

WILLIAMSBURG UMC WEEKLY ENOTE FOR AUGUST 28, 2020:

Please be in prayer for the end of the Covid 19 pandemic and for peace and justice in our country.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

As William & Mary students return to campus, it always brings a flood of memories. I remember the sweaty, nerve-wracking move-in day, my rocky start to freshman year, the ups and downs, the friendships made, the life-changing classes taken. The students and college community are experiencing a start to school like no other, certainly one they will never forget. Our focus in Sunday, August 30 worship is on memory, as we reflect on Psalm 105, a recounting of the history of the people of Israel. Whenever we look back on what has been, I hope we see God in our midst. And in doing so, we will remember that God is with us now and will be with us, no matter what.

Stay connected to God and one another through our weekly online worship, available at our church website: www.williamsburgumc.org/worship/online-worship and our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/williamsburgumc> by 7:00 am each Sunday.

“WATCH PARTY”

Announcing a new way to worship together: Facebook "Watch Party!"

If you use Facebook to view our Sunday service, consider joining us at 10:30 am this Sunday (and going forward!) for a Watch Party, a feature that will enable us to say hello, interact with each other via written Chat-messages, share prayer concerns, engage or ask questions of our pastors, and even express by "Reaction" emoticons what you think about a particular moment of the service (such as a musical offering). You don't have to have a Facebook account to come and be part of the Party! See you there.

WORSHIP BROADCAST ON THE RADIO

In addition to our website, our Sunday worship service will be aired on the radio at 8:00 am on WMBG AM 740.

WORSHIP BY PHONE

Worship for those not On-Line: WUMC now offers Worship by Phone. This service enables those who would rather experience worship without the use of a computer to simply call a dedicated number and listen to Sunday service on any phone they please. Just call (757) 345-2426 to try it and see if it suits your preference. (And please do share this option with those you know who do not receive our eNotes but who might be interested!)

LOOKING FOR VIRTUAL GREETERS!!

How we miss being together and having the chance to welcome each other in person. Wouldn't it be nice to see a few familiar faces from our congregation each week during our virtual worship? You can help us make that happen. All that is involved is videoing a (30 seconds or less) message that can be included in our virtual worship. Each week we'll try to include a few different videos made by individuals, couples, families, or even groups. The greeting/welcome should be short and sweet. Something like: "Hello! It's _____ and we are here with _____ (children, grandchildren, pets)" You can add something like how much you miss seeing everyone and can't wait to get back to worshipping together. Feel free to make it as personal as you wish. Please send an email to Debbie Bruss (dsbruss@cox.net) if you would like to participate in this part of our virtual worship and she will contact you with details.

WORSHIP UPDATE

The Worship Team, in partnership with the Healthy Church Team and Church Council, are preparing two tracks to return to in-person worship. Parking Lot Worship will take place at 6:00 pm on Sundays, September 13 and October 4. Thanks to a radio transmitter, we will be able to worship from within our vehicles. Worship will include singing, Scripture reading, prayer, and communion. Pre-registration is required so that we can adequately plan for this unique event, and you are asked to do so on the church website (<https://www.williamsburgumc.org/welcome/parking-lot-worship-hidden>) or by calling the church office (229-1771). We could also use some volunteers to help park cars and distribute communion elements. Contact Kathy Shield (shieldfamily@cox.net) if you are available.

Also, on October 11, we plan to resume in-person worship in the Sanctuary with many safety measures in place (you will see these in detail in the forthcoming Healthy Church Team plan and tutorials). For the many who will choose to worship from home, which we respect and support, the services will be live-streamed via the church Facebook page and website.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 29!

Our community's children will begin public school classes in a few weeks – on-line! WUMC will support our students most in need as we have done for at least 15 years. We also know that students will still need a backpack to store their supplies at home and for use when classes resume in person. Please add our drive-through school-supply event to your calendar: Saturdays, August 29, from 10:00 am – noon in the WUMC rear parking lot. Sponsored by the Local Outreach Committee.

School Supply List for 2020

- Backpacks
- 3 Ring Binders (1", 2", Especially 3")
- Loose-leaf Paper (Wide Rule or College Rule)
- Black & White Composition (Wide Rule or College Rule)
- Dividers (5 or 8 Tabs)
- Pocket Folders (with or without Brads)
- Pencil Pouches, Boxes, or Cases
- Index Cards (White Ruled 3 x 5)
- Dry Erase Markers (Black)
- Ballpoint Pens (Black or Blue)

- Ruler
- Wooden Pencils (#2 Yellow)
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Markers
- Pink Rectangular Erasers or Pencil Top Erasers
- Highlighters
- Bottles of Glue
- Reusable Cloth Face Masks for Children
- Crayons (24/box or 48/box)
- Pencil Sharpener with Cap, No Batteries
- Tissues (Boxes or Individual Packs)
- Small Bottles of Hand Sanitizer

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE THRU BLESSING

On Saturday, August 29 between 10:00 am-noon, children, youth and their families are invited to come for a drive-thru blessing and care package. This coincides with the last day of the Local Outreach drive-thru school supply drive.

