & Ty Jernigan

Please take the opportunity to meet your neighbors!

At the conclusion of our services, those wishing to hear the Postlude in its entirety are invited to remain seated.

****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:** Rm. 160; **Marvin Willard Class** in Rm. 174; **Young Adult:** Rm.180/182.

To get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

The Table

A meeting will be held today at 12:30 p.m. in Rm. 352 to discuss and plan *The Table* worship services. You may also email thoughts to shieldfamily@cox.net

Emergency Response Basic Training

Saturday, March 29, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. | Rm 174

Want to help those affected by recent flooding, hurricanes and tornados? Here's your chance to be Early Response Team (ERT) trained and UMCOR badged at no cost to you (the district is underwriting costs for participants)! You will be trained in ways to prevent any further damage and in making those homes safer, more sanitary, and secure until the rebuild can happen. This 8-hr course is team taught by a layperson who is a 16-yr disaster response veteran and former conference disaster response coordinator from New England, along with an experienced clergy trainer. For more info, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org. Register now tinyurl.com/MRD-ERT-02.

Sanctuary Flowers

We are blessed to have lovely flowers adorn our church every Sunday. At Easter, we have the church filled with spring flowers. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of someone, please go to tinyurl.com/wumceasterlily to order. Cost is \$20 each. You may also sign up for chancel flowers at tinyurl.com/wumcchanceflowers.

Understanding Your Grief

Sundays, March 16 through April 27, (skipping Easter Sunday) Rm. 174 at 3:30 p.m.

Find support, fellowship and hope among others experiencing grief. Stephen Ministry Leader Nancy Rivero and Barbara Feagin will guide you using Dr. Alan Wolfelt's book *Understanding Your Grief* and the accompanying journal. Pre-registration is required at www.tinyurl.com/wumcgriefgroup Questions? Contact Pastor Meghan at 757-229-1771.

United Women in Faith News - Dining For Missions

Dine In or Carry Out lunch or dinner at Sal's by Victor Restaurant, 1242 Richmond Road between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. March 18 and Sal's will donate **15-20% of the income to the United Women in Faith for missions.** Join us and make a difference!

CARE Committee

...will provide rides to the doctor or will provide help when you are sick. Mary Liz Sadler 757 229-8063 and Fran Hermance 757 229-8857 are the March coordinators. If you need **CARE**, please let the coordinators know at least 2 days in advance to arrange for assistance.



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

March 28-30 Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano

Cost: \$125 per participant – Scholarship available

Questions? Please contact Pastor Meghan Roth Clayton mclayton@williamsburgumc.org or contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org. Learn more or register at tinyurl.com/wumc-SiS-2.

This Week At WUMC

Sunday, 3/16

4:45 p.m. The Table

6:15 p.m. Sacred Resistance: a Practical Guide to Christian Witness

Monday, 3/17

4:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

5:30 p.m. KMO Board

Tuesday, 3/18

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Wednesday, 3/19

3:45 p.m. Respite Board Committee

7:00 p.m. Pastors' Bible Study

Thursday, 3/20

10:30 a.m. Pastors' Bible Study-Zoom

6:00 p.m. Trustee Committee

Friday, 3/21

5:30 a.m. Family Friday: Paint Night

Save the Date

March 27, 6:30 p.m. Wesley Hall UMCOR Flood Bucket Event

(See the Messenger for more information)

Finance Office

WUMC is looking to hire a part-time Bookkeeper, 10-20 hours a week. Duties include recording donations, maintaining giving statements, accounts payable, payroll and duties as assigned. For more information, please e-mail ffwilk001@gmail.com

Family Friday: Paint Night

Join us Friday, March 21 at 5:30 in Rm. 174 for an all-ages paint night, share in conversation, and give thanks to God for the beauty of creation. It doesn't matter if you're a painting pro or you've never held a brush before- we're going to learn together and have fun along the way! Register now; space is limited: tinyurl.com/wumc-paint-nite

W&M Students

Looking for somewhere to live your junior, senior or graduate years? Our neighbor, the Wesley campus ministry, is still accepting applicants for summer term and the next academic year. Intrigued by intentional living in a thriving spiritual community? Contact Pastor Ryan at rslarock@wm.edu with questions or to schedule a tour.

2025 Lenten Offering

Lent is traditionally a time when we focus on committing to spiritual practices to help us grow in faith and love of God and neighbor. An important spiritual practice for the members of WUMC during Lent is living into Jesus' call to give to support those in need (see Matthew 6:2 and 25:31-46). The Local and Global Outreach Committees have selected the following as a means to live into that call:

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

- **Church World Service** – This ministry is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Fourteen denominations (including the UMC) work together through this initiative. Your gift will be sent to support their work in Tanzania supporting families as they create food security and stable incomes. *Learn more:* www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/africa/tanzania.
- **Good Shepherd Community School, Zambia** – This community school of in Ng'ombe Compound and surrounding areas in Lusaka, Zambia has been a passion of WUMC's own Jeanne Niebel since 2004. It educates children and supports their spiritual development while providing resources like technology and books and of the children.
- **UMCOR Global Initiatives** – UMCOR is a humanitarian organization that provides for the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of people around the world reeling from natural and human-made disasters. This ministry assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion or status. This year's offering will focus on needs around the world. *Learn more:* www.umcmmission.org/umcor.

LOCAL INITIATIVES

- **Housing Partnerships** – Since 1985, this organization has served the Williamsburg community and surrounding neighborhoods to ensure that everyone has a safe, warm, and dry home. To accomplish this goal, they use a volunteer-driven approach to repair the homes of the area's most impoverished residents, especially the elderly and the disabled. *Learn more:* www.housingpartnerships.org.
- **Latisha's House, Virginia** - This organization provides a long-term, transitional housing program for adult, female survivors of sex trafficking and offers individualized support to empower them to build a bridge from their traumatic past to a positive future. *Learn more:* www.latishashouse.com.
- **William & Mary Food for All** - This group supports the William & Mary Campus Food Exchange and swipe drives (providing additional meals for students throughout the year. It continues and expands these resources to serve students, faculty, and staff who may face issues of food access. *Learn more:* foodforall.pages.wm.edu.



Give online now — tinyurl.com/2025-lenten-gift

Today's Service

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou Anne Smith

Associate Dir. of Worship Arts: Anthony Williams

Guest Organist: Barbara Stahl

Readers 8:15: Warren Harper **11:00:** Nathalie Bacskay

Acolyte 8:15: Hawley Mason **11:00:** Ella Bullock

Greeters 8:15: Judi French, Steve Tingen **11:00:** Linda Rhodes, Sylvia Teeuwen

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:** Drew Alexander, Val Dobson, Van Dobson, Walter Hall, Greg Johnson, Bonnie Knizatko, John Tressler, JD Tressler

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.

March 9 Worship Attendance Total.....	518
In Person 11:00 a.m.	218
In Person 8:15 a.m.	125
Online	80
The Table.....	26
Messy Church	69

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Barbara Blanton, *Business 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, *Respite On-Board 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

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