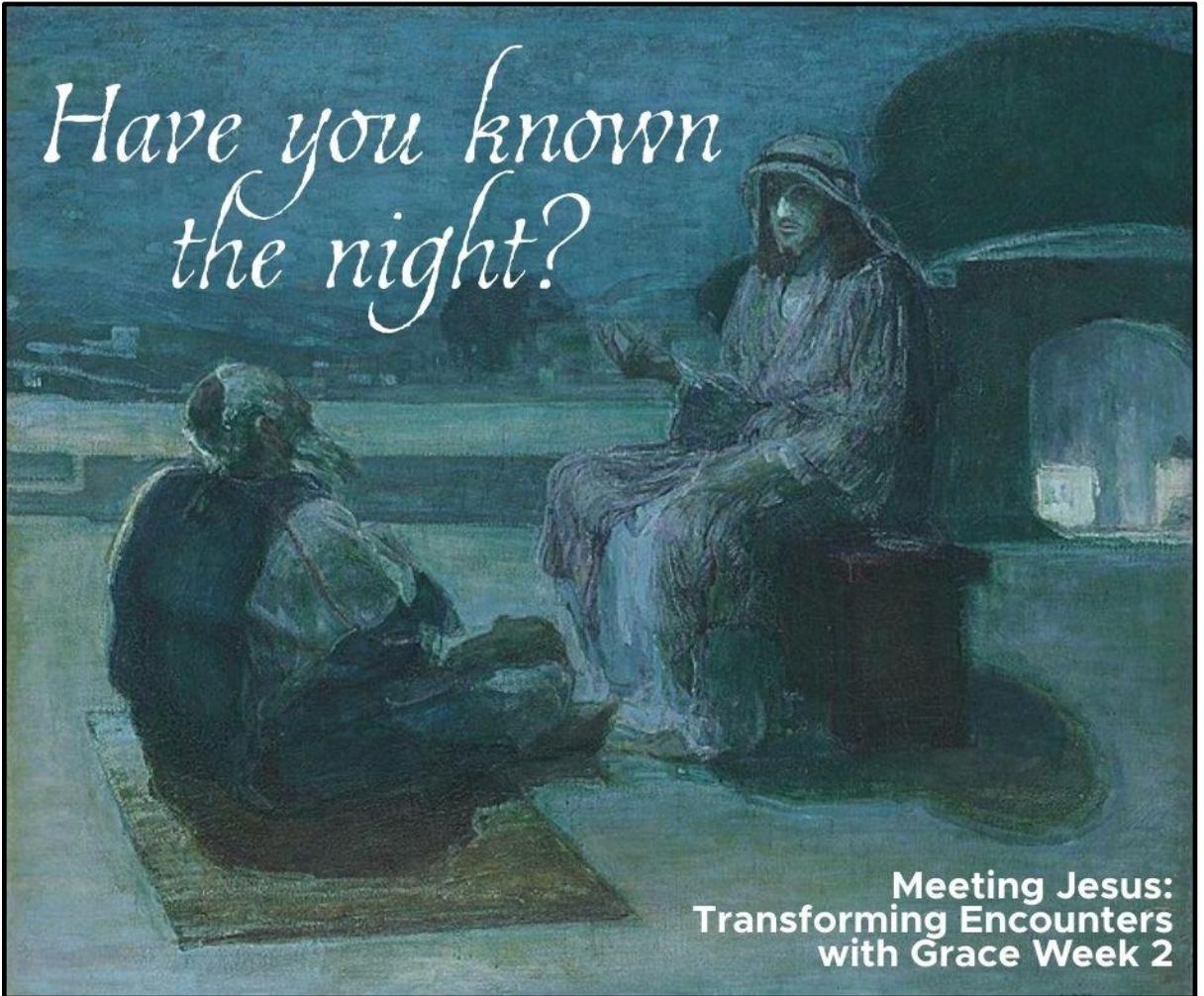




Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Adoration
(Florence B. Price)

Organ

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the stillness of the night, Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions.

We come today with our questions, our doubts, and our longing.

Nicodemus walked through the shadows, searching for truth.

We come from places of uncertainty, seeking light.

Jesus said, "No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Spirit of God, breathe new life into us, and give us new birth.

The Spirit blows where it chooses, giving life and growth.

Holy Spirit, move among us in ways we cannot predict or control.

For God so loved the world, that God sent the Son – not to condemn the world, but to save it.

We gather in the name of the God who calls us to mercy and love.

Out of the night, Christ calls us into light.

We gather to meet Jesus and to be made new.

*HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

605 (red book)

CONFESSION 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

Genesis 12:1-4a (10 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

John 3:1-17 (93 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Have You Known the Night?”

