



# Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

Meeting Jesus: Transforming Encounters with Grace Week 3



*The God Who Knows Us*

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

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*Chorale Dorien*  
(Jehan Alain)

Organ

WELCOME

INTROIT

*Adoramus te, Christe*  
(Théodore Dubois/arr. Liebergen)

Sanctuary Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today as people on a journey — through wilderness, through weariness, through the ordinary places of our lives.

**We are thirsty. Thirsty for meaning. Thirsty for hope. Thirsty for God.**

In the desert, God's people cried out, and God brought forth water from the rock.

**In our desert places, we cry out, and God meets us still.**

Jesus sat beside a well in the heat of the day, met a woman who came to the well alone, and said to her, "If you knew God's gift..."

**We want to know God's gift. We want to drink deeply from the Water of Life.**

God offers Living Water: a spring welling up within us, satisfying the thirst that nothing else can quench.

**Lord, give us this Living Water.**

We gather, not because we have all the answers, but because we are thirsty.

**We gather to worship the One who knows us fully, loves us completely, and meets us right where we are.**

Come, Lord Jesus. Be our Living Water.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Meet us here today.**

\*HYMN

*Shall We Gather at the River*

723 (red book)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

adapted from a prayer  
written by Lisa Withrow

Let us join together in confessing our sin and seeking God's forgiveness.

**Loving God,**

**For all the times we have moved against your will;**

**For all the ways we have been destructive;**

**For all the people we have manipulated;**

**For all the truth we have denied;**

**For all the deeds we have done in ignorance;**

**That which we have done that has harmed others,**

**Thereby harming ourselves;**

**These acts and thoughts we confess before God.**

**We acknowledge all of this, and we are sorry.**

**We pray for the strength to change these actions, thoughts, and words so that we can follow your path more faithfully.**

**God have mercy, Christ have mercy, God have mercy.**

[a time of silent confession]

Hear the Good News, Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That proves God's love towards 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

Exodus 17:1-7 (64 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
(Gilbert Martin)

Sanctuary Choir

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 4:5-30, 39-42 (94 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

"The God who Knows Us"

Rev. Brian Johnson

\*HYMN

*You Who Are Thirsty*

2132 (black book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

883 (red book)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called**

**to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and Risen,**

**our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*Offertory*  
(Florence B. Price)

Organ

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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.**

95 (red book)

\*HYMN

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

731 (red book)

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Kyrie Eleison  
(James Rivers)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

*Healer of Our Every Ill*  
(Jeffrey Honoré)

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.*

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

**ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS March 9 and 11 @ 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](http://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 on our website: [williamsburgumc.org/easter/](http://williamsburgumc.org/easter/) or the Events section in Realm. For questions, please contact Rita Welty [wumcflowers@gmail.com](mailto:wumcflowers@gmail.com)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:mailinger@williamsburgumc.org)

## **CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

**March 21, 8:30am | Fellowship Hall** Jenny Crain will speak about the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation. Register: [tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/2026-womens-retreat)

# WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The **UWF BLOOD DRIVE** was held Saturday, February 28. We hosted 37 donors with a total of 34 units of blood donated. Thanks to all who came out to donate, provide baked goods, and volunteered to help with this event. The next one will be held on September 5.

## **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](mailto:banek1@cox.net) If you are interested in serving the 8:15 or 11:00am services, contact Betsy Harrison [betsyTharrison@gmail.com](mailto: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

Lower your water footprint by buying sustainable clothing and products. Materials such as organic cotton, hemp, linen, bamboo, or recycled fibers generally require less irrigation than conventional cotton or synthetic fabrics produced using fossil fuels. Wash clothing only when necessary using cold water cycles to save energy and reduce microplastic pollution from synthetic fabrics which impact aquatic ecosystems.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/chhf-walk)

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

We are looking for doctors, nurses, and non-medical people willing to help. Contact Sandy vanlelived (757) 871-2012 or [sandyvanlelived@gmail.com](mailto:sandyvanlelived@gmail.com)

## CLASSES

### THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS - Searchers Sunday School 6 Sundays beginning April 12, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303

You're invited to consider how Jews and Christians read the same stories of the Bible differently. Using videos and a book by Amy-Jill Levine and Mark Zvi Brettler, you'll compare various interpretations – historical, literary, and theological – of each ancient text, finding deeper understandings of the original narratives and the way they are understood in later times and places. For more info or to get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims [tsims@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:tsims@williamsburgumc.org)

For more information on classes, 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.

### 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.

# 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](https://tinyurl.com/Lenten-offering) Thanks!

## MARCH 1 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	527
In Person 11:00am.....	225
In Person 8:15am.....	135
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	84
Online.....	83

**Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: MONDAY, NOON**  
Please submit to Nancy Reynolds  
[nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org](mailto:nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org).

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737740, Williamsburg UMC CCLI #3168974 CCS/WCL #12349. All rights reserved.*

## CONNECT



**WEBSITE** 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 Preschool** (x113)

Nancy Reynolds, **Engagement and Administrative Coordinator** (x104)

Michelle Roy, **Communications and Systems Administrator** (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

**WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**500 JAMESTOWN RD | WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185**  
**(757) 229-1771**