



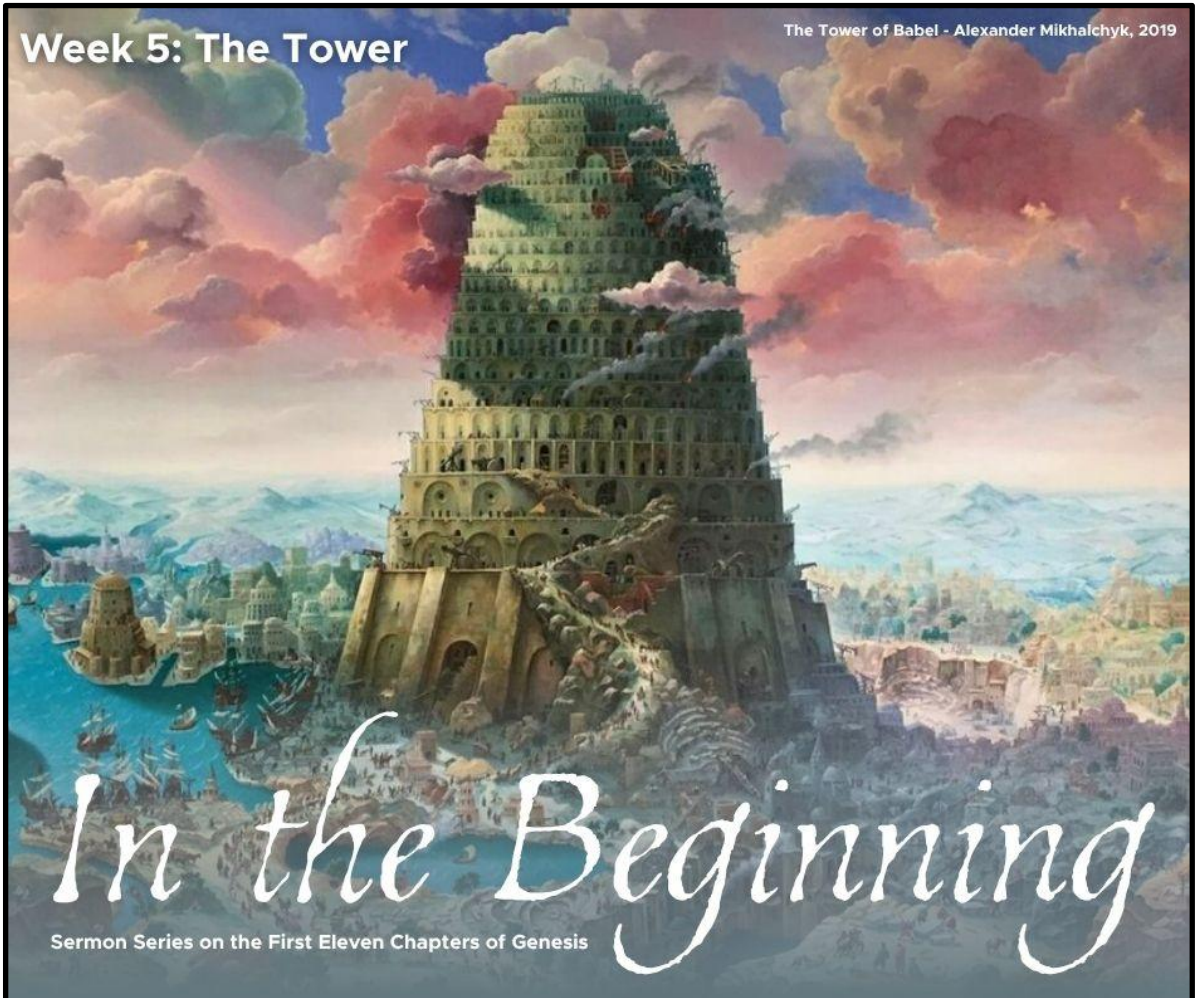
Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785

Week 5: The Tower

The Tower of Babel - Alexander Mikhailchik, 2019



Sermon Series on the First Eleven Chapters of Genesis

August 9, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Canon in E-flat
(George Chadwick)

Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 8)

O Lord, our Ruler, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark

Because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established,

It is amazing, O God, that you notice us.

We give thanks that you pay attention to what we need.

You have given us a special purpose in your work and crowned us with glory and honor.