Rev. Dr. Ryan LaRock

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *God So Loved the World*
(John Stainer)

Sanctuary Choir

*DOXOLOGY

95 (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)

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:)

Time Now to Gather 2265 (black book)

As We Gather at Your Table 2268 (black book)

Come, Share the Lord 2269 (black book)

Take Our Bread 640 (red book)

Now Let Us from This Table Rise 634 (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

We Are God's People

2220 (*black book*)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Blessing
(Eleanor Daley)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

Festal March
(Florence B. Price)

Organ

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 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 March 2 and 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

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 williamsburgumc.org/lenten-practices for ideas.

EASTER FLOWERS - Order deadline Sunday March 8 midnight

A gift of \$20 enables flowers to be placed in honor or memory of loved ones. You may order today at the table in the Atrium or on our website: williamsburgumc.org/easter/ or the Events section in Realm. For questions, please contact Rita Welty wumcflowers@gmail.com

MESSY CHURCH – March 10, 5:30 -7:30pm Play, Craft, Eat, Worship

CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL - March 14, 10:00am I Fellowship Hall

Please join the United Women in Faith (UWF) for their annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. This event will highlight our denomination's faithful response to disaster relief. We will hear from Barbara Burnside, a UWF member and a Disaster Response Trainer & Evaluator for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, who will share her experiences from the field of Disaster response. A free will offering will be received to support missions of the UWF including recovery assistance. Questions? Contact Cindy Banek banek1@cox.net

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 March 19 and April 16, 7:00pm. Dinner will be provided or we will go somewhere fun! Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

SAVE THE DATE - CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

March 21, 8:30am | Fellowship Hall Register: tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast

SISTERS IN SPIRIT WOMEN'S RETREAT – LIFE'S A PUZZLE

April 17-19 | Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano

Life is a puzzle, but thankfully, God helps us put it all together. Rev. Nancy Robinson will lead the retreat. Learn more or register: tinyurl.com/2026-womens-retreat

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUNTEERS

Your worship experience today is made possible by many volunteers. Greeters, ushers, acolytes, readers, communion servers, communion preparation helpers, watering flowers, Sanctuary preparation, flower coordinator, Easter and Christmas decorating 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, contact Cindy Banek banek1@cox.net If you are interested in serving the 8:15 or 11:00am services, contact Betsy Harrison betsyTharrison@gmail.com

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 March Coordinators are Mary Liz Sadler (757) 229-8063 and Fran Hermance (757) 229-8857. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.



CREATION CARE TEAM

United Nations researchers recently reported that the world has entered a “global water bankruptcy”. Using more water than nature can replace has led to irrecoverable damage to rivers, lakes, and aquifers and has caused a severe water scarcity in much of the world. This month we will focus on ways to reduce our personal water footprints. One step is to eat less beef, which has a water footprint of 1800 gallons of water per pound. Swap it out for poultry or plant-based alternatives.

WALK FOR A HEALTHY HONDURAS Sunday, April 12, 1:00pm

Carolina Honduras Health Foundation (CHHF) is hosting a walk to raise funds for a Healthy Honduras. CHHF works with the Dept. of Colón, Honduras to improve health via education, community development, medical referrals, and primary care clinics. Register to walk as an individual or a team, set your goal, and start fundraising. Register at tinyurl.com/chhf-walk

TAKE PART IN A MEDICAL MISSIONS TEAM TO HONDURAS July 10-18

Transform lives of others and yours. Join the van Leliveld Carolina Honduras Health Foundation (CHHF) mission team. We are looking for doctors, nurses, and non-medical people willing to help. Contact Sandy vanleliveld (757) 871-2012 or sandyvanleliveld@gmail.com

CLASSES

GOSPEL OF JOHN - Pastors' Lenten Bible Study Continues Wednesday March 4, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171 Thursday March 5, 10:30-noon | 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

DEPOLARIZING OURSELVES: A Means to Encounter God's Grace Sunday, March 8, 12:00-2:00pm | Location TBD

The Greater Good Group of WUMC invites you to take part in this workshop led by the local chapter of Braver Angels braverangels.org/braver-faith/. For people of faith, civil discourse begins in recognizing the image of God in our conversation partner. Since we are all children of God, our approach should involve mutual respect. Respect, not agreement, is an essential key for a healthy discussion. This workshop addresses how we may inadvertently be complicit in, or even encourage, polarization. We'll begin with a simple lunch after 11:00am worship; workshop begins at 12:30pm. YOU MUST REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE!
tinyurl.com/wumc-depolarize

For more information on classes, contact Deacon Troy Sims 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.

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 to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.

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 Thanks!

FEBRUARY 22 ATTENDANCE

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Worship Attendance Total..... | 485 |
| In Person 11:00am..... | 212 |
| In Person 8:15am..... | 113 |
| Modern Worship 9:30am..... | 62 |
| Online..... | 98 |

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: MONDAY, NOON
Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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CONNECT



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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 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

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