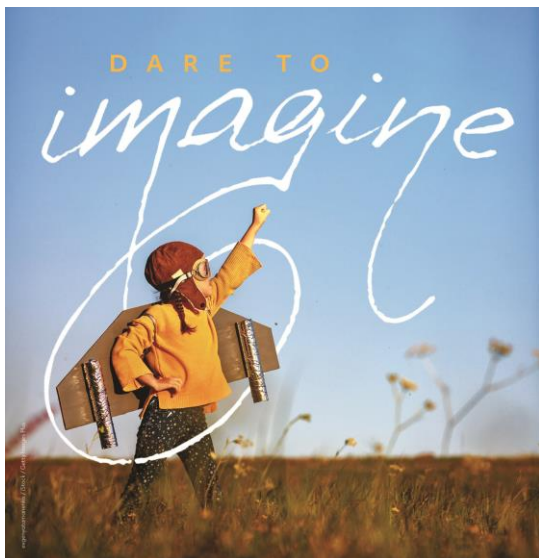


“Dare to Imagine God’s Embrace!”

*In-Person Service meets in Warwick River Chapel
located directly behind the Church building*

*Virtual Worship Service
Or join us via ZOOM – details inside*



Warwick River Mennonite Church

250 Lucas Creek Rd., Newport News, VA 23602

<https://www.warwickrivermennonite.org/>
warwickrivermc@gmail.com

757-874-0794

December 5, 2021 Sunday Worship Service

*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

2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday Worship Service December 5, 2021

Virtual Coffee Connect: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 10:40 a.m.

Pastor - John M. Dey [johnmichaeldey@gmail.com]

District Overseer - David Lehman Congregation Chair - Lisa Ziegler

Christian Education Chair - Ann Aulich Outreach Chair - Sue Yoder

Fellowship Chair - Theresa Siebels Stewardship Chair - Tom Salyers

Members-at-Large - Peggy Kipfer & Tammara Geary

Secretary - Pat O’Connor office hours: 9:30am – 3:30pm [Tue; Wed; Thu; Fri]

*Focus statement: Imagine the wideness of God’s embrace of all
creatures and creation! It will widen our hearts to do the things that make
for peace.*

-- Gathering --

*Welcome and Invocation

*Call to Worship

In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.

God comes close, open-armed.

We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

God’s embrace is wide.

A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord,”
and God pulls the cries close.

God is already here.

*Advent Hymn

-- Lighting of Advent Candle --

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of peace.

And we imagine:

People: God’s tender mercy, God’s compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God’s embrace,
God’s nearness, God’s breath.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God’s wonders,
blessed wonders.**

*Advent Hymn

-- Confession and Assurance --
-- Confession --

We invite those who can, to kneel for our time of confession today. In humility, we willingly bend our knees, silence our many thoughts, and bow our heads, as we bring ourselves into the forgiving embrace of God's presence.

(silence)

Leader: God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your beauty and goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace.

(silence)

Leader: Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and tasks.

(silence)

Leader: Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine freedom from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world in which we live, knowing your hand will guide us.

(silence)

-- Assurance --

Leader: I invite you now to imagine the support of God's hands as you rise to your feet physically or in spirit. Hear now God's words of assurance and peace:

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.
(Luke 1:78-79)

-- Hearing from God's Word --

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

***Hymn of Preparation**

Time for Silent Reflection

Sermon Title: "Dare to Imagine God's Embrace" ~ Clyde G. Kratz

-- Responding --

***Christmas Carol**

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Time for Sharing of Announcements

-- Sending --

***Benediction**

Sometimes words cannot convey something as well as actions or touch can. Close the service by passing the peace of Christ to one another—maybe that is an embrace, a smile, or simply the words "The peace of Christ be with you."

***Song of Sending**

Serving Today:

Worship Leader: John Dey

Song Leader: Micah Shenk

Reader: Chris Miller

Zoom Host: Mackenzie Butler Shenk

Offering basket and bulletins are on a table just inside Chapel.



