



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



*God is throwing
a party, and
everyone is invited
—especially the
people who you
least expect.*

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 31, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken
(arr. David Schack)

Piano

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God has set a feast of grace for us and the whole world.

We come to God's banquet, because all are welcome here.

At God's banquet table, the humble are lifted up and the hungry are fed.

We come to God's banquet, drawn by the promise of God's mercy.

God has reserved a seat for the poor, the stranger, and the outcast.

We come to God's banquet, trusting in God's wide embrace.

God has saved a seat for you, for me, and for everyone.

We come to God's banquet with joy, because Jesus is our host!

* HYMN

O Worship the King

73 (red book)

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you are the One who prepares a feast for all people.

You welcome the poor, the forgotten, and the least among us. You lift up the humble and call us to walk in your way of mercy and love. Forgive us, Lord, when we chase our own glory, when we cling to our own pride and control, and when we close our doors to others. Renew in us the spirit of humility, so that we may take our place at your table of mercy with gratitude and joy.

Teach us to welcome others as you welcome us, to serve our neighbors as you serve your world, and to love without worrying about our own benefit.

As we gather in worship, open us to the presence and power of your Holy Spirit, so that we might learn to live the way of Jesus and be renewed in the power of your hospitable love.

ANTHEM

The Lord is My Light
(arr. Craig Courtney)

Sarah Woodward, soprano

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 2:4-13 (699 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(11:00)

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Grades K-3 are invited to Children's Worship in Rm. 161 to encounter God in story, song, and play.

Our Nursery, located in Rm. 160, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services and Sunday School.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14 (77 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"God's Guest List"

Rev. Brian Johnson

* HYMN

Together We Serve

2175 (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**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Bob and Cindy Crossan

8:15

APOSTLES' CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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 so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY MOMENT

OFFERTORY

Song of the Wanderer
(Dan Forrest)

Piano

* DOXOLOGY

94 (red book)

**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!**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

2190 (black book)

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Worship the King
(Lani Smith)

Piano

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by
...Richard & Peggy Soulen in celebration of our 68th wedding anniversary.
...Jack and Stephanie Slocum in memory of our son Christian Arnold Hansen.

NEW HERE?

We're delighted to have you with us! After the service, 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!

WAYS TO GIVE

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



TEXT TO GIVE

TEXT YOUR GIFT TO 757-992-9862. 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 inspiring stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond

GIVE VIA OUR APP

Scan the QR Code to download for Android and iPhone



LIGHTING THE WAY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

THIS WEEK - 173 Commitments

Committed - \$1,342,687

Unpledged contributions - \$112,769

Total committed & unpledged - \$1,455,456

THIS WEEK AT WUMC

THE TABLE – Sunday Night Service August 31, 5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

The Table, our Sunday evening worship experience, provides dinner each week! Join us for a warm meal, conversation, music, and a welcoming worship environment.

THE CHURCH will be closed Monday, September 1 in honor of Labor Day.

ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS September 3, 9:30am | Atrium

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

GET TO KNOW YOU GATHERINGS New Dates Have Been Added

Our new Lead Pastor, Rev. Brian Johnson, wants a chance to get to know YOU by hearing from you about yourself and our church. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-get-to-know. Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org if you need help!

KIDS MORNING OUT NEW YEAR BEGINS - September 2, 9:30am. Teachers have been busy setting up their classrooms and preparing for the new year. Please be observant of parents and little ones in the parking lot before school and at 12:30pm dismissal. Keep teachers, staff and children in your prayers as this new school year begins.

UWF BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, September 6, 9:00am-2:00pm | Fellowship Hall

American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Williamsburg United Women in Faith (WUWF) who will provide homemade baked goods in addition to the snacks provided by the Red Cross. Make an appointment NOW at tinyurl.com/wumc-2025-blood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEETINGS

DID YOU KNOW You don't have to be a member of an Adult Sunday School Class to take part in a study being offered in an Adult Sunday School Class? Of course, you are always welcome to become a regular in a class — and it is encouraged, but it is not required. **To get connected to class leaders, or questions for this and all classes below, contact Deacon Troy Sims** tsims@williamsburgumc.org or (757) 229-1771.

