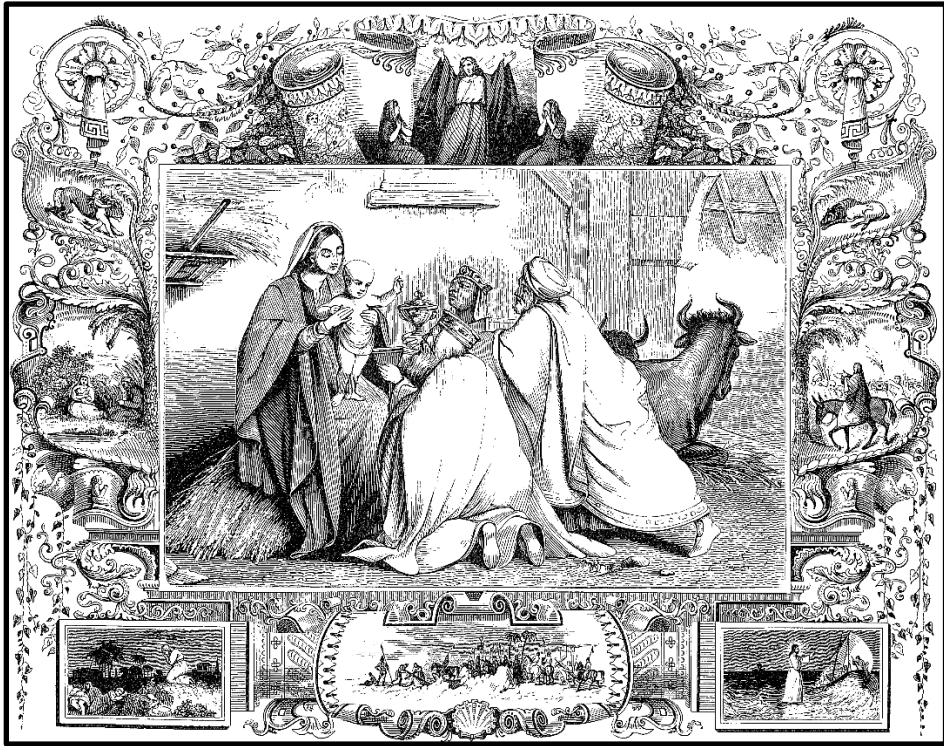


Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Welcoming Neighbors - Nurturing Faith - Transforming Our World

We saw his star in the east



The Adoration of the Magi, hardwood engraving from an American Bible, 1846

and we have come to worship him

Matthew 2:2b

December 31, 2023 - 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday

PRELUDE

The Faithful Shepherd
(arr. E. Power Biggs)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Nations shall come to the light, rulers to the brightness of its rising.

Jesus Christ is made manifest among us;

his salvation is revealed among us in service, in fellowship and in worship.

As we bow in worship, scattered as we are from one another,

may the news of the One made flesh to dwell among us

unite our hearts and sharpen our vision in the new year.

Emmanuel, God with us! Let all people praise the Lord!

*HYMN

We Three Kings

UMH 254 (red book)

A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

O God, you have made one blood to flow in us, the people of all nations.

And by a star in the East, you revealed to all

the One who is called Emmanuel.

Help us to reckon the nearness of his rising, like a star on the horizon,
transcending death, crossing boundaries, rescuing your people.

Remind us that the full stature of our humanity

is to be found in his humility, and in walking his road.

As we come to the Light, we bow before Jesus

like the magi of old, and open to him

the only gift he seeks: our grateful hearts.

In your name we pray, Amen.

MOMENT OF TEACHING

We welcome children of all ages to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary. At 11:00 a.m.,

Grades K-5 are invited to Children's Worship in the Fellowship Hall to encounter God in story, song,
and play. Our Nursery, located in the Education Wing, is open for Pre-K and younger during both services.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (2 NT)

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander
(John Jacob Niles)

Anthony Williams, baritone

MESSAGE

Yonder Starlight

Dave Rochford

*HYMN

What Child Is This

UMH 219 (red book)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 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.**

OFFERTORY

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

(arr. Mark Hays)

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 (red book)

**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!**

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

Ron Erikson 8:15

**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, and our witness, that in
everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*HYMN

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

UMH 251 (red book)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sinfonietta

(G.F. Handel)

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God by Karen Red
in memory of her husband Charlie, her parents,
"other mother" Marion, and sister Jan.

*At the conclusion of our services, those wishing to hear the Postlude in its entirety are invited to remain seated.
Please take the opportunity to meet your neighbors.*

*** congregation invited to stand**

THIS ALSO IS OUR WORSHIP

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

If an event or ministry below captures your interest, we would love to know about it.

