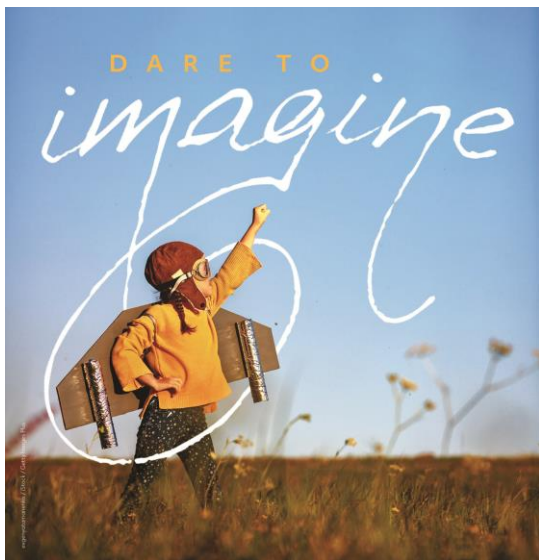


“Dare to Imagine God’s Song!”

*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 12, 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

3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday Worship Service December 12, 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: Singing together causes great joy and jubilation. But,
even more, our hearts exult and swell as we imagine God singing over us.*

-- Gathering --

*Welcome and Invocation

***Call to Worship** (adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.

People: God is in our midst.

Leader: We listen.

People: We strain to grasp the sound of God’s song.

*Advent Hymn

-- Lighting of Advent Candle --

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of joy.

And we imagine:

People: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

Leader: We light the candle and join in God’s song, singing loudly,
singing fiercely, singing together.

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

*Advent Hymn

-- Confession and Assurance --

Even our wildest imaginations cannot grasp the immense beauty of God. This is a true confession. We are small, God is bigger. We will never fully know, but we are fully known. We catch glimpses of God's magnificence, and we accept that it is only that, a glimpse. God invites us to accept our smallness—while we join the awesome song of God's joy.

Today, instead of the usual words of confession, we invite the church to be immersed and “covered” in song.

Over our heads there is music. As we await the birth of Jesus, we do well to joyfully give ourselves to the One who imagines the divine in the form of a child.

Dare to imagine!

-- Hearing from God's Word --

Scripture Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

***Hymn of Preparation**

Time for Silent Reflection

Sermon Title: “Dare to Imagine God's Song!”

~ John Dey

-- Responding --

***Christmas Carol**

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Time for Sharing of Announcements

-- Sending --

***Benediction**

Read “Sing and sing”

Sing and sing. And when you cannot raise a note of song, the rocks will cry out. And when the echoing stones go still, in the dangerous crevice that is your heart, if you lie still, there remains an altar, a way to enter a terrible holiness, a lush and delicate calm.

***Song of Sending**

Serving Today:

Worship Leader: Mackenzie Butler Shenk

Song Leader: Noah Shenk

Reader: Jan Dennis

Zoom Host: Don Brunk

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



Prayer and Praise Requests:

- ❖ Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Orodara region, where many of Burkina Faso's Mennonites live. Foreign-sponsored guerilla fighters are making it difficult for people to go to work and for children to attend school. Pray for the Mennonites' peace witness, for the families of the more than 1,500 people who have died and for the more than 1.3 million displaced people in Burkina Faso.
- ❖ “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” ~ Isaiah 12:2
- ❖ *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 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 Brennehan;
 Theresa Siebels
 December 31 Donna Nice
 January 3 Rachael Shenk
 January 4 Will Siebels

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Sun., Dec. 19—4th Sunday of Advent
- ❖ Sun., Dec. 19—10:40 am WRMC Worship Service
- ❖ Sun., Dec. 19—Reminder: if you purchased a poinsettia in honor/memory of a loved one Nov. 28, be sure to take it home with you after Worship Service today
- ❖ WRMC front office closed Dec. 22-28
- ❖ **Fri., Dec. 24—9 pm WRMC Christmas Eve Service via Zoom only**
- ❖ Sat., Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas!
- ❖ Sun., Dec. 26 – 10:40 am WRMC Worship Service
- ❖ WRMC front office open Dec. 29, 30, 31
- ❖ Fri., Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

Announcements

While expecting Christ's return, we welcome yours.

HOMEMAKERS

News from WRMC Homemakers, Elaine Smith: This year the Homeless Shelter NEEDS include: 1) Toothbrushes; (2) Toothbrush cases (3) Toothpaste (4) combs (5) deodorant. For this annual effort our WRMC Homemakers have sewn 40+ belonging bags (Elaine Smith); 20+ knitted winter hats (Jackie Zimmerman). *If you can help please bring donations to Pat in the church office or call Elaine at 757-874-5889.* This year's effort will be delivered after Christmas so there is still time to help. All donations are appreciated and don't forget to keep sewing for next year's effort. Thank you for helping in spite of all of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. Thank you!

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=dWRKODZleWRucmRucms1YlFZTFJjUT09>

*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

December 5, 2021

Worship Service: 49

Offering Report December 5, 2021

\$ 4,410.00	In person + Mail Offertory totals this week toward FY2022
\$ 200.00	In person + Mail Offertory totals this week toward FY2021
\$ 50.00	Building Fund
\$ 50.00	<u>Long Green Cemetery Preservation</u>
\$ 4,710.00	Offertory Total 12/05/2021

Budget Offertory collected YTD (12/01/2021-12/05/2021= \$4,410.00)

Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church

Deuteronomy 16:17



Building News Corner

This Week's Building Fund Update

11/28/2021 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,530,338.05*
<u>12/05/2021</u>	<u>50.00</u>
12/05/2021 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,530,388.05*

(*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.***