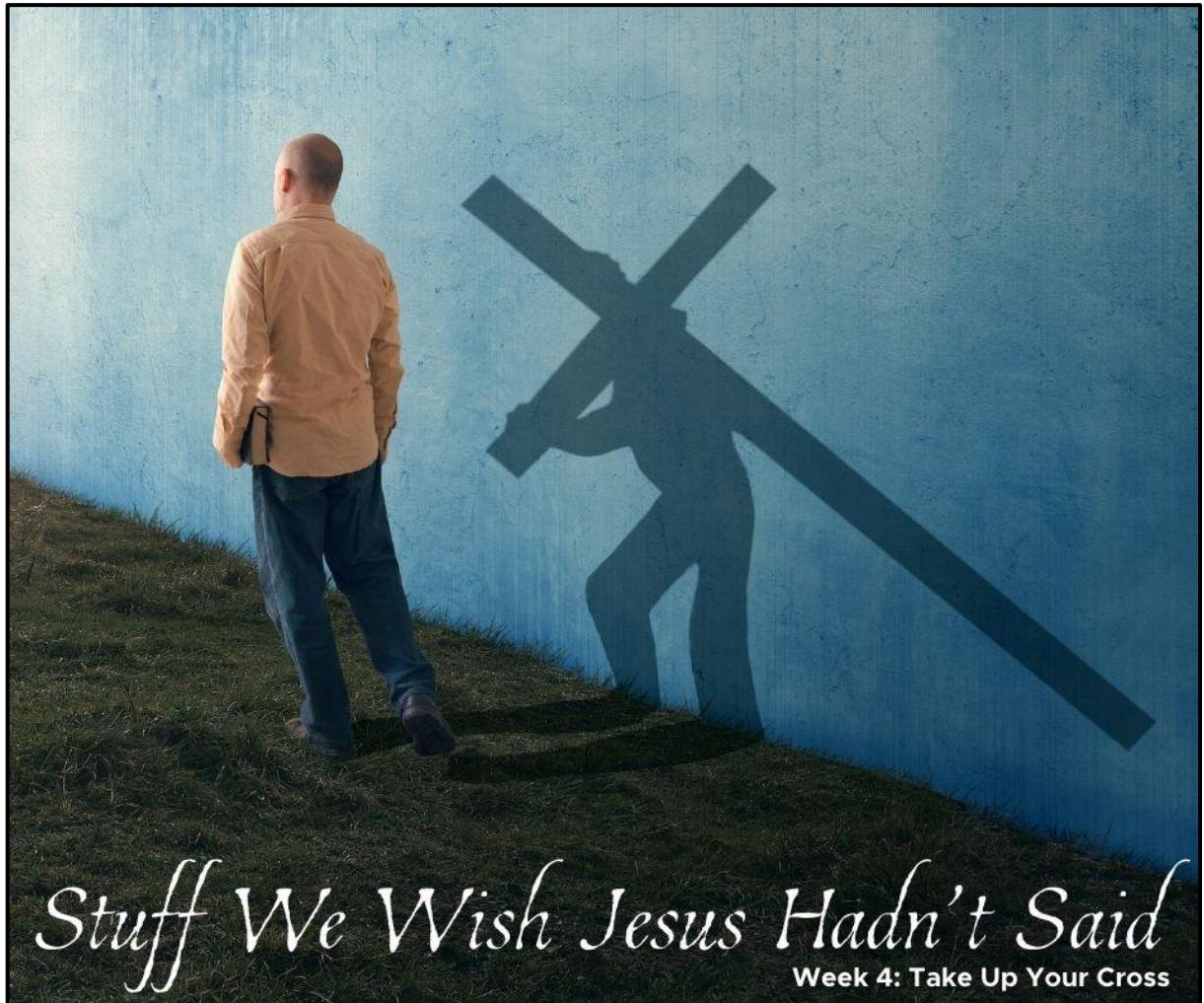




# Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



*Stuff We Wish Jesus Hadn't Said*

**Week 4: Take Up Your Cross**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2026**  
**8:15 and 11:00am**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUD

*Meditation for Communion*  
(Gilbert Martin)

organ

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

**We gather, trusting in God's mercy, not our own understanding.**

Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me."

