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A LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVE

The (suddenly-arrived!) hot and humid weather sure does bring to mind the sultry rhythms of summers past. At the church in which I was raised (Vale UMC, Oakton VA) this meant that the choir was on vacation, the cemetery needed mowing less often, and only the Annual Yard Sale was in high gear. That was life in the small church; it was quieter – but with so few to carry the load, few of us could skate along unasked to serve!

Williamsburg UMC is small by nobody’s reckoning. Because we are all called in Baptism generously to share our time and talents, among other things, we are continually at work on our sometimes-creaky mechanisms to engage members and friends in new areas of service.

Continue Reading Pastor Dave’s Letter Here

CHURCH FAMILY PARTY!
On Sunday, July 23, we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our first worship service in our building. Plan to be with us for a cake reception in the Atrium at noon, when we will reminisce and honor Mr. Baxter Carr, an original member of the Building Committee that conceived and built our church - in 1962!

At 100 years old, Baxter remembers EVERYTHING, so come and share this brief time of thanksgiving with us!

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NEW BIBLE STUDY

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SUMMER BIBLE STUDY IS ALMOST HERE!

**ONSITE** - Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, beginning July 5th

**ZOOM** - Thursdays at 10:30 am via Zoom, beginning July 6th

Grab your Bible and join us for our Pastors’ Summer Study: “*Untraveled Waters: Navigating the Greatest Bible Stories You Never Heard.*”

Through some intentionally less-than-familiar passages, we will learn together how “all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful” (as Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16).

We will also consider on a deeper level how we as a community are to read,

Zoom Meeting ID: 856 6443 3476 I
Passcode: 615816

We will paddle for six weeks, and you are welcome to glide between studies if it suits your schedule.

Biblical novices are always welcome, and this time we can just about promise
interpret and apply the Scriptures to our lives, by means of discernment, shared experience and the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

We launch in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, July 5 at 7:00 pm; the same study will also take place online beginning Thursday, July 6 at 10:30 am.

Hope to see you!

NEW FRAUD PREVENTION RESOURCES

In recent months, we have sadly witnessed several members of our church family being impacted by fraud. As a community deeply-rooted in compassion and care, we have recognized a pressing need to provide resources, support, and guidance for those affected by this unfortunate reality.

We want to assure you that we are here for you, and your well-being is our utmost concern. We are excited to announce that we have been working diligently to develop two essential resources to assist victims of fraud within our congregation:

Informative Video: Our first resource is our own WUMC informative video that aims to shed light on various types of fraud, red flags to watch out for, and practical steps to protect yourself and your loved ones. This video will equip you with knowledge to recognize potential scams and empower you to make informed decisions regarding your finances and personal information.

Resource and Best Practice Guide: The second resource is a comprehensive guide that is designed to be a trusted companion to our video. It offers Best Practices, links to valuable educational and reporting resources, guidance on how to access support services and tips for privacy settings for phones, browsers and Social Media.

Click Here for Your Fraud Prevention Guide
We understand the emotional toll and challenges that fraud can bring, and our aim is to provide a supportive community where you can find comfort, understanding, and the necessary tools to overcome these difficulties.

Please know that confidentiality is of the utmost importance to us. We want to create a safe space where you can share your experiences, seek guidance, and receive support without fear of judgment or further harm. We are here to listen, offer assistance, and connect you with the appropriate resources to help you navigate this challenging journey.

Remember, you are not alone in this. Your WUMC Pastors are here for you, ready to walk alongside you as you reclaim your financial security, emotional well-being, and peace of mind. Together, we will overcome these challenges, rebuild, and thrive!

MORE JOY, MORE PEACE:
A NEW SERIES

Are you passionate about supporting individuals in our community who may be facing challenges such as depression, anxiety, or other significant concerns?

At WUMC, we have heard the call, and we are taking action! We are thrilled to announce that a series of workshops and support groups is in the works to address these struggles, promote resiliency, and cultivate the joy that God desires for each of us.

But that’s not all! We have an incredible duo leading the way. Psychologist Lisa Rochford and certified Laughter Yoga coach Laura Beach are teaming up to create engaging and fun-filled groups for all ages, from little kids to adults.

One of their exciting initiatives is the upcoming group called “Little Leaders,” scheduled for some time in August. This group is designed specifically for children aged 1-7 and their parents. Through interactive games and exercises, Little Leaders will teach children valuable skills to manage their emotions while bringing more playfulness and fun into their relationships. It’s an opportunity for parents and their little ones to connect, grow, and experience the joy of emotional well-being together.

We believe that collaboration and community involvement are crucial in making these initiatives successful. If you’re interested in lending a helping hand to this or future groups, we would love to hear from you!
CALLING ALL CLINICIANS - We especially encourage current or former mental health clinicians who are passionate about this exciting endeavor to reach out to Pastor Meghan. We hope you’ll join us in this journey of compassion, support, and fostering joy as we strive to create a safe and uplifting space for individuals to thrive. Let’s make a positive impact together!

Meet Laura!

