



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



August 23, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Praeludium in D
(Dietrich Buxtehude)

Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all,

And God's mercy is over all creation.

God calls us to join in God's work of mercy, justice, and love.

God is ready to welcome us, whenever we are ready to follow.

We are the laborers in God's vineyard.

We are the workers in God's field.

We gather to hear the story of God's faithfulness.

We gather as those who seek to answer God's call.

We gather, not because we have earned our place in God's kingdom.

We gather because God's grace has called us here.

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

UMH 577

OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

(adapted from UMC's Discipleship Ministries)

Generous God, you call us into your vineyard not because of what we deserve, but because of who you are. You owe us nothing, yet you give us everything.

Forgive us when our hearts turn to resentment, when we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves, and when we forget that your gifts are not wages but mercy. Set us free from our sin and selfishness, so that we may learn

to love others as freely as you love us. Teach us to trust in your grace, so that we might know that our value comes not from what we do,

but from who you are. Remind us that you are faithful to forgive, no matter what we have done. As we enter into this time of worship, teach us to see with your eyes, to hear with your ears, and to love with your heart and mind.

We pray this to you, Eternal Parent, in the name of your Eternal Word, Jesus Christ, and in the power of your Holy Spirit – one God in three persons, blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

It Is Well with My Soul
(arr. Linda R. Lamb)

Koinonia Belles Trio

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of God for the People of God.

Romans 13:8-14 (162 NT)

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

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.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Students, teachers, administrators and parents: as you begin this school year, we, your church family, commit to praying for you. As you learn new schedules, meet friends old and new, and teach and learn new subjects, remember you are not alone! We love you, and as we send you into this year with our prayers and hopes, we trust that God will hold you close every day.

May these tags on your backpacks and bags remind you that God is always with you. May your minds be open to the newness of this season. May your hands reach out to welcome everyone around you. May your mouths breathe in God's peace and speak out God's love. May your feet move you toward those who might feel alone. As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play, as you teach and as you plan, in every fear and celebration, may you know that God, your friend, is always there with you.

God, in whom there is always something new, fill the hearts of all who go back to school with confidence in new possibilities. Give them courage, keep them safe, enable them to build new relationships, and help them be open to wonder and learning. May each one be transformed by the renewing of their minds, in the image of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SECOND READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (21 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"The Injustice of God"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

A Man Owned a Vineyard

(tune of *To God Be the Glory*; Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

**A man owned a vineyard and needed a crew
To tend to his land — there was plenty to do.
He called out to people downtown in the square,
"Come work hard all day and I'll pay you what's fair."
God, you call and you send; there is work here to do.
There's your whole world to tend; may we garden for you!
O Lord, in your vineyard may we seek to be
The workers who tend to your justice and peace.**

**He went back a number of times on that day;
He called to new workers and promised fair pay.
Can we but imagine those first workers' rage
When all those who labored received the same wage?
God, the gift of your grace comes as quite a surprise.
For your mercies embrace even latecomers' lives.
May all who have worked long and hard humbly learn:
Your grace is a gift and not something we earn.**

**He called the complainers and said, "This is true —
That I kept my word and I gave you your due.
I share with compassion; I'm loving and kind.
I care for all people and give what is mine!"
God you give what is yours, more than what we deserve;
May we reach out in love where you call us to serve.**

**May we who have witnessed your grace gladly share
Your justice and love with your world everywhere.**

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

Andres Delgado and Kiara Rivera
Kyle Sershon

(8:15)

(11:00)

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

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Blessed Jesu, We Are Here
(Johann Walther)

Organ

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Marching to Zion

UMH 733

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Zion Haste
(Lani Smith)

Organ

The flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of
our wonderful church support staff. You're awesome and we appreciate you! A grateful member.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, AUGUST 23, 2026

SERMON TITLE: *The Injustice of God*
ROMANS 13:8-14 • MATTHEW 20:1-16

KEY IDEA: God's kingdom is not based on what we deserve, earn, or achieve. God's grace is a gift, given generously to all.

KEY POINTS

- The scandal of the parable is not that anyone was treated unfairly, but that some received more generosity than others expected.
- Our perspective changes the story: do we see ourselves as people who have earned God's favor, or as recipients of God's grace?
- "God is a terrible bookkeeper." – Charlotte Clegghorn
- Your value is not determined by your ability to succeed.
- Life with God is not about earning rewards; it is about joining in God's work of love.

QUOTATION TO REMEMBER

"Everything is a gift. Maybe it feels unfair. But to me, it feels like mercy. It feels like grace."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When have I found myself comparing my life to someone else's?
2. Where might God be inviting me to receive grace rather than earn approval?
3. How would my life change if I truly believed that my worth comes from God and not from my accomplishments?
4. What opportunities do I have this week to join in the work of love, mercy, and hope?

WELCOME TO WUMC



We're delighted to have you with us! Between services, follow the signs to our Atrium 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.

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 ensures we have 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.

HAPPENINGS IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

GOODBYE SUMMER VENDOR FAIR – Saturday, August 29, 9am – 3:00pm



Come shop at the WUMC "Goodbye Summer" event held in Fellowship Hall. Up to 50 Arts and Crafts Vendors will be there in addition to \$1 Raffles and baked goods for sale. 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. All bake sale money will go towards UWF missions.

WELCOME W&M STUDENTS TO WUMC & WESLEY BRUNCH Sunday, August 30, Noon | Fellowship Hall

Sign up to help tinyurl.com/wesley-brunch or donate a financial gift to offset the cost. Write a check with "Wesley Brunch" in the memo or visit tinyurl.com/wumc-give select "Other Ministries" and put "Wesley Brunch" in the Memo.



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 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

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

Church member Dr. Mike Finlan will explore the science and mystery surrounding the Shroud of Turin. Learn more or register at tinyurl.com/wumc-umm-breakfast

MUSIC REHEARSALS RETURN

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.

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

Register now at williamsburgumc.org/music-ministries/

UM MEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT: B1, Inspire1 – September 18-19, 3:00pm-3:00pm
Massanutten Springs Camp & Conference Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Learn more or register for this Men's Retreat at vaumc.org/ummretreat/

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

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF: Called, Equipped, Sent
8 Wednesdays beginning September 16, 6:30-8:00pm | WUMC
Register now: tinyurl.com/wumc-neighbor

THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS - Bishop McKendree Sunday School
6 Sundays beginning September 20-October 25, 9:30 - 10:30am | Rm 102
Questions about any of the classes, contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org



PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS Sunday September 20, 12:15-2:00pm | Rm 303 followed by an optional building tour 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. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org. Register now at tinyurl.com/pizza-pastor

SAVE THE DATE – PARTY OF EIGHT September 27, 6:00pm | WUMC
Potluck dessert and organize groups. Register online. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

CREATION CARE TEAM

Neighborhood Farmers' Markets sell locally grown fruits and vegetables which have a lower carbon footprint than imported produce. Buying local reduces transportation emissions and lowers the amount of packaging waste. More variety of produce is also found which supports biodiversity!



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. Questions? Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

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.

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-WUMC Youth Rm

Beginning TODAY, reNEW Youth Group will move the regular weekly gathering time to 5:30 – 7:30pm on Sundays. Join us tonight for Church Olympic Games.

AUGUST 16 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	464
In Person 11:00am.....	191
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	69
In Person 8:15am.....	126
Online.....	78

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 williamsburgumc.org/articles to read stories about the difference your giving makes in our community and beyond.

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