

## “Dare to Imagine God’s Face!”

*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](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com)

757-874-0794

### December 19, 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

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Sunday Worship Service December 19, 2021

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

**Pastor - John M. Dey [ [johnmichaeldey@gmail.com](mailto: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 & Tammarra Geary  
Secretary - Pat O’Connor office hours: 9:30am – 3:30pm [Tue; Wed; Thu; Fri]

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*Focus statement: What amazing love is this that the Godhead comes  
down to us in the little clan of a little people and takes on a human face?  
With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Savior, by actively participating in  
God’s leveling mercy.*

**-- Gathering --**

\*Welcome and Invocation

\*Call to Worship

Come.  
Come as you are.  
Come with your needs, your doubts,  
your dreams, your hopes.  
Come, expecting God to meet us—  
here and in the innermost longing of our souls.  
Watch. Wait.  
God is present in our worship.

\*Advent Hymn

**-- Lighting of Advent Candle --**

**Candle Litany**

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine  
**People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.**  
Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.  
**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**  
**\*Advent Hymn**

**-- Prayer of Confession --**

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.  
**People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.**  
Leader: Teach us to love.  
**People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.**  
Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.  
**People: Reorientate us to your vision of equality.**  
Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

**-- Words of Assurance --**

*(adapted from Luke 1:46-49)*

**All:** *Our souls magnify the Lord,  
our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.  
God has looked with favor on our lowliness.  
The Mighty One has done great things for us,  
and holy is God's name.*

**-- Hearing from God's Word --**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:46-56  
**\*Hymn of Preparation**  
Time for Silent Reflection  
Sermon Title: "Dare to Imagine God's Face!" ~ John Dey

**-- Responding --**

**\*Christmas Carol**  
Sharing of Blessings and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
Time for Sharing of Announcements

**-- Sending --**

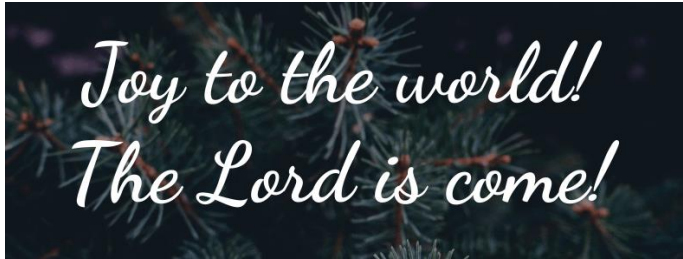
**\*Benediction**  
*(a Celtic prayer)*  
May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
walk with you on the road.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands  
stretch out your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
open up your heart to love.  
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet  
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.  
**\*Song of Sending**

**Serving Today:**

*Worship Leader: Susan Ackerman  
Song Leader: Mel Shenk  
Reader: Steve Fannin  
Zoom Host: Rachael Shenk*

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

*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  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Today, Sun., Dec. 19*



**Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ Today, Sun., Dec. 19—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent & 10:40 am WRMC Worship Service
- ❖ Today, 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
- ❖ Today, Sun., Dec. 19—6-7 PM is Christmas Caroling around the Fire at WRMC outside between the school and the chapel
- ❖ 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



**Happy Birthday ~**

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 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     |

**Prayer and Praise Requests:**

- ❖ Please pray healing and health for Myra Millikin, daughter of Jack and Elaine Smith as she continues under her doctor’s care while searching for a diagnosis and treatment of her low iron count.
- ❖ Matthew and Toni Krabill, of Mennonite Mission Network, are serving as co-directors for the Paris Mennonite Center in France. Pray for their health, creativity, and joy, as they welcome researchers, share Anabaptist resources and develop online classes for French-speaking theology students throughout the world.
- ❖ Pray that everyone would focus on the true meaning of Christmas.
- ❖ “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.” ~Isaiah 52:7
- ❖ *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](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com)*

**Announcements**

*While expecting Christ’s return, we welcome yours.*

**HOMEMAKERS FELLOWSHIP UPDATE**

**Belonging bags are being assembled for the homeless shelter.** There is new hope the bags will be ready in time for Christmas! With renewed vigor we ask that you consider helping by donating the following items the next time you are out shopping for your family. Many of these items can be purchased at The Dollar Tree and other inexpensive stores, as follows:

Toothbrushes, Toothbrush cases, Small tubes toothpaste, Combs, Deodorant, size large heavy men’s Socks, and any small tubes of Hand Lotions.

*If you can help please bring donations to Pat in the church office or call Elaine at 757-874-5889. All donations are appreciated and don’t forget to keep sewing for next year’s effort.*



**Gift Giving (FY = Fiscal Year)**

FY2021 runs 12/01/2021 through 11/30/2022

Annual operating expense budget: *to be determined*

**Attendance Report**

**December 12, 2021**

**Worship Service: 40**

**Offering Report December 12, 2021**

\$ 4,450.00	In person + Mail Offertory totals this week toward FY2022
\$ 4,500.00	In person + Mail Offertory totals this week toward FY2021
\$ 6,000.00	designated toward removal of 2 trees in front of WRMC
\$ 1,000.00	designated to Missions
\$ 500.00	designated to Brotherhood
\$ 500.00	designated to THRIVE
\$ 1,000.00	designated to Warwick River Christian Learning Center
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\$ 17,950.00	Offertory Total 12/05/2021

Budget Offertory collected YTD (12/01/2021-12/12/2021= \$8,860.00)

**Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church**

Deuteronomy 16:17



**Building News Corner**

**This Week's Building Fund Update**

<b>12/05/2021 Building Fund Balance to date</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,338.05*</b>
<b>12/12/2021</b>	<b>00.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>12/12/2021 Building Fund Balance to date</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,388.05*</b>

(\*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.**

**Prayer Opportunities**



You are welcome to stop in briefly or for an extended time of prayer...  
To pray alone, with one other person, or a group of people.  
Prayer replenishes the soul. All are welcome!!

**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](http://www.warwickrivermennonite.org).*