**These words challenge us. They ask more of us than we think we can manage.**

The way of the cross is costly, but it is not ours alone to carry.

**We follow the One who carried the cross for us.**

We gather to worship, not because discipleship is easy,

**But because Christ is faithful.**

Let us worship the Crucified and Risen Lord.

**Let us worship with trust, courage, and hope.**

\*HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

64 (red book)

CONFSSION AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,

who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

[a time of silent confession]

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:6-9 (685 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Where Children Belong*

(11:00)

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.**

**Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.**

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 am, Grades K-3 are invited to Children's Worship in the Godly Playroom (215) to encounter God in story, song, and creativity. Our Nursery, located in Rm. 207, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services and Sunday School.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38 (44 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Take up Your Cross and Follow”

Rev. Brian Johnson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*How Blest Are Those*  
(Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

Sanctuary Choir

\*DOXOLOGY

**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!**

94 (red book)

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:

*Holy, holy, holy*

*(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.

*Christ has died*

*(22 red book)*

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

*Amen*  
(22 red book)  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 OF THE BREAD

### GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who prefer to remain in their seat may do so; simply notify an usher, and they will make sure the elements are brought to you. You may go forward to receive communion when an usher dismisses your row. You will be able to choose between dipping the bread in the cup or receiving an individual cup of grape juice. You may return to your seat via the side aisle once you have received. Persons requiring gluten free elements may obtain these at the station at the front or have it brought to them in their seat.

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

<i>Let Us Be Bread</i> (sing 3 times)	2260 (black book)
<i>Time Now to Gather</i>	2265 (black book)
<i>As We Gather at Your Table</i>	2268 (black book)
<i>One Bread, One Body</i>	620 (red book)
<i>You Satisfy the Hungry Heart</i>	629 (red book)

## 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 as those illumined by your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Take Up Thy Cross*

415 (red book)

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Nachspiel in D*  
(Felix Mendelssohn)

organ

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Roger Brothers  
in loving memory of Bonnie Brothers.

# THIS WEEK AT WUMC



## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We're delighted to have you with us! Between services, follow the signs to our Fellowship Area for coffee, connection, and our Kids Corner. We'd love to welcome you and answer any questions you may have. We're honored you chose us to worship with today!

**ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the Narthex (or ask an usher for help). If you have a "t-coil" switch on your hearing aid, you may be able to simply activate the t-coil switch. If that does not work, use one of the listening devices with a loop instead of the headphones. The loops are in the basket next to the devices. Just leave the headphones and plug in the loop instead. *Please leave devices on the cabinet where you picked it up; do not put it back in the basket. That helps us know the batteries need to be charged.*

## WEEKLY MODERN WORSHIP TODAY 9:30am | Fellowship Hall

Join us this morning at 9:30am for our Modern Worship Service. With weekly communion, a band leading contemporary Christian music, and a relaxed atmosphere, we hope you'll consider this new opportunity to connect with God together with us!

## ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS February 2 & 4 @ 9:30am | Fellowship Hall

Come experience sessions crafted with care, featuring heart-boosting chair aerobics, muscle-strengthening light weight training, and equilibrium-enhancing balance exercises.



Scan the QR code to learn more about opportunities for you and your family to grow, learn, and find community at WUMC.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Support missions of the UWF by pre-ordering 1-quart of beef or vegetarian chili (\$12) for Super Bowl Sunday! UWF members will be making chili to be picked up in the Atrium on February 8 between services and after the 11:00am service. Pre-orders are encouraged. Online orders [tinyurl.com/uwfchiliorders](http://tinyurl.com/uwfchiliorders) must be placed by February 1. If you cannot be present for pickup on February 8 your order will be labeled and placed in the church refrigerator for 1 week.

