



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Ascension Sunday

The Movement Turning the World Upside Down Week 6

May 17, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude
(Allen Orton Gibbs)

Organ

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we tell the story of Christ's Ascension – a story that reminds us that Jesus is not limited to a particular time or place, but is present wherever his people call upon him.

Today, we celebrate the Good News that Jesus reigns at God's right hand, forever.

Today, we celebrate God's grace poured out and we witness people responding to God in faith.

Today, we see God at work among us, through baptism and confirmation.

Today, we remember that Jesus is still working, that the Holy Spirit is still moving.

Today, we celebrate that Christ is alive and at work in our church and in our world.

Today, we remember that we are loved by God and called to join in God's work of love.

Today, we celebrate that God is still on the move, making all things new.

*HYMN

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

UMH 606

OPENING PRAYER

adapted from a prayer used by Arnold Mills UMC in Rhode Island

God of possibilities, just as Jesus called the first disciples out of familiar patterns and long-held expectations, so you call us to move beyond the way things are and into the future that you are creating. Just as the disciples were commissioned to carry the gospel beyond comfortable boundaries, so you call your church today to transcend all that keeps us from following where your Spirit leads. As we gather together in worship, give us the strength, courage, and wisdom we need to step boldly into the Christ-shaped future that you are creating. We pray this all in the name of our Crucified and Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:44-53 (91 NT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Prayer of the Children (Kyrie Eleison) from Missa Brevis
(Tom Shelton)

(11:00)
Youth 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"The Power Behind the Movement"

Rev. Brian Johnson

2026 WILLIAMSBURG UMC CONFIRMATION CLASS CREED

We believe in God, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in God our Father, who created heaven and earth, and called them very good. This is the God who knows us by name, who loves and carries each and every one of us forevermore.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Son of Man, Son of God, King of Kings, and the Lamb of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary, was baptized by John, and was sent into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. He spread God's Word with the disciples, healed the sick, and fed the hungry. He was betrayed by his friend, crucified under Governor Pilate, and on the third day he rose again and ascended into heaven.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the flame that enlivens our faith. The Spirit is the breath of life, our guide, who pours the love of God into us like the ink in God's pen.

As the church, we believe we are the Body of Christ, where we are stronger as one. We are in covenant with God as we practice coming together as a community and forgiving others as God has forgiven us. We are called to practice the sacraments of the Lord and to love our enemies and our neighbors. We seek this in the name of God, now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(8:15)

Jacob Robert Epler

Son of Alex Epler and Emma Philipoom, little brother of Molly

SUNG RESPONSE

God Claims You

Jacob, Jacob, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.

Jacob, Jacob, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

We your family love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.

Jacob, Jacob, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

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, our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

A Jubilant Song
(Allen Pote)

Sanctuary Choir

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

UMH 94

**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!**

*HYMN

Guide My Feet

TFWS 2208

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Postlude
(Allen Orton Gibbs)

Organ

The flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Matthew Hershberger by his parents.

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.*

FAMILY MINISTRY CHECK-IN STATION

If your children are participating in the Nursery or Children's Worship, at any worship hour, visit the kiosk in the atrium to check them in for the programs they will attend. This helps us ensure your children's safety by knowing who is present, and gives our guests a way to provide us with an emergency contact and allergy information. The station will also print out a name tag for your child and a matching security tag for their adult to use at pickup time. Thank you for using this check-in system and for partnering with us to help your children have a safe, fun, and faithful experience at WUMC!

RENEW YOUTH OUTING – Meet at WUMC TODAY, 12:30pm

We're going hiking at York River State Park. We'll spend an afternoon among the trees as we share a picnic lunch and explore the ancient bluffs of the York River. Please dress appropriately in comfortable clothing and walking shoes, and please bring a reusable water bottle. Students can be picked up at the Park at 2:30pm, or at WUMC closer to 3:00pm.

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CREATION CARE TEAM Honoring God's World

Plastic waste doesn't disappear—it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces over time. These microplastics can be ingested by wildlife and enter the food chain. Properly disposing of waste and recycling when possible helps prevent plastics from reaching the environment. Even better, try to reduce consumption by choosing products with minimal or no plastic packaging.

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 May Coordinators are Linda Inge (719) 640-3980 and Mary Liz Sadler (757) 229-8063. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance. To join this team of folks who care for others, email Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CIRCLES Our Circles are open to all! Please visit any of our circles and join in a time of sisterhood and service.