Whether you are distance-learning, going to in-person school or have been homeschooling for your whole life, this is for you! No matter how you are learning, trust that your WUMC family is praying for you and here for you during this time. Best of all, God is with you!

We will record parts of the "drive-thru blessing" so please note your participation is permission to use recordings in worship, church website and church social media.

Contact Pastor Meghan with any questions mclayton@williamsburgumc.org.

ON-LINE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Two of our Sunday School classes are continuing to meet online during the summer: Searchers and Marvin-Willard Bible. Both classes are meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am – 10:30 am. The Searcher's Class is beginning a new study, "Redeemed: Seeing the Messiah in the Book of Ruth," by Sam Nadler. If you would like to join any of these classes, please contact Cindy Banek, cbanek@williamsburgumc.org.

LIVING A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

We are so grateful to all of you who are continuing your financial support with your tithes and gifts as we seek to serve the church and the wider community. We are receiving mail at the church during our closure, so you are welcome to mail in your offerings. You may also make your gifts through our online giving link on our website: <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/give/online-giving>. Thank you so much for your generosity.

AGAPE FUND

The Agape Fund is a vital ministry of WUMC that has been established solely for the purpose of providing financial assistance to church members on a confidential, emergency-need basis. Donations to the Agape Fund are always welcome.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is now open from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Exterior doors will remain locked, so that visitors can call the church phone (757) 229-1771 and be admitted at “the Banner Entrance” in a way that will ensure safe practices while in the building. (Masks and sign-in will be required, so that we can show care for one another’s well-being.)

YOUTH

Zoom Lunch Breaks on Fridays at Noon

Don't forget! Zoom Lunch Breaks continue every Friday at noon. These are only 15 minutes -- a brief time of Q&A, Scripture and prayer. Check Youth Ministry email for link.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

If you or anyone you know is having a difficult time coping with the economic fallout from the Coronavirus pandemic, please know that organizations are available to help. Visit the church website at <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/let-us-help/need-help> to find out more about assistance.

Prayer Requests: Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is emailed every Friday. If you have a prayer request, please submit it to Lianne Koch via email lkoch@williamsburgumc.org. You may also submit prayer requests from the church website, accessing www.williamsburgumc.org/let-us-help/prayer-rqst-form-hidden. If you would like to be a part of this prayer ministry and receive the prayer chain emails, please contact Cindy Banek cbanek@williamsburgumc.org.

UMCOR KITS FOR CONFERENCE IS HAPPENING!

Recent happy news - there will be an United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Kits collection, but our drive will look much different this year. We will be assembling Hygiene Kits. On Saturdays, September 5 and 12 from 10:00 am - noon, we will have drive-by drop off collections in the back parking lot of WUMC. Simply purchase any or all of the items listed below (in whatever quantity you choose) and deliver them either Saturday to the church. This will be a contactless event. Masked and gloved volunteers will meet you in the parking lot and remove items from your vehicle.

Rather not shop? Simply make a financial contribution of \$14 to cover the cost of a Kit. Checks may be made payable to “WUMC” with “UMCOR Kits” in the memo line.

Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 up to 17 x 27 inches); NO kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth; NO kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger); NO Ivory or Jergen's soap (don't remove from packaging)
- One adult toothbrush (don't remove from packaging no personal advertising)
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches); common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

NEW ON-LINE STUDY OPPORTUNITY THIS FALL: "THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE"

Given our nation's recent attention to matters of race, justice and reconciliation, WUMC will soon begin our own related conversation, taking place via 10 weekly, online sessions (via Zoom), beginning September 15. The class will feature a large-group presentation by the Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, a retired UM pastor who will lead this weekly series based on the book *The Color of Compromise* by Jamar Tisby, an African American speaker, theologian, and author. The book is a challenging and insightful resource to help us receive a new perspective on the history, witness and prospects for our global church with respect to the painful matter of race. Small-group conversations (also by Zoom) will enhance our listening, learning, and sharing in conversation.

The discussion will take place on Tuesdays beginning September 15; to register (as spaces will be limited by our Zoom platform!), call Nancy or Lianne at (757) 229-1771. For those for whom the day will not work, or would need to miss a session, we will record the class each week and upload it to Facebook and our website, where you are welcome to review it.

All persons are encouraged to be part of an online, plenary Sunday School meeting with Bishop Pete Weaver on September 13 at 9:30 am, at which we will examine the Christian perspective of neighborliness. More information will soon follow!

UPCOMING UMC ANNUAL AND DISTRICT CONFERENCES

The Virginia Annual Conference will be held virtually by Zoom on Saturday, September 19.

The York River District Conference will be held virtually by Zoom on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Plans are being made for the 2021 Virginia Annual Conference. If you wish to be a 2021 delegate, please complete the form found here: <https://www.williamsburgumc.org/news/bishop-conference-messages> and send it back to the York River District office either by email or mail by Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Additional information about these Conferences may be found in the September newsletter, "The Messenger."