You have entrusted your creation to us – plant and animal and earth,

You call us to care for the world around us.

O Lord, our God,

how wonderful is your name in all the earth!

*HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

UMH 64

OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (adapted from UMC's Discipleship Ministries)

O God, our Creator, you have made us your human children as one family in you, so that what concerns any, must concern all. We confess the evils we have done and the good we have left undone. We have spent our strength too often upon the tower of Babel of our own pride. We have forgotten that the city's foundations, builder, and maker is You. We have been content that we ourselves should prosper though many might be poor; that a few should feast while multitudes were famished both in body and in soul. O God, You have taught us that we will reap what we sow. And so we call upon your mercy today.

[silence for individual contemplation]

For the clouded eyes that see no further than our own advantage, for the dulled imagination that does not know what others suffer, for willingness to profit by injustice which we have not striven to prevent, for the selfishness that is quick to gain and slow to give, for the unconcern that makes us cry, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

We confess our sin, O God

Hear the Good News: God, who is ever merciful, offers forgiveness of sin and restoration to the path of justice and mercy. God, take away the evil of our conscious and

unconscious wrongs. Forgive us for our unfaithfulness to the vision of your Kingdom, and grant to us a better purpose for the days to come. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
(John Rutter)

Emily Hayden, alto
Jenn Staggs, soprano

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Genesis 11:1-9 (9 OT)

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-5 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 READING

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!
Thanks be to God.

Luke 13:1-5 (76 NT)

MESSAGE

"The Tower"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West

UMH 548

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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(11:00)

Paul & Sue Clark; Suzanne Hastings; Cliff & Amy Metaxa

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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Laurel Grace Lane

(11:00)

Daughter of Andy Lane and Jordan Smolko

SUNG RESPONSE

God Claims You

Laurel, Laurel, 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.

Laurel, Laurel, 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.

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

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.**

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
(Robert M. Thompson)

Organ

*DOXOLOGY

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!**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Grace Greater than Our Sin

UMH 365

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

WELCOME TO WUMC



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, 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. 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 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!

HAPPENINGS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

SISTERS IN GRACE CIRCLE - Tuesday, August 11, 11:30am

Second Street American Bistro Restaurant for a time of fellowship and fun.

BOOK OF EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, August 13 – August 27, 10:00am – 11:00am, Rm. 171.

Join Pastor Madison as she shares her insights from her time in Ephesus and Turkey as we read Scripture together. Bring your Bible.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - For Students, Early Career Professionals August 20, 7pm

Come for meaningful conversations, spiritual growth, laughter, and genuine connection with others navigating many of the same seasons of life. If retirement is still a few decades away, you're probably in the right place! Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS Thursdays through - August 20, 8:30am – 10:00am

Meals on Wheels at WISC, 5700 Warhill Trail, Williamsburg, VA

To help, sign up at tinyurl.com/wumc-kids-meals. Cookies still needed August 20.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CELEBRATE MORE LIFE BLOOD DRIVE



**American
Red Cross**

Saturday, August 22, 9-2:00pm Atrium

Sign up at tinyurl.com/uwf-blood-drive All donors will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card via email. **GIVE BLOOD.**



GOODBYE SUMMER VENDOR FAIR

Up to 50 Arts and Crafts Vendors will offer their wares at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church "Goodbye Summer" event on August 29 in the Fellowship Hall. The fair will be open from 9am – 3:00pm. In addition to crafts there will be \$1 Raffles and baked goods for sale. Please join us for this delightful time to get ready for fall, and maybe even shop for the upcoming holidays!

BAKE SALE, TOO!

We all enjoy homemade treats such as cookies, pies, and cakes. Volunteers are needed to prepare baked goods and bring to the church kitchen Friday, August 28 between 2:00 – 5:00pm or early Saturday August 29 before the Vendor Fair begins. Anyone at WUMC is welcome to "cook up" something along the lines of sweet. All bake sale money will go towards United Women in Faith missions. Sign up at the table in the Atrium today and on Sunday, August 16.

RESPIRE GARDEN PARTY – September 11, Noon – 2:00pm

You may still purchase raffle tickets online or fill out a form located in the Church Lobby. Prizes are spectacular in keeping with the 25th anniversary celebration. An anonymous donor has offered to double all raffle tickets up to the first \$1,500 purchased. Get yours now at tinyurl.com/wumc-garden to double your chances of winning! You do not need to be present to win.

