

Bill Jones

Senior Pastor

Rev. Bill Jones has been the senior pastor of Williamsburg UMC since July 2010. He began his ministerial career in 1977 and has served churches across Virginia at Arcola-Ryan UMC in Loudoun County, Toms Brook-Mt. Olive UMC in Toms Brook, Boulevard UMC in Richmond, Pleasant Valley UMC in Chantilly, and Aldersgate UMC in Charlottesville, prior to coming to Williamsburg.

Bill grew up on a dairy farm in Berryville, Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1976 with a B.S. degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in pre-veterinary medicine. Having felt the call to ordained ministry while at Virginia Tech, Bill continued his education at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1979. He furthered his studies with a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Seminary in 1996 and took courses in post-doctoral studies. While serving as senior pastor of Pleasant Valley UMC, Bill joined the adjunct faculty at Wesley Seminary as a “teaching pastor” in the Practice in Ministry and Mission program. In 2014 he was invited to be the preacher and guest lecturer for a week at the Bay View Chautauqua, a United Methodist retreat center on Lake Michigan.

Bill met his wife, Linda, while serving at Arcola UMC. They were married on August 7, 1980 in Berryville and spent the first week of their life together in Williamsburg where they visited Colonial Williamsburg and worshiped at Williamsburg UMC, not realizing that someday he would come back to be the senior pastor. They have two children – Sarah is a medical lab technician at the UVA Medical Center in Charlottesville and Christa is a dietician currently working as a patient wellness advocate at the UVA Medical Center.

Bill’s main responsibilities are to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation and staff of Williamsburg UMC. He leads worship, preaches, shares the sacraments, and teaches a Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Bible study. Bill works with the Church Council to discern and cast the vision for the church and leads the church to create ministry strategies that enable the church to fulfill its mission of “welcoming our neighbors, nurturing our faith and transforming our world.”