

December 28, 2025  
"Pointing to Jesus: The Light Shining Through the Darkness"  
Advent 5



## 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 AM

*Virtual* Coffee Connect: 10 AM

*In-person and Virtual* Worship Service: 10:40 AM

*In-person* Coffee Connect follows Worship Service

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

### Leadership

*Church office hours: 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM Tuesday through Friday. If you have questions, concerns, or compliments you may contact any of the following people.*

Steve Wiebe-Johnson, Pastor

MaryDawn Carrier, Congregation Chair

Chris Miller, Elder & Council Co-Chair

Sue Yoder, Outreach Chair

Twila Blume, Member-At-Large

Adam Carrier, Stewardship Chair

574-849-2021

757-218-8137

757-879-6659

757-708-4036

### Serving Today

*Sermon: Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson*

*Worship Leader: Mackenzie Butler Shenk*

*Song Leader: Lisa Fannin*

*Reader: Jackie Zimmerman*

*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

*Questions: Don Brunk 610-787-0823*

## -- Gathering --

Words to Welcome

\*Hymn of Praise and Gathering

\*Call to worship (Based on John 1:19-34)

One: In the wilderness, a voice cries out:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**Many: We have heard the call; we have watched for the light.**

One: The One we waited for has come  
— a gentle dove, a vulnerable child.

**Many: We have seen the Christ child among the poor;  
we have heard the soft flutter of wings.**

One: This is how God arrives among us  
— not in power and might, but in vulnerable love.

**Many: Your ways are not our ways, O God.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who has come among us,  
the Lamb of God, the light of the world.

**All: We stand in amazement — Christ has been revealed!**

\*Candlelighting litany

One: We have been waiting in the long, dark night,  
waiting for your light of hope, peace, joy, and love  
to reveal itself and shine on us. Shine in us.

**Many: Come, Light of the world. Amaze us!**

**All: May your light shine through the dark,  
illuminating your path,  
illuminating our souls.**

\*Hymn of Preparation

## -- Hearing God's Word --

Scripture Readings: John 1:19-34; Psalm 32:1-2; Isaiah 40:3

Message: Pointing to Jesus: The Light Shining Through the Darkness

~ Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson

## -- Responding to Worship --

\*Hymn of Response

\*Sermon/Message Response

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Offertory Prayer & Offertory

Sharing of Announcements

## -- Sending --

\*Song of Sending

\*Benediction

Go now, not seeking your own way, but pointing always to Jesus.

Go, watching for the Spirit, ready to recognize the gentle dove.

And as you go, may the God who reaches down to touch the earth  
fill you with peace and wonder, now and always.

Go in Peace

## 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 God for the blessing of our Christmas Eve Worship Service. We offer heartfelt thanks to the Worship Commission, our choir, musicians, ushers, candle lighters, and all who helped with the beautiful decorations, as well as for the meaningful readings of the Scriptures. We lift in prayer all who joined us—both known and unknown—as we shared our first Christmas Eve service since 2019 back in our beloved Sanctuary here at Warwick River.**
- ❖ **We pray for God's healing touch upon all those undergoing health challenges known and unknown to us.** May strength, courage, and hope be gained in the coming days and we pray God's presence and peace, and ask for continued healing and restoration to body, mind, and spirit.
- ❖ Praise and thanks for our most generous congregation and anonymous benefactor(s) this year, and over all the years, who have been steadfast in supporting our church's needed projects, reminding us that God is always faithful in supplying our needs.
- ❖ Prayer & Bulletin updates, contact Church Elder Chris Miller, or Church Secretary Pat O'Connor (757-874-0794) ([warwickrivermc@gmail.com](mailto:warwickrivermc@gmail.com)).



*Joy to the World!  
The Lord is come!*

### Happy Birthday!

Jan 3	Rachael Shenk	
Jan 4	Will Siebels	
Jan 5	Nelson Baer	Ricky Dillon
Jan 7	John Cassel	

### Happy Anniversary!

Jan 6	Adam & MaryDawn Carrier
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## Upcoming Events

**WRMC OFFICE CLOSED: December 31, January 1**

*Always closed Mondays*

- ❖ *Today, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>* Today is the fifth Sunday of Advent  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:40 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- ❖ *Wed., Dec 31<sup>st</sup>* New Years Eve
- ❖ *Thurs., Jan 1<sup>st</sup>* Happy New Year
- ❖ *Sun., Jan 4<sup>th</sup>* 10:40 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- ❖ *Sun., Jan 4<sup>th</sup>* WRMC Game Night
- ❖ *Tues., Jan 6<sup>th</sup>* 4:00-6:00 p.m. WRMC Community Prayer Drop-in  
(outdoors in front of Warwick River Christian school)
- ❖ *Thurs., Jan 8<sup>th</sup>* 6-8:30 p.m. Threads Together sewing group meets in church
- ❖ *Sun., Jan 11<sup>th</sup>* COUNCIL Committee Chairs 2025 Annual Reports due
- ❖ *Sun., Jan 18<sup>th</sup>* Fellowship Meal
- ❖ *Sat., Jan 31<sup>st</sup>* 9:00 a.m. **WRMC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2026**

## Announcements

### THRIVE FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED THIS MONTH:

Jelly, Broth, Canned Fruit, Baking items/mixes,  
Pop-top meals, Hamburger Helper

*As WRMC enters the final week of the  
2025 budget year, we invite you to  
prayerfully consider tithing and giving  
as you are willing & able. Your faithfulness and  
generosity have carried us this far and with grateful  
hearts, and God's grace, we thank you for your  
continued interest & support of the ministry of  
Warwick River Mennonite Church.  
[Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)*