

“Joy, Both Realized & Anticipated”



Warwick River Mennonite Church

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December 15, 2019

Vision: Healing & Hope - God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

WELCOME HOME TO Warwick River Mennonite Church

3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday Worship Service December 15, 2019

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 10:40 a.m.

Focus statement: O Lord, what am I waiting for? Why am I afraid? I see my need for your strength in my weakness and my need to be filled with your courage in the midst of all my fears. I long for an awakening, for a renewed trust, and for patience in the coming of the Lord.

-- Gathering --

Prelude

*Welcome

*Time for Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

**Many: Asking, when will I start rejoicing
that you are coming?**

Will I trust your faithfulness to your creation?

One: Can I be patient enough to trust
in your time,
instead of my own?

All: God, what are you waiting for?

*Hymns of Praise and Gathering

-- Lighting of the Advent Candle --

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Prayer of Intercession (- Rick Morley, from his [A Garden Path](#) blog.)

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church (especially...), that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind (especially...); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday (especially... and anniversaries...); that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

-- Hearing from God's Word--

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

*Responsive Reading

Leader: The Lord our God will come and save us.

People: We will let go of our fears

Leader: God will strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

People: We will find our strength in the Lord.

Leader: The redeemed shall walk in the way of the Lord.

**All: We shall see the glory of the Lord
the majesty of our God.**

Time for Silent Reflection

*Hymn of Preparation

Sermon Title: "Joy, Both Realized & Anticipated" -John Dey

-- Responding--

*Hymn of Response

Time for Sharing of Announcements, Blessings, and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Offering

-- Sending --

*Prayer of Sending:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Go with us now into the world.

We can begin again!

Everything is about to change.

So make everything new. Make us new.

Reveal your glory in our lives and in the rhythms of our lives, so that nothing will get in the way of your coming. Amen.

(-April Yamasaki, posted on the **Emmanuel Mennonite Church**)

*Song of Sending

Worship Leader:

Clark Siebels

Song Leader:

Don Brunk

(*Those who are able please stand.)

Prayer and Praise Requests:

- ❖ Pray for the orphans, that they will be protected and given a loving Christian home.
- ❖ Prayer concerns may always be requested and updated by calling or emailing the church office.

Happy Birthday ~

- December 15 Don Mulamba
- December 17 Ken Brunk; Dina Fentress
- December 18 Ronald Ziegler; Shawn McDaniel
- December 21 Kathryn Baer; Lois Mericle
- December 22 Gabriella Davis (2016)

2019 Council of Ministries:

Congregation Chair Lisa Ziegler **Pastor** John M. Dey **Head Elder** Kathryn Baer

Outreach Chair Sue Yoder

Stewardship Chair Tom Salyers **Christian Education Chair** Ann Aulich

Worship Chair Mackenzie Butler **Fellowship Chair** Susan Dey

Member-at-Large Noah Shenk **Member-at-Large** Theresa Siebels

Trustees: Mel Shenk, Clark Siebels **Finance Committee:** Steve Ziegler, Noah Shenk

Church office hours are: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ *Today, Dec. 15* – 3rd Sunday of Advent
- ❖ *Tonight, Dec. 15* – 6:00 p.m. Hymn Sing ~ WRMC *Sweet Melodies of Christmas* (from the pews) Refreshments to follow
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 22* – 4:00 p.m. Providence Mennonite Church Carol Service
- ❖ *Wed. Dec. 24* – 10:00 p.m. WRMC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



-- Announcements --

Tonight @ Warwick River Mennonite Church,
Dec. 15 @ 6:00 p.m. – HYMN SING ~ Sweet Melodies of Christmas ~ An Evening of Christmas Carols (from the pews) (Refreshments to follow) Drinks and sweets will be provided. See you there!

Providence Mennonite Church CAROL SERVICE:

4:00 PM Sunday on December 22

Comforter knotting for MCC will be held at Williamsburg Mennonite Church (WMC), Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 to 3:00. We would love to have at least one comforter top from each congregation, but providing one is not necessary to participate. If you are bringing comforter tops, please bring the backing, batting, small scissors and thread for tying. Lunch will be provided by WMC but in order to plan for the meal, please RSVP by January 13 to Lavonne Lehman: DLLehman@davevon.us or by text or call to (540) 810-2754.

THRIVE: *This year our INGATHERING donation to THRIVE totaled 1,474 pounds of food, which will provide 1,228 meals.* Food pantry needs this month are boxed mashed potatoes, canned meat, canned or boxed meals, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce. Your help is so appreciated, and we all thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: 2019 Annual Reports are coming due please take a moment to schedule a time you may prepare and submit. If you need help in any way, or perhaps a format to follow, please let Pat know. If you have already submitted your report, thank you!

-- FY 2020 Offering Report -- December 8, 2019

Worship Service: 45; Sunday School: 25; Offering: \$2,367.00
Long Green Mennonite Cemetery: \$50.00
Offering collected YTD (Dec. 1, 2019-Dec. 8, 2019) = \$4,822.00
FY Budget Need [Dec. 1, 2019-Nov. 30, 2020] = *pending*



Building News Corner:

-- This Week's Building Fund Update --

11/24/2019 Building Fund Balance	\$1,466,242.55
12/01/2019 Coffee Connect	96.85
12/08/2019 Building Fund Contribution	250.00
12/08/2019 Noisy Offering	49.51
12/08/2019 Coffee Connect	29.00
<u>12/08/2019 Building Fund Balance to date</u>	<u>\$1,466,667.91</u>