



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Stuff Jesus **Never** Said

"God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

August 30, 2026
8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Allegro (Concerto in G)
(Johann Ernst/arr. J.S. Bach)

Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 13)

Consider and answer us, O Lord our God.

Open our eyes to see your goodness.

Some days we are overwhelmed with sorrow,

Some days it feels as if you are hiding your face from us.

Some days our hearts are heavy,

Some days it feels like evil always triumphs.

We come to you, O Lord,

seeking answers to our questions.

We come to you, O God,

because you are the Creator.

We trust in your faithful love;

We give thanks because you have promised to save us.

We sing your praise, O God,

Because you are good, no matter what we face.

We gather, listening for God's voice.

We gather, looking for a song to sing.

*HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

UMH 139

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all power and might, you are the author and giver of all good things.

Teach us to love you and to love our neighbors. Enable us to worship you faithfully and passionately. Feed us with your Bread of Life. Equip us to participate in your work of love, justice, and mercy for your whole world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, Eternal Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God in three persons, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
(Felix Mendelssohn)

Ian Lane, tenor;
Lou-Anne Smith, mezzo soprano

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Job 1:13-22 (453 OT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(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 Play Room (215) to encounter God in story, song, and creativity.

Our Nursery, located in Rm. 203, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services and Sunday School.

SECOND READING

Matthew 26:36-39 (30 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Jesus Never Said: God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

TFWS 2146

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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church UMH 884

**We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
(Carlos Stazeski)

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

UMH 496

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Dialogue sue Les Grands jeux
(Louis-Nicholas Clérambaul)

Organ

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dick & Peggy Soulen
in honor of our 69th wedding anniversary.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, AUGUST 30, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Stuff Jesus Never Said*

MESSAGE: *"Jesus Never Said: God won't give you more than you can handle"*

JOB 1:13-22 • MATTHEW 26:36-39

KEY IDEA: Life sometimes does give us more than we can handle—but God does not abandon us. In Jesus, God enters our suffering, carries what we cannot carry, and promises new life that even death cannot defeat.

KEY POINTS

- **God does not send suffering.** God is not the source of evil, disease, grief, abuse, or despair; God is opposed to all that destroys life.
- **Sometimes we cannot handle it.** Job and Jesus show us that faith does not mean pretending pain is manageable.
- **The better promise is God's presence.** Whatever we face, God is with us. In Jesus, God has become one of us and walked through suffering in order to lead us into life.
- **Our calling is presence, too.** When others hurt, we do not need perfect answers; we can offer love, honesty, and companionship.

KEY QUOTATION

"The worst thing is never the last thing, because after death comes resurrection."

– *Frederick Buechner*

FOR REFLECTION

1. When have you heard or used the phrase "God won't give you more than you can handle"? Did it help—or hurt?
2. What changes when we say, instead, "God is with us"?
3. Who in your life needs your presence more than your answers this week?

WELCOMETO 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.

MINISTRIES



THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BLOOD DRIVE.

We exceeded our goal – 36 units.

BRUNCH TODAY, W&M STUDENTS - Noon | Fellowship Hall



The **Early Childhood Music School's Fall Semester** starts tomorrow, August 31. 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



KMO'S CHALK THE WALK - Sunday, September 6 after services

Let's kick off a great school year by filling our campus sidewalks with words and pictures of encouragement, school spirit, and lots of WUMC pride! We'll welcome our KMO families in the BRIGHTEST way! Chalk and sidewalks provided. Bring your CREATIVITY!

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

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 -ALL ARE WELCOME-W&M STUDENTS, TOO.

SANCTUARY CHOIR Thursday 7:00pm Choir Room

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/

RESPIRE CARE GARDEN PARTY - Friday, September 11, 12:00pm Fellowship Hall

Raffle tickets are available online or use the form found in the church reception area. Please arrive no earlier than noon to give our Respite members time to be seated first.

UM MEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT - B1, Inspire1 – September 18-19, 3:00pm-3:00pm
Massanetta 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: 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

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY – Creating, Living, Trusting

Thursdays, beginning October 8, 7:00 – 8:30pm | Rm 171

This is a 24-week study of the entire story of the Bible based around the theme of "covenant." Study Guide is needed. Register: tinyurl.com/covenant-study

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 tinyurl.com/wumc-party even if you can't make this kickoff event. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

CREATION CARE TEAM

Shade trees can help keep your home cooler in summer months and save energy. Trees planted within 40' of the south side or within 60' of the west side of your house save the most amount of energy due to how shadows fall at different times of the day.





"BE THE CHURCH" Saturday, September 26, 8:30am | WUMC

People of all ages and skill levels are invited to this hands-on mission opportunity to serve others. We will be making cookies and deliver to the local Fire Department (a great opportunity for families with smaller children); writing cards of love and encouragement and assembling care bags for people in need in our community. Ideas include opportunities for yard work, home repairs and something for a local nursing home. Interested?

Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@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 September Coordinators are Fran Hermance (757) 229-8857 and Judi French (757) 810-2925. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance. Questions? Contact Pastor Madison

mailinger@williamsburgumc.org

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, Tweens Outings, music programs, and more.
- **Youth (6th–12th Grade):** Holistic faith formation through Bible study, spiritual practices, creative expression, and mission opportunities.

YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 5:30 – 7:30PM - WUMC Youth Rm

AUGUST 23 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	501
In Person 11:00am.....	189
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	84
In Person 8:15am.....	152
Online.....	76

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). Several convenient giving options are available: debit or credit card, ACH — direct from your bank account and

Google Pay (new!) 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.

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

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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