Please call us at 757 229-1771.

Welcoming Neighbors – Nurturing Faith – Transforming Our World

A Special Welcome to Our Guests

To those visiting with us today, we are delighted to have you worship with us on this last Sunday of the year. Please stop by the Hospitality Table in our Atrium after the service, so a team member can provide you with a welcome gift.

Come back to be with us again in the New Year!

Adult Sunday School Classes

The following groups are meeting each Sunday at Church from 9:30–10:30 a.m. **Aldersgate Fellowship:** Wesley Hall, **Bishop McKendree:** Rm. 102, **Marvin Willard:** Rm. 174, **Searchers:** Rm. 309, **Walking the Footsteps:** Rm. 160.

Special Speaker on Jewish Christian Relations

Join the Aldersgate-Fellowship Sunday School Class today after the 8:15 service in Wesley Hall. Dr. Kendall Soulen, Prof. of Systematic Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University and son of Dick & Peggy Soulen, will speak on the topic of *Jewish-Christian Relations since Vatican II* (1965). Kendall is a leading theologian on this issue and has recently been invited to speak in Vienna, Austria, University of Tubingen (Germany), Boston College, and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. All are welcome.

Questions relating to Sunday School Classes? Contact Deacon Troy tsims@williamsburgumc.org or visit www.tinyurl.com/wumc-adult-ss

Called Charge Conference – January 3

Members of the Admin Council are asked to attend a brief ZOOM Charge Conference on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m. to approve final figures for our 2024 Church Budget. Thank you!

CARE Committee...

...will provide rides to the doctor or will provide help when you are sick. Connie Magruder 757 258-3421 and Barbara Feagin 757 707-3795 are the January coordinators. If you need **CARE**, please let the coordinators know at least 2 days in advance to arrange for assistance.

This Week and Beyond At Church

Contributions

According to the **IRS rules**, any donation recorded for 2023 must be dated December 31 or earlier and must be delivered to the church by December 31. Exception: mail to the church and be postmarked December 31 or before. Donations postmarked January 1 or after (even if check is dated in December) will be recorded as a 2024 donation. Thank you as always for your gracious generosity!

Christmas Love Offering

One of the traditions at WUMC has been inviting our congregation to join in an annual Christmas Love Offering to our dedicated church staff. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee is inviting you to join us in making this a special Christmas gift to them, a gift made voluntarily by those who wish to be part of this special effort. If you would like to participate, please mark all contributions **"Staff Love Offering."** You can place your gift in the Sunday offering plate, mail it to the Church, or donate online at www.tinyurl.com/wumcloveoffering by December 31.

Carol Brinkley Memorial Book Club

Read any good books lately? Our next gathering will be **January 8, 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Join any of our sessions and enjoy some lively conversations. We're happy to have anyone from our church family join us, even for only one meeting. Meetings are bi-monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the "odd" months.

We will be discussing *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. This book is available in the UWF Library (Room 208) and in the public Williamsburg Library in several formats (audio book, eBook, print).



Volunteer For Winter Shelter

Community of Faith Mission (COFM) is a faith-based, emergency shelter program that serves those experiencing homelessness in the Greater Williamsburg community. WUMC will be hosting the Winter Shelter ministry during the week of January 14-21. Our Local Outreach Committee invites you to participate as a volunteer to serve in a variety of ways. To help with check-in, check-out or an evening shift, please access the Signup Genius by clicking on the Volunteer Signup button in the Local Outreach section of the recent *Messenger* or contact Melody Nichols melnichols@comcast.net or 434 996-5516.

Covenant Dinner

Join us for our second Global Outreach Covenant Dinner in support of mission outreach January 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will learn more about our church's new model of taking part in covenant agreements with organizations that particularly align with WUMC's mission and ministry. (Our hope is to offer more tangible ways for you to engage in meaningful ministry with these missions!) This dinner will highlight one of our three mission covenant partners, the Carolina Honduras Health Foundation. Attendees will meet and hear from Christine Mitchell (US Director of CHHF) and David Kelly (Honduras Director of CHHF) as well as board members and people who have been on mission trips to Honduras. Tickets will be available Sundays after the Worship or at www.tinyurl.com/wumc-go-dinner2

Understanding Your Grief: Finding Support and Hope

Discover a supportive community where you can find solace and understanding as you journey through grief. The Understanding Your Grief group will meet monthly on February 4, March 3 and April 7 from 4-5:00 p.m. in Room 174. All previous and new participants are welcome.

