



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE *Teach Us How to Pray* organ
(James Southbridge)

INTROIT *Bring Forth the Kingdom* Sanctuary Choir
(Marty Haugen)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to be faithful in all things—

In our words and in our deeds, in our time and in our treasure.

What we have is not our own, but a gift entrusted to us by God.

We will use our lives to do God's work.

In serving the poor, in seeking justice, in living with compassion—

We join the work of Jesus in the world.

Jesus is God's great gift to the world.

In him, God gives us everything we need to live the way of love.

Come, let us worship the One who entrusts us with holy work.

With grateful hearts and willing hands, we worship the Lord our God!

*HYMN *This Is My Father's World* 144 (red book)

OPENING PRAYER

God of justice and mercy, you see how the world chases after power and wealth while forgetting the poor and the suffering. You know how easily we bend toward selfish gain, and how easily we forget your way of mercy and love. Turn our hearts back to you, O God. Teach us to be trustworthy with what we have been given, to serve you and others with our whole hearts, to seek justice for those who are oppressed, and to spend our lives in the work of your love. Use our time of worship to ground us in your truth, so that we may go into your world to live for you today and always. We give you thanks for this time, because you alone are our treasure and our Lord, and your love is greater than anything this world has to offer. Amen.

ANTHEM *Prayer for Peace* Sanctuary Choir
(David M. Cherwien)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Amos 8:4-7 (856 OT)
The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (11:00) *Where Children Belong* 2233 (black book)

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 Play Room (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 SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:1-13 (79 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“The Dishonest Manager”

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

2042 (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

Kim, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel Johnson

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

‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
(Raymond Haan)

organ

*DOXOLOGY

94 (red book)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Walk with Me

2242 (black book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Alleluia, Amen
(Carl Wiltse)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

Festival March
(Robert Powell)

organ

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by
...Jake and Alison Foley in honor of their wedding anniversary.
...Henry and Rachel Fowler in honor of
Rachel Fowler, Michelle Fowler & Hazel Schroeder September birthdays.



WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Whether you use the pew pad or the QR code, your check-in helps us celebrate your presence and extend care when it's needed. Choose whichever way works best for you — no need to do both.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available from the ushers. Those with a **"t-coil"** switch in their hearing aids can simply activate the switch.

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!

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 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

THIS WEEK AT WUMC

THE TABLE – Sunday Night Service September 21 @ 5:30pm I 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.

ELEVATE YOUR FITNESS September 22 and 24 @ 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

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

PARTY OF 8 – Kick-Off with Dessert September 21, 6:45pm I Rm 174

Looking for a way to connect with others at WUMC? Love to eat? Why not do both at the same time? Join us for our dessert pot-luck kick off! Make a “reservation” for a party of 8. Sign up and be grouped with about eight other WUMC folks to share a meal—at a local restaurant, in someone’s home, or right here at the church. Each group sets its own schedule and chooses the locations, so it’s flexible and fun for everyone. Register at tinyurl.com/2025-party-8.

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? You are always welcomed and encouraged to become a regular in a class but it is not required. **To get connected to classes contact Deacon Troy Sims** tsims@williamsburgumc.org or (757) 229-1771. Visit our Classes page www.williamsburgumc.org/classes for more info.

CLASSES

CLASS: THE CUP OF OUR LIFE – Opportunity for Women

7 Sundays beginning October 12, 2:00pm at Virginia Greens 4301 Battery Blvd

Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-cup

CLASS: THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6 Sundays Starting September 28, 7:00-8:30PM | WUMC Rm TBD

The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful response on the part of the General Conference to what the UMC believes God is doing in our lives and the public square. Join Anne Hardister and Deacon Troy Sims in exploring this common ground we share, reflecting our UMC priorities and helping us learn about and advocate for vulnerable peoples and the world. Register now at tinyurl.com/wumc-resolutions.

WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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. Monthly coordinators make the connections. If you can help, please contact Karen Red (757) 532-6893 or kgred1@gmail.com. Our September Coordinators are Judi French (757) 810-2925 and Fran Hermance (757) 645-5069. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance.



