

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Waiting in Hope in times of Trouble...
Belief in things unseen



Warwick River Mennonite Church

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

250 Lucas Creek Road, Newport News, VA 23602
757-874-0794
warwickrivermc@gmail.com
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

VMC Eastern District Overseer: Ryan Ahlgrim

Pastor: Steve Wiebe-Johnson wrmcpastor01@gmail.com

Pastor's telephone (574) 849-2021

Church Elder: Chris Miller wrmcelderchris@gmail.com

Church Elder: Ann Aulich wrmcelderann@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: Laura Siebels wrmcmemberatlarge1@gmail.com

Congregation Chair: Tom Salyers wrmccongregationchair@gmail.com

Outreach Chair: Sue Yoder wrmcoutreach@gmail.com

Worship Chair: Mary Dawn Carrier worshipwrmc@gmail.com

Fellowship Chair: Jenn Salyers wrmcfellowship@gmail.com

Stewardship Chair: Tom Salyers 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: Susan Ackerman

Song Leader: Noah Shenk

Reader: James Salyers & Samantha Salyers

Greeters: Chris & Ronda Miller

Zoom Host: Rachael Shenk

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

Advent Candle lighting

Leader: Together we wait.

Candle Lighter: God is patient with us,

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but how do we prepare while we're waiting?

Leader: Go, beloved, and while you wait for these things, strive to be found by God at peace. Do justice, love, kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

*Hymn of Praise and Gathering

Call to Worship:

Leader: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with God one day is like a thousand years, and one thousand years is like a day.

All High voices: God is not slow, as some think of slowness,

All Low voices: but is patient with us,

People: **not wanting any to perish,
but all to come to repentance,**

Leader: The word of our God will stand forever,

People: **How shall we live while we wait for salvation?**
(pause)

All: **Together we wait.**

*Hymn of Preparation

*Children's Moment: "Preparing The Way"

~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

-- Hearing from God's Word --

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2,8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: Waiting in hope in times of trouble...belief in things unseen

~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

A writing from Amy Gingrich, MennoMedia Executive Director, 12/6/23:

In 1934, a congregation in suburban Chicago found itself economically strapped. Just ahead of the Great Depression, the church constructed a new sanctuary and now couldn't afford the mortgage. They "uninstalled the telephone and slashed the pastor's salary in half" to cut costs.

Amid such cuts, two budget lines got an increase: "mission, because they knew they had more neighbors in need than ever before, and education, because they believed the Christian formation of their children was tantamount even in a season of scarcity," writes Katherine Willis Pershey, one of the church's current pastors ("Prayers Rising Past the Immanent Frame," Christian Century, September 2023).

Circumstances, cultural paradigms, and programs have changed and yet the needs articulated by that church in 1934 still resound: our neighbors are in need, children's Christian formation remains a priority. How are you and your congregation prioritizing what's most needed today and in the year ahead? Where do you cultivate hope and belonging? What programming cuts could make way for God to do a new thing? ~ In hope, Amy

-- Responding to Worship --

*Hymn of Response

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Offertory Prayer & Offering

Sharing of Announcements

-- Sending --

*Song of Sending

Prayer of Sending (Benediction) Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.





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

- ❖ *“In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” ~ John 1:4-5*
- ❖ Please offer up continued prayers for God’s healing touch upon Don Brunk. Comfort him and Laurie and Twila during this difficult time. Grant them strength, courage, and hope in the coming days and we pray for your presence, peace, and we ask that you would bring healing and restoration to body, mind, and spirit.
- ❖ Please Pray for MaryDawn Carrier as she faces a major surgery this week. Please be with the doctors and we pray MaryDawn will quickly recover and again enjoy her days without worry.
- ❖ Please pray for Michelle Watrous and her family during the sudden death of her son-in-law, Justin Adam. Please pray for Michelle’s daughter, Amber, and the three young children (Michelle’s grandchildren, ages 11, 9, and 6) as together we mourn this unimaginable loss. (Michelle is the Director here at Warwick River Christian Learning Center.)
- ❖ Continued prayers for all those in the congregation undergoing health challenges known and unknown to us. May they be comforted and know that we pray for their health and return to good health.



12/10/23: TODAY!! CHRISTMAS PARTY THEMED POTLUCK LUNCH FOLLOWING DECEMBER 10th WORSHIP SERVICE: What better way to spread Christmas cheer than with a festive potluck filled with your favorite Christmas recipes! Your favorite main courses, sides, and desserts make the season bright. This month's fellowship meal is our WRMC Christmas party! So, wear your favorite festive attire, share your cherished Christmas comfort foods, and make new memories in fellowship with your WRMC congregation.

