

**NOVEMBER 26, 2023**  
Gratitude: Grounded in God's



# Warwick River Mennonite Church

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

250 Lucas Creek Road, Newport News, VA 23602  
757-874-0794  
[warwickrivermc@gmail.com](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com)  
[www.warwickrivermennonite.org](http://www.warwickrivermennonite.org)

## WELCOME HOME TO Warwick River Mennonite Church

*In-person* Sunday School: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

*Virtual* Coffee Connect: 10 a.m.

*In-person and Virtual* Worship Service: 10:40 a.m.

*In-person* Coffee Connect follows Worship Service

Recorded Sermons available at [www.warwickrivermennonite.org](http://www.warwickrivermennonite.org)

VMC Eastern District Overseer: Ryan Ahlgrim

Pastor: Steve Wiebe-Johnson [wrmcpastor01@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcpastor01@gmail.com)

Pastor's telephone (574) 849-2021

Church Elder: Chris Miller [wrmcelderchris@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcelderchris@gmail.com)

Church Elder: Ann Aulich [wrmcelderann@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcelderann@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: Laura Siebels [wrmcmemberatlarge1@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcmemberatlarge1@gmail.com)

Congregation Chair: Tom Salyers [wrmccongregationchair@gmail.com](mailto:wrmccongregationchair@gmail.com)

Outreach Chair: Sue Yoder [wrmc outreach@gmail.com](mailto:wrmc outreach@gmail.com)

Worship Chair: Mary Dawn Carrier [worshipwrmc@gmail.com](mailto:worshipwrmc@gmail.com)

Fellowship Chair: Jenn Salyers [wrmcfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcfellowship@gmail.com)

Stewardship Chair: Tom Salyers [wrmcstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:wrmcstewardship@gmail.com)

Office Admin - Pat O'Connor office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10:30am – 4:30pm

### Serving Today:

*Sermon: Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson*

*Worship Leader: Mackenzie Butler Shenk*

*Song Leader: Micah Shenk*

*Reader: Steve Fannin*

*Greeter: Christine Hurr*

*Zoom Host: Leanna DeWysocki*

### Warwick River Mennonite Church HOW TO CONNECT

**\*Worship Service \* Sunday School \* Meetings \***

**Computer:** [Click Here](#) to enter Zoom Meeting

\*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*

*Don Brunk (610-787-0823)*

**-- Gathering --**

Welcome

**\*Hymn of Praise and Gathering**

**Call to Worship:** (from Psalm 100 - New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])

Leader: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

**People: Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us,  
and we are his; we are his people and the  
sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts  
with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name  
for the Lord is good;

**All: His steadfast love endures forever and his  
faithfulness to all generations.**

**\*Hymn of Preparation**

**\*Children's Moment** ~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

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

Scripture Readings: Psalm 34:1-3 and Psalm 44:6-8

Sermon: Gratitude: Grounded in God's

*~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson*

**A reading from Henri Nouwen on Gratitude:**

To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives-the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections-that requires hard spiritual work. Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment. As long as we keep dividing our lives between events and people we would like to remember and those we would rather forget, we cannot claim the fullness of our beings as a gift of God to be grateful for. Let's not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we are now and trust that we will soon see in it the guiding hand of a loving God.

**Genesis 50:19,20**

But Joseph said to [his brothers], 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.'

We do not need to deny our journey. We have come through failure, disappointment, and grief.

**-- Responding to Worship --**

**\*Hymn of Response**

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Offertory Prayer & Offering

Sharing of Announcements

**-- Sending --**

**\*Song of Sending**

Benediction (Ephesians 1: 16 – 19)

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Go in the peace of the Christ



November 19, 2023 Offering Report \* Worship Service: 35  
Offering: \$950.00 \* Building Fund: \$50.00 \* Designated to Ingathering \$500.00 \*  
Offering collected YTD: [12/1/2022-11/19/2023] = \$97,747.50  
Budget Need [12/1/2022-11/19/2023] = \$134,658.36  
Deficit: \$36,910.86

Building Fund Update:

11/12/2023 Building Fund Balance \$1,545,279.05

11/19/2023 Building Fund Balance \$1,545,329.05

**The current Fiscal Year ends 12/31/2023. If you feel called to give once again to our  
Warwick River Mennonite Church, a gift of any amount will always be welcomed and  
we are committed to exercising faithful stewardship over the funds contributed to us.**