CREATION CARE TEAM

Leave the leaves! This fall, you can give your yard a break and help the environment by allowing fallen leaves to stay. They'll act as a free fertilizer for your soil and provide essential shelter for overwintering pollinators. Do less work and do more good for local wildlife.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SWEATER DRIVE

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



WAGSTERS MAGIC SHOW October 22 @ 6:00pm

Join the United Women in Faith for an evening of entertainment and magic. They will donate 50% of the sales towards UWF missions. Pick up a flyer in the Atrium racks with the details, new location and phone number to call to book your seats. Invite your family and friends to join us for a special event just for us.

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.

WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WUMC will be serving as a host church for the shelter ministry again this year in partnership with Community of Faith Mission (COFM), St. Stephen Lutheran, and Williamsburg Baptist during the week of November 16 – 23. We invite you to participate as a volunteer to assist our guests and make them feel welcome. There are many volunteer openings in the evening, overnight and early morning shifts. Your help is needed to make this ministry happen! To volunteer, please use the Signup Genius link found in the church newsletter/email, *The Messenger*, or you can sign up in person at a table in the Atrium on upcoming Sundays when this option is available.

REALM IS COMING OCTOBER 1!

We are excited to announce our new churchwide communication and engagement platform, Realm. Realm will make it easier to stay connected, engage with groups, access our online directory, and manage your giving, all in one place. You will begin receiving more information in *The Messenger*, in our Friday emails and on Sunday mornings from our pastors. Beginning October 1, we will launch a phased rollout to our congregation, during which invitations to join our online community will be sent.

In preparation for this transition, we've begun moving our recurring givers to Realm's giving platform. If you would like help setting up, please contact mebaker@williamsburgumc.org or mroy@williamsburgumc.org. We've also transitioned our forms to new platforms, so if a form you use looks a little different, don't worry—it's still ours, and your submission will reach the right staff members.

We can't wait to step into this new chapter of connection and community together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS

DINING OUT FOR MISSION SUPPORT September 30, 4:00 - 9:00pm

Williamsburg UMC's next Dining Out for Missions night will be at Tuscany Restaurant. They will donate 20% of your bill to Williamsburg United Women in Faith, supporting local and global mission projects. Make a reservation by September 26 in one of two ways: Call Tuscany (757) 378-3486; mention WUMC or RSVP online at groupraise.com/events/310356. Thanks for supporting UWF mission work.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS October 4, 9:00am WUMC front lawn

A short outdoor service with individual blessings for each pet, and treats for pets. This event is a celebration of the unconditional love and companionship our pets give us every day. All are welcome—members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who loves animals.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

We are blessed to have lovely flowers adorn our church every Sunday. If you would like to purchase an arrangement in memory of or in honor of someone, please sign up at tinyurl.com/wumcchanceflower

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, donated, or supported our 4th Annual Respite Care Garden Party on September 12. Thanks to the incredible generosity of this congregation and the Williamsburg community, we raised a record amount of funds to support our ministry. Contributions will help us keep tuition affordable for our participants while enhancing our program with even more enriching and engaging activities. Thank you for making this event such a success!"

CONNECT

WEBSITE [WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG](https://williamsburgumc.org)

INSTAGRAM [@INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA](https://www.instagram.com/williamsburgumcva)

FACEBOOK [@FACEBOOK.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMC](https://www.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.

TODAYS SERVICE LEADERS

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

Director of Worship Arts: Lou-Anne Smith

Organist: Tom Marshall

Readers 8:15: Warren Harper **11:00:** Rachel Fowler

Acolyte 8:15: Nancy Donnelly **11:00:** Ella Bullock, Susannah Naramore

Greeters 8:15: Joyce Alewynse **11:00:** Jan Boykin, Lois Cunningham

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalonne Hoover, Monty Mason, Michael Johnson, Cindy Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Grace Bradley, James Bradley, Jennifer Bradley, Skylar Brock, Bonnie Knizatko, Laura Viancour, Rick Viancour

Sound and Livestream: Todd Lindley, Josh Clayton

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Sept. 14 Worship Attendance	Total 516
In Person 11:00am	246
In Person 8:15am	152
Virtual	87
The Table	31

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

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Madison Ailinger, **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)

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)

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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