CLASS: THE WILL OF GOD - Searchers Sunday School 5 Sundays beginning September 7, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 303

Arguably one of the most misused theological phrases is "the will of God." Join the Searchers Class in considering this classic book by British Methodist, Leslie Weatherhead, to get a handle on how to more fully understand God's will -- what it is and what it isn't!

CLASS: HEARING & RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE - Marvin Willard Sunday School 6 Sundays beginning September 7, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 174

Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life through the stories of ordinary people found in the Bible like Abraham, Samuel, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Jonah, and the beloved disciple.

CLASS: THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY - Perspectives Sunday School Sundays, beginning September 7, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 171

Using John Mark Comer's *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World*, you'll find a fascinating roadmap to staying emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world.

**CLASS: THE CUP OF OUR LIFE - 2 Opportunities for Women
7 Thursdays beginning September 11, 6:30-8:00pm at WUMC (Rm TBD) or
7 Sundays beginning October 12, 2:00-3:30pm at Virginia Greenes 4301 Battery Blvd**

Using Joyce Rupp's book, *The Cup of Our Life*, you'll explore how the ordinary cups that we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and draw us ever closer to God, for our lives can be symbolized in the cup, with its emptiness and fullness, its brokenness and flaws, and all of its blessings. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-cup.

CLASS: DIVORCE CARE 6 Sundays, 7:00-8:30pm | Den

A Divorce Care group will be offered by Arleen Faustina, Ph.D. as an outreach of WUMC's Stephen Ministry on September 14, 21, 28, October 19, 26, and November 2. Divorce Care seeks to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Participants will consider situations such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, as well as dating and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced as well as those still struggling with issues many years later. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-div-care.

**CLASS: WE BELIEVE: HOW THE NICENE CREED CAN DEEPEN YOUR FAITH
6 Mondays starting September 15, 7:00-8:30pm via Zoom**

Would you believe the Nicene Creed is 1,700 years old as of 2025? We invite you to celebrate with Rev. David Hindman, by exploring how the Nicene Creed could transform your spiritual journey. Together you'll work through the ancient creed, unpacking the essence of it to enrich your faith and deepen your understanding of Christian beliefs. Register NOW at tinyurl.com/wumc-nicene.

**CLASS: PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY - Stand Up with Esther
3 Wednesdays beginning September 17, 7:00-8:30pm Location TBD
3 Thursdays beginning September 18, 10:30-12:00noon via Zoom**

Join Deacon Troy and Pastors Brian & Madison on a journey through the Book of Esther using video featuring Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe of Oklahoma City University and St. Paul Theological Seminary. Enter the exotic and fanciful Persian kingdom complete with a dim-witted king, a defiant queen, an egotistical lieutenant and a loyal uncle. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-pastors-study.

**PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS
September 14, 12:15pm | Rm. 303**

New to WUMC? Grab a slice and say hi! Pizza with the Pastors is a casual, quarterly gathering after the 11:00am service to meet our pastors, connect with others, and ask questions about life at WUMC. No pressure—just pizza and people (those new to WUMC). Please register at tinyurl.com/wumcpizzawithpastors

HANDS-ON MISSIONS? Are you one that likes to get your hands dirty? Do you have some basic fixer-upper skills or even experience in construction? If you answered yes to at least one of these and would be interested in helping to form a team(s) that could do such work in the community -- or even go on a mission trip -- fill out this form tinyurl.com/wumc-hands or contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

RESPIRE CARE GARDEN PARTY

September 12, 12:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Lunch tickets are sold out, but you can participate and support the Respite Care Ministry by purchasing raffle tickets online. You do not need to be present to win. If you already have lunch tickets, you are encouraged to buy raffle tickets in advance to avoid the line at the event. Take a chance at winning one or more of our fabulous prizes, all donated by local businesses: Day pass to the Spa and the Williamsburg Inn + \$100 gift card, \$250 gift cards to Season's Florist, Opus 9, Fat Canary, and Williamsburg Estate Services. How about Golf for 4 at the Golden Horseshoe Green course or Stonehouse Golf Club or an overnight stay at the Williamsburg Lodge + golf for 2? Many more prizes can be seen online where you purchase your tickets: tinyurl.com/2025-garden

PARTY OF 8 - Kick-Off with Dessert

Sunday, September 21, 6:45pm | Rm 174

Ever wanted to become more acquainted with others at WUMC? Love to eat? Want to do both at the same time? Then make a "reservation" for a "Party of 8!" Sign up to be grouped with about eight other WUMC folks to join together for a meal – at a local restaurant, in a person's home, or at the church. As we'd love your group to meet more than once and maybe pick a different location each time. Each group can choose any frequency or location to share together in food and fellowship. Join in the kick-off dessert (*bring your favorite dessert to share*)! Together we'll learn more and organize groups! You do NOT have to attend the dessert event to participate; simply register online, and we'll work to get you connected to a group! Let Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org know if you have questions! Register now at tinyurl.com/2025-party-8.



JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRY Do you have a heart for worship and a gift for music? Whether you sing or play an instrument, we invite you to be part of our Music Ministry! This is a meaningful way to use your talents to glorify God and serve our church. -

MESSIAH CONCERT IS COMING Chorus rehearsals November 16, 23, 30 and Thursday, December 4 (dress rehearsal with soloists and orchestra) REGISTER EARLY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT! Space is limited! Free and open to the public. A love offering will be accepted.

Performances: Friday, December 5 at 7:00pm
Saturday, December 6 at 5:00pm

Soloists: Michelle Trovato, soprano
Cecelia McKinley, contralto
Ian Lane, tenor
Branch Fields, bass

Sign up today: Scan the QR Code above.

This is a meaningful way to share your talents and maybe even step out of your comfort zone. Let's make a joyful noise—together!

CHOIR REHEARSALS Thursdays 7:00pm, in Fellowship Hall

GRATITUDE WALKING GROUP Beginning Wednesdays, September 17, 5:30pm
Mark your calendars. Let's get back to our Wednesday evening strolls to Colonial Williamsburg.

CARE COMMITTEE Provides rides to your doctor and aide when you are ill. For September, please contact Judi French (757) 810-2925 and Fran Hermance (757) 645-5069 at least 2 days in advance to arrange for assistance.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SWEATER DRIVE

Now through September 30, **Heritage Circle** will collect children, youth and adult new or gently used sweaters, hoodies or fleeces for people in our community. Place items in the Collection Closet marked *Sweater Drive*. Items will be donated to FISH.

EXPLORE OUR MINISTRIES



MEN'S MINISTRY williamsburgumc.org/adults/men
United Methodist Men is a fellowship committed to the growth and expansion of the church's mission. Our Purpose is to provide a supportive fellowship for men seeking to know Jesus Christ, grow spiritually, and help others find a welcoming place for Christ in their hearts and lives.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY williamsburgumc.org/women
We are a community for women who find deep meaning in relationship to God and each other. We understand that life is often packed full of activities and obligations — from juggling jobs to taking care of family. That's why we offer a space that combines study with meaningful fellowship and outreach opportunities.



YOUTH MINISTRIES williamsburgumc.org/youth
As students grow and mature, we believe faith should grow and deepen with them. Our WUMC ReNEW Youth Group is designed to offer holistic faith formation for students in 6th- 12th grade. We study the Bible, learn spiritual practices, and respond through creative expression and intentional mission.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES williamsburgumc.org/children
We offer faith formation to our youngest disciples through Sunday Nursery, Godly Play Sunday School, Children's Worship, monthly Messy Church, and monthly events for fun and fellowship. We also offer music programs, a vibrant preschool and music school and welcome Cub scouts through our doors each week.



LOCAL OUTREACH williamsburgumc.org/local-outreach

Our Local Outreach committee serves as the cornerstone of our commitment to embodying Christ's love beyond our sanctuary walls. We firmly believe that faith is not merely a personal journey but a transformative force that compels us to engage with the world around us.



GLOBAL OUTREACH williamsburgumc.org/globaloutreach

Our global initiatives range from missionary sponsorships and disaster relief efforts to educational and healthcare projects. These endeavors aim not only to meet immediate needs but also to lay the groundwork for sustainable development and spiritual growth in communities around the world.



STEPHEN MINISTRY [williamsburgumc.org/connect/care-](http://williamsburgumc.org/connect/care-support)

support is a specialized ministry in our congregation that trains and empowers lay members to provide one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care to individuals facing various life challenges. While our pastors will always be at the forefront of crisis care, the needs of our community often exceed what they can provide alone. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, a difficult transition, or a prolonged period of stress, our Stephen Ministers are here to offer emotional and spiritual support.



