



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Stuff Jesus *Never* Said

"The Purpose of Faith is to Go to Heaven"

September 6, 2026

8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

The Communion Table
(Michael Shea)

Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Wondrous God, we come to you with open arms and outstretched hands.

We come with open eyes, not deceiving ourselves.

We know it's alright to talk about "long white robes over yonder" in all its symbolism,

**But ultimately, we are people who need to know you, O God
who covers us with love.**

It's alright to talk about "pearly gates,"

But help us open our doors to those who feel shut out and lonely.

It's alright to talk about "mansions in glory,"

But there are people in this world who need roofs over their heads now.

It's alright to talk about "streets of gold,"

But people need a safe place to walk now.

Eternal God, we come knowing that all things belong to you:

Creation, life, and death; the past, the present, and future.

Urge us on to be ambassadors for Christ

And claim the message of reconciliation and abundant life for all. Amen.

*HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

O gracious and loving God, you call us to be your people in this age.

**Forgive us when we keep Christ in the past and the gospels as mere letters
on a page. Forgive us when we keep Christ only in the distant future,
a mere gift for the sweet by-and-by. Forgive us, O merciful God, for trusting
in the wisdom of this age. Forgive us when fellowship and mission are
meant for and delivered to those we already know and love, and we become
merely a social club instead of your church actively welcoming all. May we
see the risen Christ residing here with us as the power of good news in our
daily lives. Free us to be fools for Christ, willing to trust in your Wisdom
expressed in the life and teaching of Christ. Amen.**

[time for silent reflection]

God has heard our cries, and we are welcomed by Jesus Christ to the table where all
may eat and drink and find welcome. Let us embrace this opportunity to love
as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God for this extravagant gift. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:5-11 (157 NT)

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 Kids 6wks – 4yrs. during both services and Sunday School.

SECOND READING

John 6:53-56; 12:49-50; 14:12; 17:3 (98 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Jesus Never Said: The Purpose of Faith is Going to Heaven" Rev. Troy Sims

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Room at the Table

(David Lantz III)

Sanctuary Choir

*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!**

PRESENTING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy

(21 red book)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full – full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died

(22 red book)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Amen
(22 red book)
Amen, amen, amen, amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who prefer to remain in their seat may do so; simply notify an usher, and they will make sure the elements are brought to you. You may go forward to receive communion when an usher dismisses your row. You will be able to choose between dipping the bread in the cup or receiving an individual cup of grape juice. You may return to your seat via the side aisle once you have received. Persons requiring gluten free elements may obtain these at the station at the front or have it brought to them in their seat.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION (Please join in the singing:)

HYMNS

Time Now to Gather
As We Gather at Your Table
Come, Share the Lord
Now Let Us from This Table Rise
Take Our Bread

TFWS 2265
TFWS 2268
TFWS 2269
UMH 634
UMH 640

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you
have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world
as those illumined by your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

*HYMN

O Blessed Spring

TFWS 2076

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune
(Anthony Giamanco)

Organ

The flowers are given in memory of Douglas Gardner, loving husband, father, grandfather and friend by
Stacey, Ben and Cameron Gardner. We miss you.

New Members at 9:30am Modern Worship: Today, we are celebrating new members Chris and Sami Meconnahey joining Williamsburg UMC and their daughter, Maddie's baptism. We also celebrated other new members at our 9:30am worship service in August - Rob and Andrea Buck (along with their children, Bri and Westley) and Tom and Kim Tipton. We give thanks for how God is drawing us together in love and community through at WUMC!

WEBSITE @WILLIAMSBURGUMC.ORG
INSTAGRAM @INSTAGRAM.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMCVA
FACEBOOK @FACEBOOK.COM/WILLIAMSBURGUMC

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Stuff Jesus Never Said*

MESSAGE: *"Jesus Never Said: The Purpose of Faith is Going to Heaven"*

Romans 8:5-11 • John 6:53-56; 12:49-50; 14:12; 17:3

KEY IDEA: Jesus came that we might have quality life in abundance, but it is a life that we are invited to live now. This invitation is a gift. The ability to live this quality life is grace, and it is God's way of life for us.