Prayer and Praise Requests:

- ❖ Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton, of Mennonite Mission Network, request prayer for the churches in Ecuador that have suffered the loss of many leaders and members, due to COVID-19. While they continue to lament their losses, pray for their strength and resilience, as new leaders come forward to continue the reconciling mission of Christ.
- ❖ “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.” ~ II Samuel 22:2
- ❖ *Prayer/Praise concerns are always welcome & may be requested & updated by calling or emailing Pat O’Connor in the front office: (757)-874-0794 or warwickrivermc@gmail.com*



Happy Birthday ~

- December 5 Clark Siebels;
Kyle Fannin;
Anna Mulamba;
Johnnie Stafford, Jr.
- December 6 Ben Redekop;
Tete Mulamba
- December 7 Josh Longacher
- December 15 Don Mulamba
- December 17 Ken Brunk
Dina Fentress
- December 18 Ronald Ziegler
Shawn McDaniel
- December 21 Kathryn Baer;
- December 22 Gabriella Davis
- December 23 Graham Wagner
- December 24 Micah Shenk
- December 27 Delma Brenneman;
Theresa Siebels
- December 31 Donna Nice
Rick Wagner

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ *Thur., Dec. 9*—WRMC Council Meeting
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 12*—3rd Sunday of Advent
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 12*—10:40 am WRMC Worship Service

Announcements

While expecting Christ’s return, we welcome yours.

Birth Announcement and Congratulations!

Toby Christian

Born November 3, 2021.

Parents: Emily and Kendall Wenger

Big brother: Arlo, 2 1/2 years old

Grandparents: Chris and Ronda Miller

Great Grandparents: Ernie and Ruth Ann Miller

EVERENCE – Finance and debt counseling – Many of us or our family members, encounter life situations that may require financial or debt counseling. Everence sponsors free financial counseling. This service is confidential, at no cost, and provides reliable, values-based financial advice. For more information, contact Pat O’Connor, WRMC’s Everence Advocate. If you prefer to speak directly to the Everence Federal Credit Union in Harrisonburg, Virginia, contact Lana Miller at 540-437-7422, x4614.

Warwick River Mennonite Church

Zoom platform

HOW TO CONNECT

***Worship Service * Meetings * Gatherings of all kinds**

Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84674071811?pwd=dWRKODZleWRucmRuams1YlFZTFJjUT09>

*MEETING ID: 846 7407 1811

*PASSWORD: 809884

Phone: 929-205-6099

*MEETING ID: 846 7407 1811

*PASSWORD: 809884

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mackenzie Shenk (740-868-0016) or Don Brunk (610-787-0823) They will do their very best to assist you.

The Sermon is recorded for replay at www.warwickrivermennonite.org.



Gift Giving (FY = Fiscal Year)

FY2021 runs 12/01/2020 through 11/30/2021

Annual operating expense budget: \$185,700.00

Attendance Report November 28, 2021 Worship Service: 47

Offering Report November 28, 2021

- \$ 3,590.00 In person + Mail Offertory totals this week
- \$ 2,094.75 Stormwater fees shared
- \$ 101.66 (net) E-giving support totals this week
- \$ 5,786.41 Offertory Total 11/28/2021

Budget Offertory collected YTD (12/01/2020-11/28/2021= \$144,294.63)

Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church

Deuteronomy 16:17



Building News Corner

This Week's Building Fund Update

11/21/2021 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,530,338.05*
11/28/2021	00.00
11/28/2021 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,530,338.05*

(*includes \$12,947.05 estimated value stock shares)

We are grateful for your financial support and committed to exercising faithful stewardship over the funds contributed to us. We are aware of the many sacrifices you make in order to provide these gifts, and sincerely pledge to see that these dollars are used wisely, especially during this time of uncertainty.

To assist everyone in making consistent offerings that are so important to your church, we are now able to accept ACH savings/checking drafts as well as PayPal. Please inform Pat in the front office as to the date and amount of ACH transfers along with any special instructions so that we may watch for receipt.

For PayPal, please go directly to: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)

**The Warwick River Chapel is open and
worship services have resumed along with some committee meetings.
Masks and social distancing remain a must.**