

WILLIAMSBURG UMC WEEKLY ENOTE FOR JANUARY 3, 2019:

Please be in prayer for these events in the life of our church!

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

There's little doubt that the month of January derives from the Roman god, Janus. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future. The question for us as we enter the year 2019 is whether we will look forward or backward? Rev. Jones will preach on, "A New Direction in a New Year." The Scriptures are Philippians 3:8-14 and Matthew 2:1-12. Join us in worship at 8:15 or 11:00 am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 am. Stop by the atrium for coffee fellowship and greet your fellow worshipers.

On the Road of Discipleship: Prayer for Epiphany

Loving God, who breaks through the darkness of doubt and despair, be with us as we recall the story of the visit of the Wise Ones, who risked everything to follow a Star. Let us open our hearts and be willing to risk receiving the gift of gracious Love that you have to offer us in the form of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENTS

Youth

- Sunday Morning: Join us in the Youth Center this morning as we Breathe deeper and connect with God as we explore the Valley of Dry Bones, and how He Breathes life into us. 9:30 am for snacks, refreshments, conversation and more.
- Sunday Night: Breathe Café opens its doors tonight at 5:30 pm for games, snack supper, questions (and some answers) and more. Bring a friend.

THIS WEEK

Banner Entrance Improvement Plans

The banner entrance improvements are underway. The improvements, designed to make the church more welcoming, will address safety (trip) hazards in the entryway, provide additional needed seating for church members and visitors, and improve communications by integrating digital information.

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly

Registration is open for United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, Thursday, January 31, from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. Go the Virginia UMC website -- <https://vaumc.org/> -- and follow the "Conference Calendar" link to January 28 to register. The cost is \$40.00, and the registration deadline is January 11. Questions? Contact Karen McPherson at kamcpherson@cox.net or call 757-220-2111. Let Karen know if you want to carpool from the church.

Messy Church in January

Our next Messy Church will be on Tuesday, January 8 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Our theme is, “Where Do I Belong?” We will be exploring a brief glimpse into Jesus’ childhood: a snapshot of his life between birth and the beginning of his ministry. What was Jesus like as a twelve-year-old boy? Did he always obey his parents or did he sometimes cause them concern and worry – much like our own children? At Messy Church, we experience Bible learning through messy crafts, games and other awesome activities. Then we all come together for a meaningful time of Celebration worship followed by a delicious, homemade, family-friendly dinner. Attention Messy Chefs: We need homemade chili and cupcakes! Questions, contact Cindy Banek, 229-1771.

Silver Saints in January

The Silver Saints will meet on Wednesday January 9, 2019 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring \$1 for the chicken and a side dish or dessert to share. The program, presented by Shirley Leyland, will feature a video on “Rediscovering God in America.” Speaker Newt Gingrich will illustrate the importance of our Creator to our nation’s founders and their successors. The Silver Saints is a fellowship group for those age 50 plus, and we enthusiastically welcome new members! If you have questions about the Silver Saints, please call Eloy Villa on 757-564-0083.

ReCharge Wednesdays: ReCharge Dinners and Studies Return on January 9, 2019

Join us for dinner every Wednesday night from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The cost for the meal is only \$6/adult, \$3/child (ages 3-12) with a \$20.00 family maximum. Please make a reservation by completing a dinner form found at Connection Corner or in the pew racks, by calling the church office (229-1771) or online <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/connect/recharge-wednesday>. Reservations should be received by noon on Tuesday before the Wednesday dinner.

Menu for January 9: Meatloaf, whipped potatoes, green beans and dessert.

Christianity: The First Four Centuries

Beginning Wednesday, January 9 – January 30, 6:10 – 7:00 pm

This class will follow the history of the early Christian movement from the years 30 CE to roughly 480 CE. Initially, the Christian movement resided within greater Judaism. This class will cover the early development of the movement that became Christianity. That coverage will be laid against the relevant unfolding political and military events within the Roman Empire. Leader: Ray Morgan. Register online or contact Cindy Banek, 229-1771 or cbanek@williamsburgumc.org.

Senior Pastor’s Bible Study: “Fear of the Other”

Beginning Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm and Thursday, January 10 at 10:30 am

This five-week study will use as a guide Bishop Will Willimon’s book and DVD presentations, “Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love.” Is there a distinctively Christian way to engage the “outsider” and “stranger”? “Fear of the Other” is a subject whose time has come given the divided nature of relationships in the church and the surrounding culture today. Study participants will explore who they consider the “Other” to be in their lives and communities and begin regarding the “Other” from a Christian perspective. No pre-registration required.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Returns

Beginning in January, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meeting two times a month. We will meet Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, January 24 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the church den. All are welcome, from beginners to those with experience in knitting and crocheting.

Conversation around "The Way Forward"

In their recent book, "Together: United Methodists of the Temple, Tabernacle, and Table," Stan Copeland and Scott Gilliland, pastors at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas, tell what a church has taught them through uplifting a vision to be "one diverse community, passionately engaging the Bible, uplifting Jesus in worship and loving service, challenging in Love that which divides." As our denomination prepares for the special General Conference on "The Way Forward" in February, our pastors would like to invite conversation around this book. This conversation could happen at the church or in members' homes. Please contact one of the pastors, Revs. Bill Jones, Meghan Roth Clayton or Helen Casey-Rutland, if you are interested in joining this conversation. Books are available through Amazon or by calling the church office.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will hold their next breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 12 at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Joe Jenkins who will speak about how his family was affected by slavery. Call John Tressler (259-1193) or Bob Spencer (741-2091) for a reservation.

UPCOMING EVENTS (1/13/2019 - and beyond)

The United Methodist Women's (UMW) Book Club

The UMW Book Club will meet Monday, January 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen McPherson, 3296 Reade's Way. We will be reading and discussing, "Small Things with Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor," by Margot Starbuck. This book is in the Nurturing for Community category of the UMW Reading Program. We will also be discussing the book we read for December, "One Simple Act," by Debbie Macomber, in the Social Action category.

All are invited. For more information, please contact Carol Brinkley at 757-358-0617, or cpbrinkley@aol.com.

Warm Up Williamsburg

Join us for "Warm Up Williamsburg (WUW)," a Soup Tasting dinner and Bake Shop event. WUW offers some of the best soups, stews and chowders our Williamsburg's Chefs have to offer. The event will be held Friday, January 25 from 5:15 – 8:00 pm at Williamsburg Community Chapel. Live entertainment will be provided by popular local band "Elderberry Jam." For reservations or if you wish to volunteer, call 903-7031. Help support the Community of Faith Mission Winter Shelter!

The Life Journey

Do you wonder how you can make things easier for your loved ones at the time of your death? Join Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 am – noon to learn simple steps you can take that will be a lasting gift to those around you. You will leave with a plan, resources, a few stories, and (we hope) a little less fear and anxiety about dealing with the details. Sign up by calling the church office. Questions? Contact Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland at 229-1771.