UWF is open to all women in the church. Pick a circle to visit - variety of times below. Circles build community and discipleship through service projects and monthly meetings. Join us.

**Heritage-Scott Circle** - February 3, 9:45am Rm. 303. Program by Nancy Parsons on Getting Acquainted. Please bring a recipe to share.

**Ruth Simpson Circle** - February 4, 10:00am in Rm. 309.

**Sisters in Grace** - February 10, 11:00am lunch at Food for Thought. After lunch, circle members will lead a project and Valentine Bingo with members of Respite Care.

**Sisters in Mission** February 17, 5:00pm. in Rm. 309 Please note the new date (third Tuesday of the month) and time (5:00pm) for meetings going forward. The February topic will be Love Stories from the Bible.

## **ECMS WINTER CARNIVAL February 6, 5:30 – 8:00pm**



It's almost time for one of our favorite events of the year - our Early Childhood Music School Winter Carnival! Mark your calendars for February 6, 5:30 – 8:00pm. and join us at Williamsburg UMC for a fun night of games, bounce house, face painting, slime bar, video gaming station, instrument petting zoo, silent auction, food truck, AND MORE! Tickets are \$10 Children 4 and under are free. Family Ticket for 4 or more \$35.

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.

The best part - 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. Get tickets at [tinyurl.com/ecms-carnival](http://tinyurl.com/ecms-carnival)

## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING February 8, Atrium**

reNEW Youth will collect canned and shelf stable food items for FISH food pantry in the Atrium before and after the worship services as part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring food collection. We will have a table for both teams - cast your vote for the winner of the game by where you put your donations. If you would like to support FISH with a monetary donation, we will also be collecting funds to support their work. Our goal for this year is 650 food items. We are excited to partner with you in showing God's love to the Williamsburg community this game day!

## **SAVE THE DATE - CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

### **February 21, 8:30am | Fellowship Hall**

Pastor Brian Johnson will be our guest speaker. He will showcase his expertise as a Bible scholar and his ability to be concise by presenting the entire content of the Bible in just seven words. The cost for breakfast is \$10.00 per person. Register at [tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast](http://tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast)

## **CLASSES**

### **THE GIFT OF YEARS: Growing Older Gracefully**

#### **8 Wednesdays beginning February 4, 10:30-12:00pm | Rm TBD**

You're invited to reflect on the many aspects of our aging – its purposes and concerns, our struggles and the joys, and, importantly, the promise of the fullness of life with its profound meaning. Rusty MacMullan will lead this group using the book *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. Register [tinyurl.com/wumc-gift-years](http://tinyurl.com/wumc-gift-years).

### **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - For Students, Early Career Professionals, And Any Of Us Who Are Not Retiring For More Than 30 Years. We Got This!**

Every third Thursday February 19, March 19 and April 16, 7:00pm Pizza Dinner for the first. Dinner will be provided or we will go somewhere fun! Questions? Contact Pastor Madison [mailinger@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:mailinger@williamsburgumc.org)

### **EMBRACING THE PROPHETS LENTEN STUDY**

#### **Sundays beginning February 22, 2:00-3:30pm**

#### **Tuesdays beginning February 24, 10:30-12:00 noon**

In this study using video of Old Testament Scholar Walter Brueggemann in conversation with the Bible, we'll consider the biblical prophets and how we can embrace them in our present context as grace. Register now at [tinyurl.com/brace-prophets](http://tinyurl.com/brace-prophets)

## **GOSPEL OF JOHN - Pastors' Lenten Bible Study**

**Wednesdays beginning February 25, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171**

**Thursdays beginning Feb 26, 10:30-12:00noon | Via Zoom**

You're invited to experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal by encountering God's grace in the Gospel according to John. Pastors Brian and Madison will walk with you through Adam Hamilton's book, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* for 6 weeks. Register now at [tinyurl.com/pastors-john](http://tinyurl.com/pastors-john)

For more information on classes, contact Deacon Troy Sims [tsims@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:tsims@williamsburgumc.org)

