

WILLIAMSBURG UMC WEEKLY ENOTE FOR DECEMBER 20, 2018:

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

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Birthdays are usually happy occasions. But they do bring some pressure: parties, presents and more. Christmas is no different. Ironically, we often become distracted and distraught while planning to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. So why is this birthday often such a burden? Rev. Jones will preach on, "The Blessings and Burdens of Birthdays." Our Scriptures are Luke 1:39-45 (46-55). 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 Chrismon Tree while you have a cup of coffee and greet your fellow worshipers.

On the Road of Discipleship: Prepare the Way of the Lord

Read Psalm 96

Psalm Prayer:

You have inspired a new song of justice and peace to carry our hopes and dreams. May we find joy in singing it not only with our lips but also with our lives as we prepare a place for you in our hearts, our communities, and our world. 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)

- Aldersgate Class (Wesley Hall): Advent lesson presented by Peter Morgan.
- 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 Christmas celebration.
- Sunday Night: No Youth Group.

THIS WEEK

Church Closed for Christmas Observance

The Church will close at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, 2018 and reopen again at 8:00 am on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services will be held as usual as well as worship on December 30. Enotes will not be produced next Thursday, December 27.

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. Questions, contact Nethea Calloway, 229-1771, ext. 351 or ncalloway@williamsburgumc.org.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS (12/30/2018 - and beyond)

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.

Disciple Information Session Open to All

It's not too late! Even if you've not yet registered for “Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study,” you can still attend the Orientation Session for this upcoming small group on Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 pm, in Room 352. If you like what you hear about this transformative, 34 session study of the Old and New Testaments led by Revs. Helen Casey-Rutland and David Hindman, you'll still be able to register, get a study guide, and begin the biblical journey with other friends in Christ. Please note: there will *not* be a Re-Charge Dinner on this evening, so make your meal plans accordingly. Questions? Contact Helen (hc Casey-Rutland@williamsburgumc.org) or David (dthindman@aol.com)

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 at <http://www.williamsburgumc.org/connect/whats-happening>. 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.

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.

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. As always, never a fee to attend. Questions, contact Cindy Banek, 229-1771.

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.

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>).