12/17/23: THE POINSETTIAS that adorn the Sanctuary during the Christmas season are provided in remembrance and in honor of those who have filled our lives with love and joy. Thank you for participating and the dedications made. **Dear participants: remember to take your flower home on December 17th or 24th ! Merry Christmas !**

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ *Today, Dec 10th* 2nd Sunday of Advent
 9:30am Adult & Children’s Sunday School (School Building)
 10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel)
 Potluck Fellowship Meal after Worship Service (Chapel)
- ❖ *Tues., Dec 12th* 4–6pm Community Prayer Drop-In (Chapel or Outdoors)
- ❖ *Thurs., Dec 14th* Threads Together sewing group meets (School Building)
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 16th* 9:00 am – Warwick River CLC Cookie Walk (School Building)
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 16th* 4-7pm WRMC Christmas Caroling Bus departs (Chapel)

Announcements:

Warwick River Mennonite Church
ANNOUNCEMENT
 Council of Ministries voted to extend
 Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson’s contract from
 January 1 – December 31, 2024.
 Please be sure to offer up your continued support to
 Pastor Steve as he continues to get to know our Church family and
 to bring us the message

12/16/23: CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON DEC 16TH Anyone who wishes to participate in caroling, please be at the Chapel before 4:00 p.m.; the bus for caroling will be leaving promptly at 4:00. Dress for the weather! We should return around 6:45. Thank you Ann Aulich for being our amazing bus driver again this year!

12/1/2023:UPDATE: THE WRCLC CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM This wonderful celebration was attended by an estimated 300 or more. The children were dressed in their Christmas best and sang so beautifully! Our sincere thanks go out to WRCLC and all the teachers and staff who made this memorable evening possible. (We are already looking forward to next year!!)

12/10/23: A BELATED THANK YOU to all WHO HELPED WITH DONATIONS and those who helped physically go find, then purchase, and move/replace the refrigerator in the Chapel. Out with the old! In with the “new to us” refrigerator. Thank you one and all. Seriously, thank you. P.S. this one even has an ice maker!

12/10/23:WARWICK RIVER LEARNING CENTER NEEDS A PERSON TO CALL with building and grounds issues and who would see to it that the issue is attended to. (i.e., call a roofer, call a plumber, etc.) Handyman experience is helpful.

WRMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS 2023

WRMC OFFICE WILL BE OPEN: Dec 28, 29, Jan 2, 3, 4, 5

WRMC OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 20, 21, 22, 26, 27



Gift Giving (FY = Fiscal Year) ~ This Budget Year Approved is 13 months
 New FY2023 will run 12/01/2022 through 12/31/2023 (new)
 Annual operating expense budget: \$150,500.00

December 3, 2023 Offering ~~~~~ Worship Service Attendance 44

\$ 385.00	Offertory for FY2023
\$ 400.00	Paypal
\$ 196.05	Designated to WRMC General Fund From the WRMC Sr. Fellowship Group
\$ 100.00	Long Green Mennonite Cemetery Fund
\$ 1,081.05	Offertory total 12/03/2023

Budget Offertory collected YTD 12/01/2022-12/3/2023=\$114,428.55

Total Budgeted need 12/01/2022-12/3/2023=\$139,939.08

Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church

Deuteronomy 16:17



Building News Corner

This Week's Building Fund Update

11/26/2023 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,545,629.05
12/03/2023	\$ 00.00
12/03/2023 Building Fund Balance to date	\$ 1,545,629.05
<i>(*includes \$12,947.05 estimated value stock shares)</i>	



Warwick River Mennonite Church is 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 these times of uncertainty.

To assist everyone in making the consistent offerings, that are so important to your church, we are now able to accept ACH (automated clearing house) savings/checking drafts and PayPal.

For those who prefer, offering envelopes are available in the pews and on the table near the bulletins as you enter the Chapel.

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

HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK
Saturday ~ Dec. 16
9:00 am to 12pm

Warwick River Christian will be hosting our annual *Holiday Cookie Walk* on December 16. We need lots of yummy homemade cookies to make this event a success. So, get your favorite Christmas cookie recipes ready! **Not a baker but you know a baker ... please ask them to bake for WRC!**

Volunteers are needed the day of to set up, manage the cookie tables, cashier, and help with clean up!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT
ANN AULICH 757-870-2042 OR aulichwrcc@yahoo.com

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AND STAFF AT
 WARWICK RIVER CHRISTIAN ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Doors open promptly at 9:00 a.m. and cookies are sold by the pound. The variety last year was amazing and we hope you will help bake cookies to donate to the cause and we also hope you will come to the event as a customer. You will be so happy you did,
 Merry Christmas!