4 Funny Ways Laughter is Good for You!

Meet Lisa!

Click Here to Let Us Know You’d Like to Help!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
JULY CIRCLE MEETINGS

The Friendship, Heritage, Carol Scott, Ruth Simpson, and Sisters in Faith Circles will not meet in July. Meetings resume in August.

Sisters in Mission will not have a formal meeting in July, but will meet for dinner on July 11.

WAGSTERS MAGIC SHOW!

When: October 11th at 6:00 pm
Where: Wagsters Theatre

Have you heard? Our incredible UWF ladies have gone the extra mile and reserved the ENTIRE Wagsters Theatre exclusively for our WUMC family and friends. Yes, you read that right—a private magic show just for us! It’s an opportunity to gather, be amazed, and dive into your passion for supporting local and global missions in a truly unforgettable way.

**What to expect** - 75 minutes of spectacular grand illusions, breath taking sleight of hand, incredible mind reading, heartfelt stories, and daring escapes!

They are almost sold out, so if you’re hoping to join in the fun that night please call 1-877-924-7837 to reserve your tickets. You cannot purchase online; you must call to reserve!

Special pricing is available for children 12 and under, military and seniors. A generous portion of both ticket sales and food and beverage purchases will go directly to UWF, supporting our important mission work.

MY SON, DAUGHTER AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE IN TOWN FOR THE WEEK AND WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO. WE DECIDED TO CHECK OUT WAGSTERS MAGIC THEATER. EVERYONE, FROM MY 10 AND 14 YEAR OLD GRANDSONS UP TO ME LOVED IT! I HIGHLY RECOMMEND MAKING THIS A FAMILY EVENT!

~ Linda Upshaw
UWF JEWELRY DONATION DRIVE!

Never underestimate the power of a good necklace!

The Ruth Simpson Circle is looking for donations of gently-used jewelry to sell at the United Women in Faith (UWF) Fall Festival on Saturday, November 4.

Please donate any good condition earrings, necklaces, rings, bracelets, pins and watches. (We will not be accepting handbags, belts, or scarves this year.)

Jewelry donations can be placed in the collection closet by the elevator in the bin labeled for this purpose from now through September 15th.

All sale proceeds will be donated to local or global mission groups selected by the UWF at year end. Thank you for your generosity in helping the UWF with this fundraising event! You’re a gem!

SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM

BUILDING FRIENDSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY ON TOUR

The Canticles of Praise first annual choir tour is something I have been looking forward to for the Youth to experience. For me, music has always been a way that I connect more deeply in my worship, and I was excited for our Youth (6th - 12th grade) to experience that.

The tour provided a multitude of meaningful experiences. It encompassed the joy of fellowship with fellow choir members, the excitement of performing, and the spiritual significance of the venues.

I had the privilege of joining everyone on the choir tour, despite my lack of musical talent. Between musical engagements, we had several discussions on faith and theology. I continue to be impressed with how brilliant our youth are, and the depth of ideas and issues they wonder about. When we visited the Virginia Science Museum, our group wondered about the intersection of science and faith.

They explored how God might be present in the universe, how God is revealed through space exploration and the laws of physics, and even wondered about the origins of life.
members, the gratification of sharing their musical talents both within and outside of worship services, and a reminder that spiritual growth is a continuous journey requiring practice and dedication.

We left a choir and came back a family! I can’t wait to see what our next adventure will hold!

- Anthony Williams, Associate Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts

Read Anthony and Zach’s Full Tour Recap Here!

- Zach Griggs, Family Ministries Coordinator

WUMC Cantiles of Praise singing at Fredericksburg Baptist Church

Stay tuned! Our Tour recap video will be released soon on our Social Channels.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES!

Get ready for an exciting summer at our church with not just one, but two fantastic opportunities to try your hand at handbells and orchestra, starting July 11! It’s going to be an absolute blast!

Join us every week from July 11 to August 8 at 11:00 AM for our handbell "try-out" time. Come and experience the sheer joy of ringing handbells and discover the magic of making music together! We’ll explore a variety of techniques and even learn a song or two!

For those ready to unleash their inner musician in our orchestra, you’re in luck! Orchestra sessions will also run from July 11 to August 8, this time at 2:00 PM. We’re calling all middle
schoolers and anyone who’s young at heart up to many years old! Bring your own instrument(s) and get ready to rock the house with jazzed-up praise songs that will have you moving in your seats!

Summer Music Registration  Read More Here!

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**CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**

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**JOIN US FOR SACRED PATHWAYS!**

**When:** Wednesday, July 5th at 5:00 pm  
**Where:** WUMC Fellowship Hall

Do you ever wonder how you can know God better? Is your family curious how you can be more present to God and each other this Summer?

Sacred Pathways night will be an opportunity to experience the many diverse ways people experience God. Families will try out different spiritual practices of creativity, nature, connection, movement, discovery, and peace alongside guides from our church family.

