

During my college years, a lovely couple, Ester and Wendell, invited students over to share a meal every night during the fall semester. It was a ministry for them and a real treat for the students. Sometimes you knew the students around the table and sometimes you did not, but it was always a wonderful way to get to know others and spend time off campus. To be invited into another's home for a home-cooked meal, especially for those of us who were away from family and eating most of our meals in the dining hall, was one of the warmest gestures we could receive. This hospitality is something I will always cherish.

The same hospitality has been extended to me time and time again at Warwick River Mennonite Church. When I first began attending WRMC, I was invited to eat lunch with several families. It is difficult to express how much this meant to me. Spending Sundays away from family and long-time friends was difficult, but these invitations and gestures of hospitality always filled that gap for me. Since then, many members of the church have continued to extend their hospitality in such generous ways.

The value of opening your home and extending your table to others is often more impactful than you realize. It is difficult for me to choose just one delicious recipe that represents all these wonderful memories, but the unspoken ingredients of "you are welcome here", "you are seen", and "you are valued" continue to resonate in my grateful heart.