Today's Service

Worship Leaders: Dave Rochford, Meghan Roth Clayton, Troy Sims

Associate Director of Worship Arts: Anthony Williams

Guest Organist: Barbara Stahl

Readers 8:15: Russ Henke **11:00:** Melissa Johnson

Acolyte 8:15: Mike Starry **11:00:** Shane Johnson

Greeters 8:15: Cynthia Garman-Squier, Dan Squier **11:00:** Mary Jane Harper, Linda Rhodes, Sylvia Teeuwen

Ushers 8:15: Roy Geiger, Janet Henke, Russ Henke, Chalonne Hoover, Tom Justice, Monty Mason, Brent Whitaker, George White **11:00:** Debbie Bruss, Gene Bruss, Barbara Monteith, Marty Monteith, Paul Radu

Sound and Livestream: Jimmy McCarter, Todd Lindley, Josh Clayton

Nursery Care Provider: Kristina Wolf

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The Deadline for *This Also Is Our Worship*: Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. Please submit to Nancy Reynolds.

Welcome to Williamsburg United Methodist Church

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF WUMC?

Speak with any of our Pastors, Revs. Meghan Roth Clayton, Dave Rochford or Troy Sims, after the service or call 757 229-1771. They will be delighted to get to know you.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Live streaming of worship...

will be available each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/livestream-services>, and the recorded service will be available at <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/sunday-worship> by mid-afternoon Sunday. Upon entering the Sanctuary, understand that we are posting images to our media platforms. If you are uncomfortable with this, please let the ushers know you need to sit in an area away from camera angles. We are happy to accommodate!

Assisted listening devices...

are available from the ushers. Those with a "*t-coil*" switch in their hearing aids can simply activate the switch. Please advise an usher if you have this need.

Need a Quiet Place During Worship?

Next to the Chapel, the Den is open as a quiet place during Worship. It's equipped to watch worship livestream, has a partitioned feeding area and a diaper changing station for parents and caregivers.

Nursery

Care is available for Pre-K and younger in the Seedlings Room 207. Our trained and background-checked care providers are ready to welcome your little ones during Worship and Sunday School.

CLASSES, GROUPS, AND BIBLE STUDY...

Please see the church website at www.williamsburgumc.org for a variety of choices. These are conducted both in person and by Zoom. We are always eager to welcome guests and new friends.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church held every second Tuesday, 5:30–7:30 p.m. This is an all-age worship experience that includes crafts, games, Celebration Time and dinner. Questions? Contact Zach Griggs

FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are committed to walking alongside families of all kinds on the lifelong journey of faith. Children are invited to grow in relationship with God and each other through Messy Church, Children's Worship, and fun fellowship events. Youth meet weekly on Wednesdays during the school year to grow as disciples through study and service, and to have fun together. Resources are available for parents and caregivers, and Zach would love to talk with you anytime about the joys and challenges of family life. Contact Zach at zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org to learn more.

Interested in Youth Choir? Contact Anthony Williams awilliams@williamsburgumc.org

PRAYER

Contact the church office to speak to a pastor or submit a prayer request via the church website. Prayer concerns will be added to the prayer chain if desired or shared with the pastors and our intercessory prayer group. Prayer cards are located at Connection Corner and in the Narthex.

SUPPORT AND CARE

We are a Stephen Ministry Church and provide trained, strictly-confidential lay pastoral care for our congregation and community. Contact one of the Pastors for information on how you can be connected to one of our Stephen Ministers 757 229-1771.



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Nethea Calloway, *Full Charge Bookkeeper* (x 351)

Josh Clayton, *Digital Media Specialist* (x 256)

Meghan Roth Clayton, *Pastor of Congregational Care* (x 261)

Zach Griggs, *Family Ministries Coordinator* (x 251)

Cornelia Jude, *Director Respite Care* (x354)

Thomas Marshall, *Organist* (757 713-0584)

Laura Pittman, *Director Kid's Morning Out* (x208)

Nancy Reynolds, *Administrative Assistant* (x 252)

Dave Rochford, *Lead Pastor* (x 260)

Michelle Roy, *Dir. of Congregation & Community Engagement* (x 250)

Troy Sims, *Minister of Discipleship* (x 258)

Lou-Anne Smith, *Director of Worship Arts* (x 107)

Greg Whiteside, *Business Manager* (x 355)

Anthony Williams, *Assoc. Dir. of Worship Arts, Dir. Early Childhood Music* (x 108)

Kristina Wolf, *Lead Childcare Provider*

757 229-1771



Happy New Year from our WUMC Staff