MUSIC MINISTRIES williamsburgumc.org/music

We eagerly experience God through diverse types of music. More than 150 adults, children, and Youth participate in our ensembles and share their musical gifts with our congregation. You'll find a wide range of opportunities tailored for all ages in our WUMC Music Ministry.



JOIN A CLASS OR A SMALL GROUP

williamsburgumc.org/classes and williamsburgumc.org/small-groups
Studies and Small Groups help us grow spiritually and relationally, reflecting Jesus' example of teaching within community. Sunday school, Bible studies, and various short or long-term studies provide opportunities to learn from Christ and each other. Small groups, intentionally limited in size, foster deeper conversations, mutual support, and accountability. Together, we journey toward understanding our lives, faith, and relationships more deeply.

OUR CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

RESPIRE CARE williamsburgumc.org/respire-care

This weekday afternoon ministry of Williamsburg United Methodist Church is open to all faiths and non-faiths. Our program provides time off for family members who care for dependent seniors by offering a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment where their loved ones can enjoy social activities, music, and companionship under the care of trained staff and volunteers. By supporting both seniors and their caregivers, Respite Care fosters a sense of community and ensures that no one has to navigate the caregiving journey alone.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL williamsburgumc.org/ecms

ECMS is a weekday program offered to the community-at-large. Weekly classes in music and movement are taught by internationally certified early childhood music specialists. Through playful, engaging activities, children develop a strong foundation in rhythm, melody, and coordination while also enhancing their cognitive, social, and motor skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate, creating a shared musical experience that fosters deeper connections and a lifelong love for music.

KIDS MORNING OUT kidsmorningout.org

KMO is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for children aged one to four. Our program fosters each child's social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and spiritual growth, while creating a support system for caregivers. Through age-appropriate activities, we aim to demonstrate God's unconditional love for all children. Our classes are divided into four age groups: Sprouts (young toddlers), Seedlings (twos), Saplings (threes), and Sycamores (fours). Each class is designed to meet the developmental needs of the children, providing a balance of structured learning and free play.



CREATION CARE TEAM

Did you know you can recycle ink cartridges at Staples, 1320 Richmond Road (757) 253-1985. They reuse 100% of a cartridge's components, ultimately limiting waste sent to landfills. Their cartridge remanufacturing process emits 60% fewer carbon equivalents than developing a new one and each remanufactured toner cartridge saves two quarts of oil. Those that cannot be reused are recycled into new products. Plus, if you are a Staples rewards member, you may be eligible for a \$2.00 reward coupon for each cartridge. A win-win!

TODAYS SERVICE LEADERS

Worship Leaders: Brian Johnson, Madison Ailing, Troy Sims, Zach Griggs

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith **Organist:** Tom Marshall

Readers 8:15: Mike Starry **11:00:** Kim Johnson

Acolyte 8:15: Eira Johnson **11:00:** Shane Johnson

Greeters 8:15: Lois Cunningham, Barbara Neary **11:00:** Cindy Banek, Suzanna Chapman

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalannes Hoover, Monty Mason, Michael Johnson, Cindy Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Sherry Brubaker, Debbie Bruss, Gene Bruss, Nancy Donnelly, Barbara Monteith, Marty Monteith, Clark Wallace

Sound and Livestream: Jimmy McCarter, Todd Lindley

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Aug 24	Worship Attendance	Total	480
	In Person 11:00am		237
	In Person 8:15am		142
	Virtual		73
	The Table		28

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions:
MONDAY, 5:00 p.m.

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Madison Ailing, **Pastor of Congregational Care** (x114)

Mary Ellen Baker, **Finance Manager** (x106)

Ellen Bushman, **Respite Care Director** (x118)

Josh Clayton, **Digital Media Specialist** (x107)

Zach Griggs, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)

Brian Johnson, **Lead Pastor** (x110)

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)

Troy Sims, **Minister of Discipleship** (x108)

Lou-Anne Smith, **Director of Worship Arts** (x105)

Rick Viancour, **Facilities Manager** (x101)

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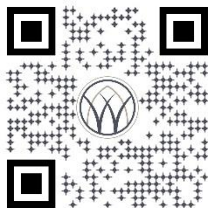
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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST FOR THE
LATEST NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND
WAYS TO BE INVOLVED AT WUMC.

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