Sisters in Mission will meet May 19, 5:00pm Rm. 309. Guest Joni Stevens, a history will speak on John and Abby Aldridge Rockefeller's Christian faith, and their involvement with the community and restoration of Williamsburg from the 1930s to the 1970s.

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

Join us in the Den on the 3rd Thursday of the summer months. Next meeting will be May 21 at 7:00pm. Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

MEMORIAL DAY WREATH CEREMONY Sunday, May 24, 10:35am | Front Lawn

Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring those who have given their lives while serving. We invite you to join us on the front lawn Sunday morning as we both remember and honor those men and women during a special Memorial Day Observance Ceremony. History of Memorial Day link <https://www.history.com/articles/memorial-day-history>

AWAKENING DISSENT - Religion, Revolution and Legacy

Friday, May 29, 10:00am-5:30pm Saturday, May 30, 8:00am-12:00noon

Examine how religion influenced and impacted the American Revolution. In this symposium, religion scholars, museum professionals, and community members explore the role of religion and revolution in early America and the connections to the present day. This will include two members of HART (Historic Area Religions Together), Rev. Lisa Green of St. Martin's Episcopal and Rabbi David Katz of Temple Beth El. Attendance is free; location - American Revolution Museum, Yorktown. Advance registration is required at tinyurl.com/awake-dissent

LET'S CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY Sunday, May 31

WUMC Quilt Ministry will have patriotic items for sale in the Atrium on May 31. Check it out between services. All proceeds will go to the **Wounded Warriors Project**. Thanks!

GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE?

It's time to celebrate our high school and college graduates! If you have a family member graduating this Spring connected with WUMC, we would love to name them in the bulletin and include them in the graduate recognition on May 31. Please send their name, school they are graduating from, and their plans for the Fall to Zach Griggs zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org

MUSIC MINISTRY Summer Choir

Give this low pressure, low commitment ministry a try. Each Sunday is independent, so you won't miss anything if you are away on a particular Sunday. From June 7 through August 30, we meet thirty minutes before 8:15 and 11:00am worship services to learn easy songs to sing for worship. Come, find a warm and caring place to share the song in your heart!

SKILLS FOR DISAGREEING BETTER - Braver Angels

Sunday, June 14, 2:00-4:00pm | WUMC

The WUMC Greater Good Group invites you to take part in this free workshop led by the local chapter of Braver Angels (a love offering will be received to support Braver Angels' work). You'll learn essential skills for communicating across differences and finding common ground with respect and a bit of fun. Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org. You must register to participate! Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-disagree-better

MOSES: Searchers Sunday School

6 Sundays beginning June 7, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303

Featuring video of Adam Hamilton as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai along the Nile, the Red Sea, and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information, archaeological data, and the Bible, you'll follow in the footsteps of a reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given.



MESSY CHURCH SUMMER CAMP IS BACK!

Sunday, July 26 - Wednesday July 29 5:30pm - 7:30 pm | WUMC

Our theme this year is CONNECTIONS! Connecting with each other.

Connecting with God! It's like VBS (Vacation Bible School), but better!

To gather more information, look in the latest *Messenger* Newsletter or

contact Zach Griggs, Family Ministries Coordinator

zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org Register at tinyurl.com/mcsc2026

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17

This summer our ReNew Youth Group will be participating in Richmond, Virginia Awareness Week, hosted by Cross Connection Camps. We will be working with about 50 participants from several churches to build relationships across racial divides as we learn from history, serve in mission, and work together in the community. Lodging will be at Centenary UMC.

To gather more information, look in the latest *Messenger* Newsletter or contact Zach Griggs, Family Ministries Coordinator zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org Register at tinyurl.com/rymt26

MAY 10 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	533
In Person 11:00am.....	198
In Person 8:15am.....	145
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	58
Online.....	60
Messy Church	72

Deadline for Bulletin

Submissions: MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds

nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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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.

SCAN THE QR CODE

LEARN MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO GROW, LEARN, AND FIND COMMUNITY AT WUMC.



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.

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)

STACEY GARDNER, **Director of Congregation & Community Engagement** (x103)

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)

ELLEN SIMON, **Bookkeeper** (x116)

LOU-ANNE SMITH, **Director of Worship Arts** (x105)

GREG WHITESIDE, **Director of Facilities** (x101)

ANTHONY WILLIAMS, **Assoc. Dir. 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