

DECEMBER 31, 2023

How will we know...*who* knows,
vulnerability and dependence
on God's action



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: Mackenzie Butler-Shenk

Song Leader: Lisa Fannin

Reader: Steve Fannin

Greeter: MaryDawn Carrier

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 and reading (Psalm 148, see insert)

Advent Candle lighting

Leader: Together we wonder.

Candle Lighter: How will we know what is next?

Leader: Go and hold fast to what is good, rejoice always,
make straight the way of the Lord!

***Hymn of Praise and Gathering**

Call to Worship: (from Luke, Chapter 2)

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel."

Left side: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshipped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

Right side: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

People: Our long wait is finally over!
pause

All: Together we rejoice.

***Hymn of Preparation**

***Children's Moment: Pineapples and Waiting** ~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

-- Hearing from God's Word --

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 61:10-62.3

Galatians 4:4-7

Sermon: How will we know... *who* knows,
vulnerability and dependence on God's action
~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

-- 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)

As we go, help us, Lord, to have eyes to see and ears to hear as we wait expectantly on your leading. May we identify and encourage the movement of your spirit in our hearts and minds and may we be emboldened to see your movement in those around us. Go in peace.



December 24, 2023 Offering ~~~~~ Worship Service Attendance 39

\$	3,555.00	Offertory for FY2023
\$	3.00	Coffee Connect designated to General Fund
\$	2,094.75	Reimbursed Stormwater Fees (from WRCS)
\$	5,652.75	Offertory total 12/24/2023

Budget Offertory collected YTD 12/01/2022-12/24/2023=\$123,873.30

Fiscal Year ends 12/31/2023 ~ **Deficit: \$26,626.70** as of 12/24/2023

Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church

Deuteronomy 16:17

12/24/2023 Building Fund Balance to date \$ 1,545,679.05*

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

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. Consistent offerings are so important to your church. For PayPal, you may go directly to: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)



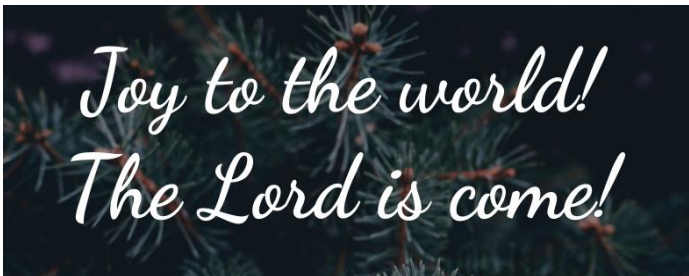
Vision: Healing & Hope –
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Prayer and Praise Requests

- ❖ *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving & his courts with praise; give thanks to him & praise his name. For the Lord is good & his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."*
~Psalm 100:4-5
- ❖ Praise for the blessing of Christmas Eve Worship Service and thank you Pastor Steve, MaryDawn Carrier, Evangeline Schrock, Micah & Mackenzie Shenk, Noah & Rachael Shenk, Mel & Cheri Shenk, Daniel Shenk, and Selah Shenk, for the special music and readings. Praise to all those unknown to us who helped behind the scenes in big ways and small ways. Merriest Christmas to all.
- ❖ MMN requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. As 2023 ends with much suffering & violence please help proclaim our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil & injustice. May each of us continue to "be the Gospel" wherever we find ourselves.
- ❖ We offer up prayers of thanksgiving for Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson and his wife, Dorothy. We are blessed that they have joined our Warwick River church family and we are so thankful for this past year as we look forward to the coming new year.
- ❖ Prayer and Praise concerns are always welcome & may be requested or updated by calling or emailing Pat O'Connor in the Church Office: (757)-874-0794 or warwickrivermc@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

December 31	Donna Nice	January 5	Nelson Baer; Ricky Dillon
January 3	Rachael Shenk	January 7	John Cassel
January 4	Will Siebels	January 10	Sue Yoder (Snooky)
		January 10	Nicole Mulamba



Upcoming Events:

- ❖ *Sun., Dec 31st* 5th Sunday of Advent
9:30am Adult & Children's Sunday School (School Building)
10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel)
- ❖ *Sun., Dec 31st* New Year's Eve
- ❖ *Mon., Jan 1st* Happy New Year!
- ❖ *Tues., Jan 2nd* WRMC church office resumes regular hours
- ❖ *Wed., Jan 3rd* Newport News Public Schools resume
- ❖ *Thurs., Jan 4th* 6:00pm WRMC Council Meeting (Chapel)
- ❖ *Sat., Jan 6th* Epiphany 2024
- ❖ *Tues., Jan 9th* Community Prayer Group resumes
- ❖ *Thurs., Jan 11th* Committee Chairs 2023 Annual Reports Due today
- ❖ *Thurs., Jan. 11th* Threads Together sewing group meets (School Building)

Announcements:

January 14, 2024: Caleb Schrock-Hurst is scheduled as a Guest Speaker at WRMC. Caleb is with the Virginia Mennonite Conference and there will be more information to come. Welcome!



A message from the front office:
COMMITTEE CHAIRS: 2023 Annual Reports are coming due please take a moment to schedule a time you may prepare and submit. If you need help in any way, or perhaps a format to follow, please let me know. The preferred format is WORD (via email, to: warwickrivermc@gmail.com). If you have already submitted your report, thank you!
 ~Thank you very much, Pat O'Connor