## **WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Your worship experience today is made possible by many volunteers behind the scenes. Greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, communion servers, communion preparation helpers, flower waterers, Sanctuary preparation, flower coordinator/orderer, Advent flower waterers, and Christmas sanctuary decorators all work to make your worship experience exceptional. Now that the church has added a Modern worship service each Sunday the need for volunteers has grown. If you can help in any of these roles for the Modern Worship service, please reach out to Cindy Banek [banek1@cox.net](mailto:banek1@cox.net). If you are interested in serving the 8:15 or 11:00am services, please email Betsy Harrison [betsyTharrison@gmail.com](mailto:betsyTharrison@gmail.com) and let her know how you can serve in worship. Your gifts and talents can enhance our worship experience.

### **CARE COMMITTEE**

The CARE Committee is a dedicated group of volunteer members who provide rides to medical appointments, meals for the sick, and funeral receptions. Our February Coordinators are Mary Ann Durboraw (757) 871-1455 and Carol Schuster (757) 603-2574. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.



### **CREATION CARE TEAM**

When you're out of the house, or asleep, lower the heat to conserve energy. Before adjusting your thermostat, try layering up with warm clothes and blankets. This simple habit can reduce the need for excessive use of heat and lower energy bills.

### **HEALING FROM HATE: Battle for the Soul of a Nation**

**Tuesday, February 3, 6:30pm St. Martins Church, 1333 Jamestown Rd.**

*All Together Williamsburg* invites us to Part 1 of the film, *Healing From Hate*, which provides an inside look at the bold work of the group Life After Hate – an organization founded by former skinheads and neo-Nazis who have dedicated themselves to transforming racist, white-supremacist attitudes. Part 2 will be shown on February 24. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims [tsims@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:tsims@williamsburgumc.org)

### **INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE**

**Wednesday, February 4, 6:30pm | Crim Dell Meadows on W&M Campus**

This community-wide vigil will be focused on the values of welcoming the stranger, loving our neighbor, and treating others as we would wish to be treated. This will also be a time to mourn recent violence in the nation in which we live. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims [tsims@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:tsims@williamsburgumc.org)

# WAYS TO GIVE

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give..." 2 Corinthians 9:7*



## TEXT TO GIVE

"GIVETOWUMC" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. You do not need an account to give; simply text your gift amount in any format (\$10, 10, 10.00). Receipts are sent via email.



SCAN ME

## CASH/CHECK

Donations can be made via our collection plate on Sundays, mail, or the church office Mon - Fri. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and makes a real difference in the lives of those we serve!

## Giving Makes an Impact

Your generosity changes lives and empowers ministries. Visit our Resources page at [williamsburgumc.org/articles](http://williamsburgumc.org/articles) to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.

# CONNECT



**WEBSITE** [WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG)  
**INSTAGRAM** @INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA  
**FACEBOOK** @FACEBOOK.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMC

## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED? SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST FOR THE LATEST NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT WUMC.

# OUR CHURCH STAFF

Brian Johnson, **Lead Pastor** (x110)  
Madison Ailinger, **Pastor of Congregational Care** (x114)  
Troy Sims, **Minister of Discipleship** (x108)  
Mary Ellen Baker, **Finance Manager** (x106)  
Ellen Bushman, **Respite Care Director** (x118)  
Josh Clayton, **Digital Media Specialist** (x107)  
Zach Griggs, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)  
Thomas Marshall, **Organist** (757 713-0584)  
Laura Pittman, **Director Kid's Morning Out** (x113)  
Nancy Reynolds, **Engagement and Administrative Coordinator** (x104)  
Michelle Roy, **Director of Congregation & Community Engagement** (x103)  
Ellen Simon, **Bookkeeper** (x116)  
Lou-Anne Smith, **Director of Worship Arts** (x105)  
Greg Whiteside, **Director of Facilities** (x101)  
Anthony Williams, **Assoc. Director Worship Arts, Director Early Childhood Music** (x115)  
Ryan LaRock, **Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation** (757 201-8850)

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