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

**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.**

**Prayer and Praise Requests**

- ❖ *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” ~ John 8:12*
- ❖ Prayer and praise for the safe travels and return of Pastor Steve to Warwick River this Sunday. “Welcome home”
- ❖ Sympathy and love to Connie Saunders and family as they mourn the passing on Thanksgiving Day of Connie's brother, Ralph Coleman, age 90 from Bristol, Virginia. Please keep Connie in your prayers as she is unable to attend the funeral due to her health. Connie's address is: 205 Hahn Place, Newport News, VA 23602 and she would welcome hearing from her church family.
- ❖ Please pray for health and healing for Martha Young as she is experiencing the onset of difficult days. May she soon feel better.
- ❖ Jonah and Memee Yang began serving with Mennonite Mission Network in September. **Pray** for Jonah as he teaches Hmong and Thai students in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Journey Program and for Memee as she offers Sister Care seminars. The Yangs live in Minnesota and will travel to Thailand twice each year.
- ❖ Prayer and Praise concerns are always welcome & may be requested or updated by calling or emailing Pat O'Connor in the front office: (757)-874-0794 or [warwickrivermc@gmail.com](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com)

**Happy Birthday!**

November 27-	Sarah Wilde	December 4-	Ruth Ann Miller
November 28-	Ann Aulich	December 5-	Clark Siebels
November 28-	Paul Mulamba	December 5-	Kyle Fannin
November 29-	Mel Shenk	December 5-	Anna Mulamba
November 30-	Louise Kraus	December 6-	Johnnie Stafford, Jr.

**Happy Anniversary!**

November 28- Pastor Steve & Dorothy Wiebe-Johnson

**Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ *Today, Nov 26<sup>th</sup>* 9:30am Adult & Children's Sunday School (School Building)  
10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel)
- ❖ *Today, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>* Deadline to order Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas
- ❖ *Tues., Nov 28<sup>st</sup>* 4-6pm Community Prayer Drop-In (Chapel or Outdoors)
- ❖ *Fri., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>* 6:30pm Warwick River Christian School Children's Christmas Program Pre-K & K:Calvary Chapel, 15553 Warwick Blvd.
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>* 1st Sunday of Advent
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>* Potluck Fellowship Meal after Worship Service (Chapel)
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>* 9:00 am – Warwick River Christian Cookie Walk
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>* 4-7pm WRMC Christmas Caroling Bus departs the station !

**Announcements:**

**DEC. 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 8AM – 2PM: LEND A HELPING HAND CHURCH WORK DAY**

Warwick River Church Family Volunteers needed. We're having a landscape work day at the Learning Center. Bring shovels, rakes, loopers, and trucks to help clean up to make way for the new landscape. Trucks appreciated to take debris to the landfill. See you there, next Saturday, 12/2, 8:00am – 2:00pm

**LAST CALL: Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas**

WRMC Council of Ministries invites you to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one that could be used to grace the chapel for the weeks of Advent. Then Dec. 17 or Dec. 24, we encourage those who purchased a poinsettia to take their poinsettia home with them for Christmas. The cost for one poinsettia is \$19.99. The poinsettias will be purchased from Anderson's and delivered to the church through a special program Anderson's has established for churches in Hampton Roads.

**Dedication deadline for purchasing a poinsettia this year is Sunday, November 26.**

You'll see the WRMC *Roll of Names* in the bulletin, on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To order - contact Pat, our office admin (757-874-0794) or [warwickrivermc@gmail.com](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com). Make checks payable to WRMC with clear spellings of the person or persons you wish to memorialize or honor.

**INGATHERING 2023 GIVING TOTALED 575 POUNDS OF FOOD TO THRIVE ~ THANK YOU ONE AND ALL**

**ANIMAL SHELTER BOX**

On 12/3/23 there will be a box in the chapel lobby to collect used items for the Peninsula SPCA and the Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter (PRAS). An email will be sent tomorrow listing all of the items needed. To include newspapers, used towels, sheets, shoe boxes (cats love to snuggle in them) and empty paper towel/toilet paper rolls. Questions: Rachael & Noah Shenk (Perfect time to declutter your linen closet!)