



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Stuff Jesus *Never* Said

"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

September 20, 2026

8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Praises!
(Dennis Eliot)

Organ

INTROIT

Joyfully Sing to God Forever
(arr. Patrick M. Liebergen)

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today carrying burdens, responsibilities, hopes, and fears.

But God meets us where we are.

We live in a world that tells us we must be strong enough, and capable enough.

But God loves us where we are.

Some say, "God helps those who help themselves."

But Jesus never said that.

We come to Christ, not because we have it all together,
but because we need God's mercy.

God does not wait for us to earn love.

We trust not in our own power, but in the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

**Let us worship the One whose mercy is new every morning,
and whose love never fails.**

Let us worship God!

Amen.

*HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and merciful God,

we confess that we often live as if everything depends on us.

We convince ourselves that we need to prove our worth.

Forgive us, Lord. Like the leper who came to Jesus, we carry wounds

and burdens that we try to hide. Like the centurion, we struggle to trust

that your word is enough. We turn away from those who suffer

instead of drawing near with compassion.

Forgive us, Lord. Free us from the burden of self-reliance

and draw us deeper into the joy of depending upon you.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Francis
(Allen Pote)

Sanctuary Choir
(8:15) Rita Welty, soloist
(11:00) Pat Ricciarelli, soloist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 7:7-9 (164 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 Kids 6wks – 4yrs. during both services and Sunday School.

SECOND READING

Matthew 8:1-17 (7 NT)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Jesus Never Said: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

Rev. Madison Ailinger

*HYMN

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

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

Trust In His Steadfast Love
(Donald Lee Moore)

Organ

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Amazing Grace

UMH 378

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Amen! Alleluia! Amen!
(G.F. Handel/Ed Lieberman)

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

Recessional on 'St. Anne'
(Gordon Young)

Organ

The flowers are given by Jake and Alison Foley in honor of their 15th wedding anniversary.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Stuff Jesus Never Said*

MESSAGE: *"Jesus Never Said: God Helps Those Who Themselves"*

Matthew 7:1-5 • Luke 7:36-50

KEY IDEA: The gospel is not that God helps those who help themselves; the gospel is that God meets us in our need because we cannot save ourselves. Grace is not something we earn, it is something we receive.

KEY POINTS

- God's grace is a free gift, but it is one of the hardest gifts to believe in because we have spent our whole lives being taught we have to earn what we receive.
- Self-reliance and the American dream can become a false gospel when we forget our need for God
- We all need help, but admitting we need help can be challenging. We are called to receive help, not just give it.
- Grace changes how we see each other.

QUOTATIONS TO REMEMBER

"Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed." — Matthew 8:8

"The Gospel is that we all need help. We all need Jesus."

"God doesn't save us because we deserve it but because God loves us."

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

LOCAL OUTREACH KAIROS EVENT Dillwyn Correctional Ctr. October 8 – October 11

Sign up **TODAY** and September 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.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS TODAY, 12:15-2:00pm | Rm 303; followed by an optional building tour.

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

SENIOR ADULT LUNCH Wednesday, September 23, Noon

Connect with other WUMC Senior Adults for lunch at Sal's by Victor restaurant, 1242 Richmond Road. Sign up online at tinyurl.com/wumc-senior--or just show up!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY SURVEY

The Senior Adult Ministry Committee at WUMC is requesting your input for future ways seniors can connect. A survey is available for you to provide information about your interests. You can complete the survey online at tinyurl.com/wumc-senior-survey or get a paper copy from the Church Office.

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



People of all ages and skills are invited to this hands-on mission opportunity to serve others. We will be making cookies and deliver to the local Fire Department, 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. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org

PARTY OF EIGHT Sunday, 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

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

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 classes, contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: October 3, 9:00am WUMC Front Lawn

A short outdoor service with individual blessings and treats for each pet. 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.

CREATION CARE TEAM

Go scraggly. Even just a month of refraining from mowing will reduce erosion and runoff in your yard while replenishing our groundwater supply, which helps keep streams alive during drought periods. **Tell your neighbors what you are doing and why.** Invite them to ignore the chore, too.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Candle Burning Event

Saturday, October 10, 10:00am | WUMC Memorial Garden

Memorialize loved ones that have passed and honor living friends/family by lighting a candle, reading their names and displaying their picture. For each \$0.60 donated, the candle will burn for one second; donations will go toward missions. Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland will be our guest speaker; worship, music and light refreshments included. You do not have to attend to participate, however, if you do attend, please bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, we will relocate to Wesley Hall. Forms are available on the Welcome Desk, or register at tinyurl.com/uwf-candle

SISTERS IN GRACE CIRCLE October 13, 1:00pm | Rm 303.

GUNS TO GARDENS EVENT

Saturday, October 10, 10:00am-1:00pm | WUMC Parking Lot

As a means of living into this vision of God's kingdom, the Greater Good Group of WUMC and the James River Chapter/Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) invite all to anonymously give their guns to be safely dismantled and forged into garden tools. Safety will be a top priority: Donors, please leave unloaded guns to be donated in the trunk of your car; Donors, you must be present while the gun is being dismantled; No ammunition will be accepted. At the event, a blacksmith will demonstrate turning gun parts into a garden tool. The community is even invited to come to the anvil and beat on the gun parts. *"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. . . Micah 4:3b* Questions? Want to help? 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) 645-5069 and Judi French (757) 810-2925. Call at least 2 days in advance for assistance. Questions? Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org



KIDS MORNING OUT

In the last few weeks, KMO has received many items from their wish list. Thank you so much for your contributions to our classrooms. We are very appreciative of your kindness and support.

FLU & COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC Thursday, October 15, 9:00-1:00pm - Atrium
WUMC is partnering with *The Prescription Shoppe* to provide this opportunity to the community. All you need to bring is your insurance card and photo identification (though you can save time by filling out the vaccine consent form ahead of time). Walk-ins are welcome, but help us prepare by registering at tinyurl.com/wumc-vaccine. Questions? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@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.

PRE-K PLAYGROUP TODAY 3-5:00PM - Atrium
YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT 5:30 – 7:30PM - WUMC Youth Rm

SEPTEMBER 13 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total	518
In Person 11:00am	223
Modern Worship 9:30am	67
In Person 8:15am	133
Online	95

**Deadline for Bulletin
MONDAY, NOON**

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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CHARGE CONFERENCE
Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 4:00pm

(Memorial, Mount Vernon, Williamsburg, Wellspring, Wesley Foundation, Chaplain WPD,
Dist. Clergy PPCC, Crooks, Providence York, St. Luke’s, Tabernacle Poquoson, Trinity Poquoson, Zion York)

HOST CHURCH - Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Williamsburg, Virginia

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 now

Apple Pay (new!) and Google Pay.

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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