SOLD OUT

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – September 12, 8:30am Fellowship Hall

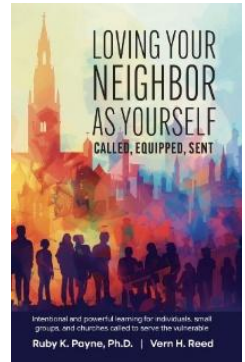
All are invited to our upcoming Churchwide Fellowship Breakfast. Church member Dr. Michael Finlan will explore the science and mystery surrounding the Shroud of Turin—believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ. Michael holds a Ph.D. in chemical physics from Johns Hopkins University, an M.S. in optics from the University of Rochester, and a B.S. in chemistry from Clarkson University. He was an Adjunct Professor at Villanova University and an Optical Engineer at Northrop Grumman, GE, GM and Lucent. He has expertise in lasers, environmental science, spectroscopy, infrared imaging, fiber optics, and solar energy conversion on satellites. Michael will address the radiocarbon dating results, explain potential errors in those tests and examine three alternative dating methods that suggest the cloth may actually date back roughly 2,000 years. Sign up at tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast

WRITING THE GOSPELS: Marvin Willard Sunday School
6 Sundays beginning Sept 13, 9:30-10:30am | Rm 174

You're invited to learn from Hap White how the oral tradition of an obscure peasant culture became the official Greek texts of the early church, with a focus on how the Aramaic sayings traditions, miracle stories, and Passion narratives expanded to account for Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and Pentecost. To get connected to the Marvin Willard Class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF: Called, Equipped, Sent
8 Wednesdays beginning September 16, 6:30-8:00pm | WUMC

Join Rusty MacMullan in exploring how Christians can move beyond charity to create lasting change for individuals in poverty. Together you'll consider strategic, actionable approaches rooted in biblical principles, showing not only how to help people break free from the cycles of poverty but also how to support them in building lives of stability, purpose, and hope. To get connected to Rusty, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org.



UMM MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT: B1, Inspire1



September 18-19, 3:00pm-3:00pm

All men are invited to take part in this UMM event of the Virginia Conference of the UMC. Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown will be the keynote speaker on topics of discipleship, mentoring, and prayer life. The event will take place at *Massanutten Springs Camp and Conference Center*, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. It will include breakout sessions, fellowship time, and gospel singing; all registrations include

dinner, breakfast, and lunch. *Cost:* \$150 per person (with overnight lodging) OR \$65 per person (without overnight lodging). The registration deadline is September 11. Register now vaumc.org/ummretreat/

PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

Sunday September 20, 12:15-2:00pm | Rm 303 followed by an optional building tour New to WUMC? Grab a slice and say, "Hi!" This 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. For more info, contact Deacon Troy Sims (tsims@williamsburgumc.org). Register now at tinyurl.com/pizza-pastor



THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS - Bishop McKendree Sunday School **6 Sundays beginning September 20-October 25, 9:30 - 10:30am | Rm 102**

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. To get connected to the class leaders, contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

CREATION CARE TEAM

Water usage typically spikes in the summer with gardening, lawn care, and outdoor activities. Watering your garden early morning or evening reduces evaporation ensuring the water you use is taken in by your plants. Try using a rain barrel to collect water for another great way to improve your water consumption. Opting for native plants also lowers water use as they are suited to our weather patterns and are often more drought-tolerant than non-native plants.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join our band and/or AV team for Modern Worship! Whether you play an instrument, love to sing, or enjoy working behind the scenes with sound, slides, or video, there's a place for you to serve and make a difference. No matter your level of experience, we'll support and guide you—what matters most is a willing heart. Come be part of a team that helps create a meaningful, welcoming space for worship each week! For more information, contact Anthony Williams awilliams@williamsburgumc.org

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 August Coordinators are Karen Red (757) 532-6893 and Nathalie Bacskey (757) 604-7279. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance. To join this team, email Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

MAGAZINES FOR WESLEY

The Wesley Foundation will be doing a collage activity soon and would love any old magazines you'd be willing to donate to be used for collages! Please give them to Paige (the new director) by August 26th - she is usually in the office from 10-4 in the summer, but if she's not there, feel free to place them in Wesley's mailbox or find her at church on Sunday!

