

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Christmas Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 24, 11:00 p.m.**

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Blessing after The Lord's Prayer, added by Milner-White, was included in its present form in 1930. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College. The service has been edited for United Methodist Congregations.

PARTICIPANTS

Pastor Rev. Duane A. Kemerley
Director of Music Jill Oetzel
Organist (Thursday).....Ruth White
Music Accompanists (Sunday) Various Musicians

	<u>Sunday, Dec. 20</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec. 24</u>
Readers:	1 – Jerry Mursinna	1 – Gary Jordan
	2 – Tim Ferree	2 – Lois Volk
	3 – Emma Chalker	3 – Tayler Cooper
	4 – Jill Oetzel	4 – Lisa Smith
	5 – John Houchin	5 –
	6 – Katie Jurgens	6 –
	7 – Paul Jurgens	7 – Pete Cooper
	8 – Wanda Ferree	8 – Nancy Sullivan
	9 – Duane Kemerley	9 – Duane Kemerley
	Alternate – Deb Kemerley	Alternate – Deb Kemerley

at the doors of the sanctuary.

CANDLE LIGHTING (during “Silent Night”)

Please hold burning candles upright at all times.
Please be careful to NOT drip wax on carpet or pews. Thank you.

*Hint for candle lighting: ALWAYS keep the lighted candle straight up
and tilt the candle to be lit in from the side.*

CAROL Silent Night **UMH 239**

COLLECT

Pastor: Eternal God,
by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts,
he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory,
world without end.

ALL: **AMEN.**

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: May the Christ who by his incarnation
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

ALL: **AMEN.**

Pastor: Go forth in peace and joy.

ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD. ALLELUIA!**

POSTLUDE

Candles may be deposited in the boxes

GATHERING & PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (standing) Once in Royal David’s City **UMH 250**

(stanzas 1 & 2)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Beloved in Christ,
this Christmas Eve it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore
let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first,
because this of all things would rejoice Jesus’ heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time
let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly
let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

A Prayer of Dedication
An Offertory

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

MEDITATION

Crossroads Student Ministries –

Wednesday, December 23rd Crossroads Student Ministries Youth will be going to The Christmas Ranch in Lebanon, Ohio. Leaving the church at 7:00 p.m. & returning around 9:30 p.m. Cost will be a donation to Neediest Kids of All and Shriners Hospital.

NO Crossroads Meeting on Sunday, December 27th

Post New Years Eve Party on Sunday, January 3rd, 2010 for 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for a movie and snacks at JD’s home phone # 404-7669. (243 North Third Street, Williamsburg)

Wesley Covenant Service

Sunday, December 27, During Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

We close the year and prepare for the next year by reaffirming our faith and dedicating ourselves to God’s work using a covenant service designed by John Wesley.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 3, 2009, During Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

We celebrate the visit of the wise men who brought gifts to the Christ Child and the incarnation (God coming in human form). This is an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas.

Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10, 2009, During Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

We move ahead in our year by deepening our understanding of the Covenant of Baptism and offering a time for a personal and congregational Renewal of Baptismal Covenants.



WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Youth Director (part-time).JD Young. jdyoung@williamsburgumc.com
Secretaries Elma Bainum ebainum@williamsburgumc.com
Cindy Gregory cgregory@williamsburgumc.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

Director of MusicJill Oetzel. joetzel@williamsburgumc.com
Organist Ruth White
Praise Band Director John Houchin. jhouchin@williamsburgumc.com
Nursery CaregiverHannah Bainum hbainum@williamsburgumc.com
Lay Leader Bill Lewis. layleader@williamsburgumc.com
Pastor EmeritusRev. Bob Parr bparr@williamsburgumc.com

WILLIAMSBURG EMERGENCY MISSION

Tuesdays, Wednesday, & Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.