KEY POINTS

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to pray the Lord's prayer. Nowhere there are we encouraged to pray to leave this good world God created. Rather, we are taught to pray that God's kingdom come, and God's will be done on earth as in heaven.
- "Eternal life" is not the same thing as "resurrection," which we see in John 6:54 where Jesus says we *have* eternal life and he will raise us up on the last day.
- In all but 11 instances of the New Testament, "life" does not mean physical life but *quality life*. This Greek word for this "quality life" is *ZOE* (not *BIOS*, which is physical life).
- The Greek word translated "eternal" is *EONIAN* — "of or pertaining to the eon." Though "eon" can mean a really long time, it most often means a particular period of time. Jesus sometimes speaks of "this age and the age to come," or more literally, "this eon and the eon to come."
- A better translation of "eternal life" is probably "quality life of the age to come," and Jesus says we have it *now*.

KEY QUOTATION

"When the New Testament compares death and life, it's not comparing physical life and literal death. It's noting that too often we are the living dead. We are spiritual zombies walking through the world with no quality life in us.

FOR REFLECTION

1. Where in my life do I feel like I am the walking dead? How can my relationship with God through Christ bring life now?
2. Christ said God's way of life for us is the quality life of the age to come. How can that insight reorient the way I approach life that I may find and live the abundant quality life Christ offers?

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.

MINISTRIES



KMO'S CHALK THE WALK - TODAY after services

Let's fill the WUMC sidewalks with words and pictures of encouragement and school spirit. Welcome our KMO families in the BRIGHTEST way! Chalk provided.

September 8, 5:30 Messy Church - The God Who Sees: The Story of Hagar

We're kicking off Fall Messy Church with a story about God caring for God's people when they're lost in the wilderness, think all is lost, and don't even believe they count as part of God's family. Join in play, crafts, worship and a free family dinner.

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; **KOINONIA BELLS** - Tuesday 11:00am Bell Room; **COVENANT RINGERS** - Thursday 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

Guest arrive noon – 12:15pm; carpool if possible. Parking available on Jamestown Rd.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS Sunday September 20, 12:15-2:00pm | Rm 303;

followed by an optional building tour. Register tinyurl.com/pizza-pastor

Come meet our pastors, connect with others, ask questions about life at WUMC.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DINING FOR MISSIONS

Thursday, September 17, 2pm – 9pm

Enjoy a delicious meal at **Sal's by Victor** or takeout. Tell your server that you are with the church. A percentage of your bill is donated by Sal's to WUMC United Women in Faith, and all funds will go to missions. Thanks to Sal's for their generous support!

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

LOCAL OUTREACH KAIROS EVENT Dillwyn Correctional Ctr. October 8 – October 11
Sign up September 20 and 27 in the Atrium to make cookies and pick up a bag containing instructions/recipes. Please deliver to church October 4, 5 or 6 before 4:00pm.

DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS - Pastors' Bible Study
Wednesdays, September 23-October 7, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171
Thursdays, September 24-October 8, 10:30-Noon | Zoom

Pastor Brian invites you to a 3-week Bible study to look at a number of Jesus' most difficult sayings to hear, including: hate your father and mother; become a slave to all; you'll be cast into the outer darkness. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org
Register at: tinyurl.com/wumc-pastors-study

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



CREATION CARE TEAM

Mid-September through November is the time to plant trees. Trees pull down carbon from the atmosphere and nourish the soil, provide habitat and food for birds and other pollinators, and give shade in the summer and allow sun in the winter, reducing the need for fossil fuel energy.

"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 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 30 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	517
In Person 11:00am.....	190
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	93
In Person 8:15am.....	145
Online.....	89

Deadline for Bulletin MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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in this service obtained from ONE
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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.