

WILLIAMSBURG UMC WEEKLY ENOTE FOR DECEMBER 13, 2018:

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

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

150 years ago, Phillips Brooks penned the words to a beloved Christmas carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." But the carol uses two words in the same line that seem opposed to each other: hopes and fears. How are our hopes and fears "met in thee tonight"? Rev. Jones will preach on, "When Fear Gives Way to Joy." The Scriptures are Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Philippians 4:4-7. 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 and enjoy our Christmas Tree while you have a cup of coffee and greet your fellow worshippers.

On the Road of Discipleship: "Hope in God"

Read Psalm 33

Psalm Prayer:

You brought all things into being and know the secrets of the furthest galaxies as well as those within the hidden universe of the human heart. May we always hope in your faithful love, which surrounds us all our days. Amen.

Rueben P. Job, Norman Shawchuck, John S. Mogabgab, "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God." Used by permission. Upper Room Books.

SUNDAY EVENTS

Selected Adult Sunday School Classes (9:30 - 10:30 am)

- Fellowship Class (room 103): Continue with International Lesson Series
- Searchers Class (room 171): Advent Study, "The Redemption of Scrooge."
- World Religions Class and Bishop McKendree Class (room 101): Advent Study, "Down to Earth."
- Marvin Willard Bible Class (room 174): Advent Study, "The Thrill of Hope."

All classes are open and welcome new people! Information on any class, contact Cindy Banek, cbanek@williamsburgumc.org or 229-1771.

Youth

- Sunday: Join us in the Youth Center for a relaxed, informal "we've just served breakfast at the shelter" session.
- Sunday Night: Ice-skating on DoG St. Please bring a \$10 gift for our exchange. Meet at the ice rink at 5:00 p.m. and please arrange to be picked up from there. Please bring extra money if you want to buy snacks from vendors: skating costs are covered.

Children's Ministry Christmas Sweater Party

Break out that Christmas sweater (ugly or fancy) and join us Sunday, December 16 for games, crafts, cookie decorating and caroling! The party will be held in Room 302 during the Sunday School hour and continue into Worship Place (please note the location change). Come get in the Christmas spirit with us! Questions? Contact Martha Hernandez (229-1771).

Hat, Sock and Glove Tree

Bring warmth and happiness to children this Christmas season! Do not forget the Hat, Glove, and Sock Christmas Tree located near the front office. Bring in a warm hat or a new pair of socks, gloves, or mittens and help a child experience the full meaning of Christmas! This is a great family activity. All donations will be given to local charities. Collection continues through December 16.

THIS WEEK

Can You Help with Worship?

We are in need of the following:

- Ushers for the "Hope and Light Service," December 19, 5:00 pm and the Family Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm. Contact Wil Colton (871-2523).
- Advent Reader December 24, 7:00 pm.
- Communion Assistants December 24, 7:00 & 9:00 pm.
- Scripture Readers December 23, 11:00 am and December 30, 8:15 & 11:00 am. Please contact Gwen Hamrick (259-0318).

ReCharge Wednesdays

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 at <http://www.williamsburgumc.org/connect/whats-happening>. Reservations should be received by noon on Tuesday before the Wednesday dinner.

Menu for December 19: Chef's Favorite Holiday Meal: Baked chicken packets with boursin cheese and puff pastry, whipped potatoes, vegetable, dessert.

Kitchen Team: Church staff

Special Recharge Events on December 19

- Service of Hope and Light, 5:00 pm, Sanctuary
- Recharge Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Special ReCharge Advent Activity: "Carols 'Round the Chrismon Tree"

Following the ReCharge dinner on December 19, join us at 6:30 pm for our annual tradition of caroling around the Chrismon Tree in the church atrium. Led by the dynamic team of Andy Glascott and Anthony Williams, we will sing, read scripture and reflect upon the birth of Jesus. And because Christmas is always about expecting the unexpected, we will also enjoy a few new twists on some of the old songs! Hot chocolate and homemade Christmas cookies will round out our festivities, so please bring your family and friends to attend this all-age joyous occasion!

ReCharge Dinners and Studies Return on January 9, 2019

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

Don't Miss Out on Disciple Bible Study

Only a few spaces remain in the upcoming small group, "Disciple Bible: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study," to be led by Revs. Helen Casey-Rutland and David Hindman. This opportunity for in-depth, transformative study of scripture brings together weekly brief video presentations by world-class Bible scholars and dynamic small group discussion, built on the foundation of your daily discipline of reading scripture. 2019 could be a year of spiritual transformation for you, beginning with an Information Session on Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m., followed by the 17 week Old Testament study beginning the following week. Don't delay; register now by contacting Cindy Banek (757-229-1771 or cbanek@williamsburgumc.org).

Contributions

According to the IRS rules, any donation recorded for 2018 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 2019 donation. With end of year vacations and holiday closing of the church, please direct any questions about your 2018 contributions to Nethea Calloway by noon December 21 (229-1771).

Giving Envelopes Now Available

You may pick up your envelopes in the atrium beginning Sunday, December 16. Questions, contact Nethea Calloway, 229-1771, ext. 351 or ncalloway@williamsburgumc.org.

National Homeless Person's Day Memorial Day 2018

On December 21 at Williamsburg Christian Church, join with other Williamsburg community groups, faith communities, service providers, and individuals to honor the lives of homeless people who have died of conditions directly related to their homelessness. We will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and end at 6:30 pm. Programs and candles will be available for all in attendance. If possible, bring a food item for FISH Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS (12/23/2018 - and beyond)

Christmas Eve Worship Services at WUMC

5:00 pm – Family Worship with Children’s Christmas Pageant

7:00 and 9:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
(Childcare provided for 5:00 and 7:00 pm services)

Christmas Day Worship at WUMC

10:00 am - Worship

Banner Entrance Improvement Plans

The banner entrance improvements will begin on January 2, 2019. 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.

The United Methodist Women’s (UMW) Book Club

The UMW Book Club will not meet in December, however we are reading, “One Simple Act,” by Debbie Macomber, which we’ll discuss at our January meeting. It is from the 2013 Reading List in the Social Action category.

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.

A Letter from our Bishop

From Bishop Sharma Lewis: “The topic of human sexuality has long been a source of disagreement within The United Methodist Church. Right now the topic is the focus of many conversations as we prepare for the Special Session of General Conference 2019 in February. With tensions so high, congregations may be concerned about what is happening and what this means for their church. Church leaders may feel fear or uncertainty. I send this letter in the hopes of setting us on the same course in the Virginia Conference. It is my hope and prayer that we can stay a connected church.”
To read Bishop Lewis’ letter, click here (<https://www.williamsburgumc.org/grow/a-way-forward>).