



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1785



Stuff Jesus **Never** Said

"Everything Happens for a Reason"

September 27, 2026

8:15 and 11:00am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott
(Nicolas Hanff)

Organ

INTROIT

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

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Psalm 139 and Philippians 2:5-11)

O Lord, you have searched us and known us. You know when we sit and when we rise,
and you trace all our paths with mercy.

Even before a word is on our lips, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You are our protector who goes before us and follows after us.

There is nowhere we can go to run from you, O God.

Every corner of this earth is filled with God's presence.

God has chosen to become one of us.

Jesus Christ is God as one of us.

Though he was in the form of God, Christ did not count equality with God something to
be grasped.

Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,

humbling himself to the point of death on a cross.

Because of this, God highly exalted him and gave him the name above every name.

So that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Teach us, O God, to praise the name of Jesus!

Teach us, O God, to live for you!

Search our hearts, O God, and lead us in your way everlasting.

Let us worship the Living and Loving God! Amen.

*HYMN

O Worship the King

UMH 73

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, Mother Hen who shelters us under
your wings, we your servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness
and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for
our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for
your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord
Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we
pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful
hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our
lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout
all ages. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Those Who Wait
(Craig Courtney)

Sanctuary Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 139:1-12 (577 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

Hebrews 4:14-15 (220 NT)

THIRD READING

Philippians 2:5-11 (197 NT)

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Jesus Never Said: Everything Happens for a Reason"

Rev. Brian Johnson

*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

UMH 110

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 United Church of Canada

UMH 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

MINISTRY CELEBRATION

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

As the Deer
(arr. Terry Winch)

Sanctuary Orchestra

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

It Is Well with My Soul

UMH 377

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE

Fuga in G minor
(J.S. Bach)

Organ

The flowers are given in memory of my mother, Mary Lou Hind by Ginger Palmore. Four years have passed, but her love remains a blessing and a memory forever in our hearts.

SERMON NOTES FOR THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SERMON SERIES: *Stuff Jesus Never Said*

MESSAGE: *"Jesus Never Said: Everything Happens for a Reason"*

Psalms 139:1-12 • Hebrews 4:14-15 • Philippians 2:5-11

KEY IDEA: Jesus never said, "Everything happens for a reason." Instead of offering easy answers, Jesus invites us to sit with those who mourn and show up for those who are hurting.

KEY POINTS

- Not everything that happens is caused by God or belongs to a hidden divine plan.
- The Good News is not that God explains every tragedy, but that God is with us in every circumstance, understands our suffering, and works for good.
- When someone is hurting, faithful love looks like showing up: listening, praying, helping, and walking with them.

RECOMMENDED READING

Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved by Kate Bowler

QUOTATIONS TO REMEMBER

"Not everything that happens to us is something God caused. And yet, everything that happens to us is something through which God can work."

"Everything I face, God understands, because God has faced it too."

"God is with us in everything... and God can bring beauty even from the worst things."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When have you been tempted to explain suffering instead of simply being present?
2. Where do you most need to trust that God is with you today?
3. Who is hurting right now, and what practical act of presence or care can you offer this week?

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

GIVING STATEMENTS summarizing your generous donations will be distributed in October. We kindly request that you take a moment to log into the REALM system and review your contact information, especially your email address, and make any necessary updates to ensure timely delivery. Choosing email delivery helps us save both time and mailing expenses, allowing us to be better stewards of ministry resources. If you need help setting up Realm, contact Stacey Gardner sgardner@williamsburgumc.org

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

Sign up **TODAY** 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.

PARTY OF EIGHT TODAY, 6:00pm | WUMC – Follow the Signs

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

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.

DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS - Pastors' Bible Study Continues

Wednesdays, September 30-October 7, 7:00-8:30pm | Rm 171

Thursdays, October 1-October 8, 10:30-Noon | Zoom

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



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 everyday. All are welcome—members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who loves animals.



CREATION CARE TEAM

Taking care of creation starts with what is already in our hands. On October 3rd, our church will celebrate our pets with a Blessing of the Animals. Animal companions are a valued part of God's creation. Loving them demonstrates responsible, kind and sustainable stewardship of God's creatures. Through caring for our pets, we honor God by treating animals with respect and wisdom.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Candle Burning Event

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

HERITAGE SCOTT CIRCLE October 6, 9:45am | Rm 303. Barbara Stanley will present a program on *"Changing Your Perspective"* from the 2026 program book.

RUTH SIMPSON CIRCLE October 7, 10:00am | Rm 309

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

GUNS TO GARDENS EVENT October 10, 10:00am-1:00pm | WUMC Parking Lot

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. Donors, please leave unloaded guns to be donated in the trunk of your car; Donor must be present while the gun is being dismantled; No ammunition will be accepted. 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? Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org

BECOME PART OF THE TEAM

Do you have a heart for Foster Families? Local Outreach (LO) Committee is starting to use a tool called CarePortal to help our church meet the needs of Foster Families in our area through the work of Family Services of James City County. Needs might include clothes, furniture or food. CarePortal will alert members of LO and we will respond by providing the resources for the request. Contact Deacon Troy Sims tsims@williamsburgumc.org if you want to be part of the team, and he'll add you to an email distribution that will allow you to respond if you can meet the need.

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. Contact Pastor Madison mailinger@williamsburgumc.org



KIDS MORNING OUT DINING FOR THE CAUSE September 29, 4-7:00pm | Blaze Pizza in Newtown

Please join us and 20% of your order will go to the KMO Scholarship Fund. Show this flyer at checkout: tinyurl.com/kmo-blaze. Ordering online? Use the code FUNDA.

FLU & COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC October 15, 9:00-1:00pm - Atrium

WUMC is partnering with *The Prescription Shoppe* to provide this opportunity to the community. Bring your insurance card and photo identification (save time by filling out the vaccine consent form). 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.

SEPTEMBER 20 ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance Total.....	524
In Person 11:00am.....	240
Modern Worship 9:30am.....	71
In Person 8:15am.....	125
Online.....	88

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

Deadline for Bulletin MONDAY, NOON

Please submit to Nancy Reynolds
nreynolds@williamsburgumc.org.

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ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 4:00pm – Fellowship Hall

This is a yearly business meeting that is required by United Methodist operating policies. It will be attended by leadership from our district, including our District Superintendent. Several other churches will be joining us and holding their charge conference together with us in the same place, at the same time. All church members are welcome to attend.

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

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