Our hope is that this night will not only be enjoyable but also serve as a catalyst for growth, renewal, and an enhanced connection with God. We invite you to open your hearts and minds, allowing the experiences of this event to plant seeds of inspiration and possibility within your family.

Contact Zach Griggs Here!
SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHT LINE UP!

Don’t miss out on these spiritually infused Family Fun Nights! They are designed to strengthen the bonds within our families, create beautiful memories, and provide opportunities for laughter and connection. Mark your calendars or save the image to the left as a reminder of these exciting events. We can’t wait to share these unforgettable experiences with you and your loved ones!

GLOBAL OUTREACH

COVENANT DINNER

When: July 23rd from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall

Please join us for our first Global Outreach Covenant Dinner in support of mission outreach at WUMC.

While we dine, we will learn more about Global Outreach’s new model of taking part in covenant agreements with organizations that particularly align with WUMC’s mission and ministry.

72% of children in South Sudan do not attend school. It's Abuklo'i's mission to change that.
Our hope is to offer more tangible ways for you to engage in meaningful ministry with these missions by staying informed, praying, and taking part in opportunities with and for the mission.

This dinner will highlight two of our three covenant partners, Abukloi (education in South Sudan) and Hope in the Mountains (West Virginia).

Hope in the Mountain children enjoying Mobile Day Camp.

Attendants will hear from His Excellency Ambassador Phillip Jada Natana (official head of mission of the Republic of South Sudan diplomatic mission to the United States), Angelo Maker (Abukloi Founder), and members of the board for Hope in the Mountains.

NEW TO THE EVENT!! Come to a reception starting at 4:30pm preceding the dinner to meet the ambassador and some of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

This reception adds a unique and compelling element to our event, allowing you personally to connect with these inspiring individuals and hear their remarkable stories. It’s a chance to engage in meaningful conversations, gain insights into their experiences, and learn firsthand about their resilience and determination.

We hope you will join us to learn more about these organizations and how YOU can become involved and help make a lasting difference in the lives of the children, youth, and adults they serve.

Tickets are free, but you must obtain a ticket in advance to attend!
Get your ticket NOW by clicking below or after worship from any of our Pastors on July 9 or 16 -- seating is limited!

GET YOUR TICKETS!

Learn about the Abukloi Foundation  Learn about Hope in the Mountains
RISE AGAINST HUNGER

You are cordially invited to join a meal packaging experience with Williamsburg UMC in the movement to end hunger!

Mark your calendars for Saturday September 23, 2023, 9:30 - 11:30! Global Outreach is Hosting Stop Hunger Now, a meal packaging experience. This is a wonderful mission for the entire family, ages 4 and up, to work together and make an impact on global hunger.

Together, we will package 40,176 meals; which is the equivalent of lunches for an entire school year for 186 children. The majority of our meals go into school lunch programs, so this is a very relevant number! Our meals also get used in medical and elder care facilities, as well as in emergency relief situations.

Each volunteer can package between 125 and 150 meals per hour! And with our goal of 160 volunteers, we can provide so many healthy meals globally!

Sign-up to volunteer on the link below!

LOCAL OUTREACH

FOOD DRIVE, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

At various times through the year, WUMC works with and supports Community of Faith Mission, Grove Christian Outreach Center, and House of Mercy. Join in this support by providing items for a food and supply drive. Follow the link to learn more!
SNACK COLLECTION DRIVE
SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Our church is one of many who will be partnering with Meals on Wheels to provide healthy lunches for 300 children living in local motels and low-income apartments this summer.

Please help us collect juice boxes, fruits, and snacks that will be included with the bag lunches each day.

Items to be collected include:

- 100% juice drinks and Kid V8;
- No Sugar Added fruit cups, pudding cups and applesauce;
- granola bars (NO NUTS) and packaged cheese crackers;
- snack-size crackers, chips, pretzels, raisins;
- zipper sandwich bags.

Melody Nichols, Local Outreach Chair collecting generous donations from WUMC!

Items can be placed on the designated shelves of the collection closet located near the church volunteer desk.

Monetary donations can be made by check payable to Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels (subject line: Summer Meals for Kids) and placed in the Local Outreach mailbox.

Thank you for your generosity!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Marvin Willard Adult Sunday School
When: 9:30-10:30 am
Where: Room 174 or via Zoom
Invitation to Genesis Disciple Bible Study
Zoom Meeting ID: 898 9889 4713
Passcode: 172197

Walking the Footsteps Small Group Experience
When: 9:30-10:30 am
Where: Room 171

A Small Group experience for a deepened experience of the Christian journey of faith.
Aldersgate Fellowship Adult Sunday School
When: 9:30-10:30 am
Where: Wesley Hall

Facts, Stories and Songs with Dianne Colton

Searchers Adult Sunday School
When: 9:30-10:30 am
Where: Room 309 or via Zoom

Invitation to Psalms Disciple Bible Study
Meeting ID: 879 6350 3829 | Passcode: 595342

Bishop McKendree Class: We’ll be returning on September 10 to share our stories of Summer adventures!

Sign Up for Classes Here

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