



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

Ash
Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Noon & 7:00pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| PRELUDE | <i>How Deep the Father's Love for Us</i> (arr. Carol Tornquist) | Piano |
| | <i>I Want Jesus to Walk with Me</i> (Raymond Henry) | Organ (7:00) |
| GREETING | | |
| OPENING PRAYER | O God, creator of all and judge over all, from the dust of the earth you have formed us, and from the dust of death you will raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts, and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. | |
| *HYMN | <i>Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes</i> | 2138 (black book) |
| OLD TESTAMENT | The Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God. | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (846 OT) |
| ANTHEM | <i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i> (Victor L. Gumma) | Koinonia Duet |
| | <i>God So Loved the World</i> (John Stainer) | Sanctuary Choir |
| GOSPEL LESSON | Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church! Thanks be to God. | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (5 NT) |
| REFLECTION | "Facing Death, Turning to Life" | Pastor Brian Johnson |
| INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE | | |
| CONFESSiON | Psalm 51:1-17 (520 OT) (sung response 1) | 785-786 (red book) |
| | After we have finished praying Psalm 51 together, you are invited to offer prayers of confession to God in silence. | |
| MUSICAL TIME OF REFLECTION | <i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i> (Arnold B. Sherman) | Covenant Ringers (7:00) |
| THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES | Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. | |
| | Amen. | |
| | When you come forward to receive ashes, you may either receive them standing or kneeling at the rail. Afterwards, you may return to your seat, where you are invited to pray about the condition of your soul, your personal journey through the next 40 days of Lent, and how you might draw closer to God. | |
| IMPOSITION OF ASHES | | |

PARDON

May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner, but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

Amen.

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

PRAAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All things come from you, O God, and with praise and thanksgiving we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, that we might have abundant and eternal life. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all that you have done, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit use this time of Lent to make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*HYMN

Lord I Want to Be a Christian

402 (red book)

WORD OF BLESSING

POSTLUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee
(arr. Adoniram J. Gordon)

Piano

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
(Roberty Bucklee Farlee)

Organ (7:00)

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 Preschool** (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

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 – even and especially our enemies. 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

1. UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Imagine disaster has struck and you’ve lost everything. How do you take care of even basic hygiene needs? Enter the UMCOR Hygiene kits that provides a wash cloth, toothbrush & toothpaste, comb, soap, nail clippers and more. Your gift will help WUMC purchase items that go in the kits to be assembled here and delivered for use!

2. UMCOR Sunday

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) is the relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, providing physical, mental, and spiritual support to those affected by natural and human-caused disasters. This offering underwrites UMCOR’s “costs of doing business” in order to make sure that 100% of the gifts you give to support particular UMCOR relief initiatives goes to support that need.

3. World Central Kitchen

This organization provides fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises throughout the world. It works through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition, and encourage self-reliance through education.

LOCAL INITIATIVES

1. Edmarc

Edmarc provides hospice, home health, and bereavement services specifically for children and their families. It cares for children in their homes – a place of familiarity and comfort – as they face life-threatening illnesses. It was established in 1978 in Suffolk, VA and now has a Williamsburg branch.

2. FISH

A volunteer-operated, non-profit, FISH provides food, clothing, and small housewares to persons in need who live in the greater Williamsburg area. It depends solely upon the generosity of a caring community for volunteers, donations of goods for our clients, and financial support.

3. VICPP (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy)

This organization works with Virginians of all faiths and traditions as well as those with no religious affiliation to engage all people in advocating for economic, racial, and social justice in Virginia’s policies and practices through education, prayer, and action.



Use the QR code or give online at tinyurl.com/Lenten-offering



LOOKING FOR WAYS TO OBSERVE LENT?

Visit our new Lenten Practices page for simple, meaningful ways to grow in faith this season including prayer, Scripture, fasting, generosity, and love in action. Head to www.williamsburgumc.org/lenten-practices for ideas.