STEWARDSHIP As we travel this summer, the 90+ ministries we support through your generous giving continue Christ's work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, care for families in need, and offer hope in Christ's name. Thank you for your continued faithful generosity throughout the year.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Church members have reported receiving texts or emails from someone claiming to be Pastor Brian and are asking the addressee for "time to talk". One message states, "I'm in a meeting so I can't talk on the phone". Messages like these are most likely a scam. **Please do not respond.** If you are unsure, contact **Stacey Gardner, Director of Congregation and Community Engagement** sgardner@williamsburgumc.org or give her a call (757) 229-1771 and let her know what you have received. She will check with the Pastors to make sure the email did not originate from one of them.



MUSIC REHEARSALS RETURN

SANCTUARY CHOIR - Thursday, August 20, 7:00pm Choir Room.

Questions? Contact Lou-Anne Smith lsmith@williamsburgumc.org.

Register now at williamsburgumc.org/music-ministries/

HANDBELL CHOIRS

Koinonia Bells - Tuesday, September 1, 11:00am Bell Room

Covenant Ringers - Thursday, September 3, 5:30pm in the Bell Room

SANCTUARY ORCHESTRA - Monday, September 14, 5:30pm Atrium.

Whether you have played your instrument regularly for years, you're just learning for the first time, or you're picking up your instrument after decades, this opportunity is for you. Join an orchestra that is super helpful to all its members. Mentors in each section can help and guide players. This is for those entering 9th grade and above. You must supply your instrument. We will supply the music!



The Early Childhood Music School's Fall semester is just around the corner! If you are interested in signing up we have classes for as young as baby and me all the way to our keyboard classes. There are even spots for adults as well. Classes start Monday, August 31. Also, if you or someone you know is interested in being a part of our team, please reach out to Mr. Anthony at mranthony.ecms@gmail.com



Kids Morning Out Of



Williamsburg
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EST. 1785



KMO WISH LIST
OUR KID'S MORNING OUT
TEACHERS HAVE PUT
TOGETHER A WISH LIST
OF CLASSROOM NEEDS
FOR THE NEW SCHOOL
YEAR! SCAN THE CODE
TO CHECK IT OUT. ALL
DONATIONS ARE TAX-
DEDUCTIBLE.



CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

At WUMC, our goal is to help Children, Youth, and their families become disciples of Jesus Christ through nurturing relationships, practicing an active faith, and connecting their stories with God's Story. Questions? Contact Zach Griggs zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org

- **Children (K–5th Grade):** Faith formation through worship, Godly Play Children's Worship, Messy Church, music programs, and more.
- **Youth (6th–12th Grade):** Holistic faith formation through Bible study, spiritual practices, creative expression, and mission opportunities.

YOUTH GROUP MOVING TO EVENINGS THIS FALL

Beginning August 23, reNEW Youth Group will move the regular weekly gathering time to 5:30 – 7:30pm on Sundays. Each week will start with sharing a meal before playing a game and spending time diving deep on how we can follow Jesus today. This shift in timing allows us to continue growing out Youth community and develop a program of spiritual formation to meet our goal of forming disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world in love.



CHURCH OLYMPICS – Sunday, August 23, 5:30 – 7:30pm | WUMC Youth Rm

Wrap up the Summer with one last fun night of Church Olympic Games. We'll compete for prizes to see whose random knowledge wins.

PARTY OF 8

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 get together for a meal – at a local restaurant, in a person's home, or at church. As we'd love your group to meet more than once, your group can pick a different location each time. Each group can also choose any frequency or location to share together in food and fellowship. We'll have a kick-off potluck dessert on Sunday, September 27, 6:00pm to learn more and organize groups! You don't have to be at the event to be a part. Register online tinyurl.com/wumc-party. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org or 757-229-1771.

JULY 26 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	487
In Person 11:00am.....	207
In Person 8:15am.....	133
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	84
Online.....	63

Deadline for Bulletin MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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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, **Director Respite Care** (x118)

JOSH CLAYTON, **Digital Media Specialist** (x107)

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

ZACH GRIGGS, **Family Ministries Coordinator** (x109)

KATHLEEN JONES, **Director Kid's Morning Out** (x113)

THOMAS MARSHALL, **Organist** (757) 713-0584

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)

PAIGE HOLADAY, **Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation** (757) 229-6832

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