

“Misplaced Hope and Human Suffering”



Warwick River Mennonite Church

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December 8, 2019

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship Service December 8, 2019

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 10:40 a.m.

Focus statement: Together we enter the season of Advent crying out to God to break into our lives with a new light and a new hope. We ask the question, God what are you waiting for?

-- Gathering --

Prelude

*Welcome

*Time for Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Oh God, our God we cry out to you.

**Many: Asking, when will you bring righteousness,
defend the poor, deliver the needy?**

**Asking, when will you make harmonious creation?
When will you crush the oppressor?**

One: When will your love mercy, and justice rule us?

All: God, what are you waiting for?

*Hymns of Praise and Gathering

-- Lighting of the Advent Candle --

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Prayer of Intercession (- Rick Morley, from his [A Garden Path](#) blog.)

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church (especially...), that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind (especially...); that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday (especially... and anniversaries...); that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

-- Hearing from God's Word--

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Responsive Reading (from Romans 5:4-11)

Leader: God calls us to live with endurance.

People: We glorify the God of hope.

Leader: The God of encouragement calls us to unity.

People: We thank the Lord for the bounty of God's mercy.

Leader: God calls us to a new vision for all of creation.

All: Let us all praise the Lord.

Time for Silent Reflection

*Hymn of Preparation

Sermon Title: "Misplaced Hope and Human Suffering" -John Dey

-- Responding--

*Hymn of Response

Time for Sharing of Announcements, Blessings, and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Offering

Noisy Offering

-- Sending --

*Prayer of Sending:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Go with us now into the world.

We can begin again!

Everything is about to change.

So make everything new. Make us new.

Reveal your glory in our lives and in the rhythms of our lives, so that nothing will get in the way of your coming. Amen.

(-April Yamasaki, posted on the **Emmanuel Mennonite Church**)

*Song of Sending

Worship Leader:

Susan Ackerman

Song Leader:

Will Siebels

(*Those who are able may stand.)

Prayer and Praise Requests:

- ❖ Praise the Lord, and our continued prayers for Loretta Wilson as she recovers at home.
- ❖ Prayer concerns may always be requested and updated by calling or emailing the church office.

Happy Birthday ~

December 15 Don Mulamba

2019 Council of Ministries:

Congregation Chair Lisa Ziegler **Pastor** John M. Dey **Head Elder** Kathryn Baer
Outreach Chair Sue Yoder

Stewardship Chair Tom Salyers **Christian Education Chair** Ann Aulich

Worship Chair Mackenzie Butler **Fellowship Chair** Susan Dey

Member-at-Large Noah Shenk **Member-at-Large** Theresa Siebels

Trustees: Mel Shenk, Clark Siebels **Finance Committee:** Steve Ziegler, Noah Shenk
Church office hours are: Tues. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ *Today, Dec. 8* – 2nd Sunday of Advent
- ❖ *Today, Dec. 8* – Noisy Offering
- ❖ *Tues., Dec. 10* – 9:45 a.m. FAITH Prayer Group meets in WRCS Music Room
Tues., Dec. 10 – 7:00 p.m. WRCS Christmas Program, Grades 1-4 in WRMC Sanctuary
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 14* – 9:00 a.m. you are all invited to help decorate the outside of our church ~ Christmas Trees are going up!
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 14* – 9-2 p.m. WRCS Christmas Craft Fair & Cookie Walk
- ❖ *Sat., Dec. 14* – 4:30-9:30 p.m. Harmonica Club meets in Fellowship Room
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 15* – 6:00 p.m. Hymn Sing ~ WRMC *Sweet Melodies of Christmas* (from the pews) Refreshments to follow
- ❖ *Sun., Dec. 22* – 4:00 p.m. Providence Mennonite Church Carol Service
- ❖ *Wed. Dec. 24* – 10:00 p.m. WRMC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

-- Announcements --

WRCS NEEDS LOTS OF COOKIES for the Cookie Walk part of their upcoming Holiday Craft Fair and Cookie Walk which is scheduled Saturday, December 14. A Cookie Walk is similar to a bake sale except cookies are sold by the pound allowing people to purchase as many or as few as they wish. Every year WRCS sells out of cookies in less than 2 hours! Homemade cookies are needed. Pull out your special recipes and donate to the Cookie Walk. For more information please contact Ann Aulich 757-870-2042

Providence Mennonite Church CAROL SERVICE:

4:00 PM Sunday on December 22

Comforter knotting for MCC will be held at Williamsburg Mennonite Church (WMC), Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 to 3:00. We would love to have at least one comforter top from each congregation, but providing one is not necessary to participate. If you are bringing comforter tops, please bring the backing, batting, small scissors and thread for tying. Lunch will be provided by WMC but in order to plan for the meal, please RSVP by January 13 to Lavonne Lehman:

DLLehman@davevon.us or by text or call to (540) 810-2754.

THRIVE: This year our INGATHERING donation to THRIVE totaled 1,474 pounds of food, which will provide 1,228 meals. Food pantry needs this month are boxed mashed potatoes, canned meat, canned or boxed meals, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce. Your help is so appreciated, and we all thank you very much.

Pray for Warwick River Christian School and join the FAITH Prayer Group which meets the second Tuesday of each month from 9:45 – 10:15 a.m. The fourth meeting of the school year is Tuesday, December 10. If you have any questions, contact Mary Anne Leonard jhleonard@cox.net.

-- FY 2019 Offering Report -- November 30, 2019

FY2019 General Fund contribution: \$300.00
WRCS Utilities: \$359.07; WRCLC Utilities: \$359.07
Sponsorship Music & Worship Leader Retreat: \$1,070.00
Grant toward Elaine's Car: \$1,250.00
correction made: please note \$3,100 was incorrectly credited to the General Fund instead of the Building Fund last week;
Offering collected YTD (Dec. 1, 2018-Nov. 30, 2019) = \$208,277.39
FY Budget Need [Dec 1 2018-November 30, 2019] = \$205,000.00

-- FY 2020 Offering Report -- December 1, 2019

Service: 54; Offering: \$2,455.00
Contribution for Garden City Church: \$500.00



Building News Corner:

-- This Week's Building Fund Update --

11/17/2019 Building Fund Balance	\$1,463,142.55
11/19/2019 Building Fund Contribution	1,000.00
11/21/2019 Building Fund Contribution	2,000.00
11/24/2019 Building Fund Contribution	100.00
11/24/2019 Building Fund Balance to date	\$1,466,242.55