

December 8, 2024  
"Knowing Our Hearts"  
Advent 2



## 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            | <a href="mailto:wrmcpastor01@gmail.com">wrmcpastor01@gmail.com</a>                   | 574-849-2021 |
| MaryDawn Carrier, Congregation Chair   | <a href="mailto:wrmccongregationchair@gmail.com">wrmccongregationchair@gmail.com</a> | 757-218-8137 |
| Chris Miller, Elder & Council Co-Chair | <a href="mailto:wrmcelderchris@gmail.com">wrmcelderchris@gmail.com</a>               | 757-879-6659 |
| Sue Yoder, Outreach Chair              | <a href="mailto:wrmcoutreach@gmail.com">wrmcoutreach@gmail.com</a>                   | 757-708-4036 |
| Worship Chair                          | <a href="mailto:worshipwrmc@gmail.com">worshipwrmc@gmail.com</a>                     |              |
| Twila Blume, Member-At-Large           | <a href="mailto:wrmcmemberatlarge1@gmail.com">wrmcmemberatlarge1@gmail.com</a>       |              |
| Adam Carrier, Stewardship Chair        | <a href="mailto:wrmcstewardship@gmail.com">wrmcstewardship@gmail.com</a>             |              |

### Serving Today

*Sermon: Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson*

*Worship Leader: Susan Ackerman*

*Song Leader: Noah Shenk*

*Reader: Jackie Zimmerman*

*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

\*Hymn of Praise and Gathering

\*Call to worship (based on Joel 2:12-13)

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part? The bleeding and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

All: With our whole heart, with all our hearts we come to worship the Lord God,

Leader: whose merciful compassion, abundant patience, and faithful forgiving love meet us in our need.

\*Candle lighting

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

*[Candle lighting (first two Advent candles are lit)]*

**All: We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God**

\*Hymn of Preparation

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

Scripture Readings: Joel 2:12-13  
Joel 2:28-29  
Luke 11:13

Message: "Knowing Our Hearts" ~ 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

\*Sending blessing

May you leave here renewed by the Holy Spirit,  
blessed by God to be a blessing,  
with an open heart for Jesus our Lord. Amen



**Gift Giving (FY = Fiscal Year)** FY2024 runs 01/01/2024 through 12/31/2024  
Total budgeted need 1/1/24 – 12/31/24 = \$125,000.00

**November 24, 2024 Offering** **Worship Service Attendance: 33**

\$ 1,980.00 Offertory this week

\$ 282.00 PayPal

\$ 2,262.00 Total 11/24/2024

Offertory collected 01/01/2024-11/24/2024 = \$88,271.63

**December 1, 2024 Offering** **Worship Service Attendance: 34**

\$ 1,765.00 Offertory this week

\$ 3.14 Coffee Fund donations received

\$ 1,768.14 Total 12/01/2024

Offertory collected 01/01/2024-12/01/2024 = \$90,039.77

**Thank you for your continued gifts to God and Church**

**Building News Corner report**

**11/24/2024 Building Fund Balance** **\$1,548,339.05**

**12/01/2024 Building Fund Balance** **\$1,548,339.05**

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

As we draw the budget year to a close on December 31, 2024, the state of our church family budget is:

The budget for 2024: \$125,000.00

Transfer from Reserves: \$8,832.00

The tithes collected to date: \$90,039.77

Deficit: \$26,128.23

We are 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. [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com)

**Leaders who will be serving next Sunday, 12/15/2024:** (1) Mackenzie Butler Shenk, Worship Leader; (2) Micah Shenk, Song Leader; (3) John Ovington (Reader); (4) MaryDawn Carrier, Zoom Host. Pastor Steve Wiebe-Johnson will bring the message. We are grateful for our devoted service leaders. Please include them in your prayers as they ready themselves to guide us.

## 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
- ❖ We pray for God’s healing touch upon Leona Ross, Jan Dennis, Ted Yoder, Connie Saunders, Don Brunk, and all those undergoing health challenges known and unknown to us. May they gain strength, courage, and hope in the coming days and we pray God’s presence and peace, and ask for continued healing and restoration to body, mind, and spirit.
- ❖ Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine. Professors are adapting curricula to the changing needs of a society traumatized by prolonged war. Pray for the students, who are immediately putting into practice what they learn in their courses about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and crisis counseling and as they share the healing love of Christ.
- ❖ Contact the church elders or the church office to update a prayer concern or praise for the bulletin or to activate the email prayer chain during the week.

### Happy Birthday!

|        |                 |        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Dec 17 | Dina Fentress   | Dec 23 | Graham Wagner   |
| Dec 18 | Ronald Ziegler  | Dec 24 | Micah Shenk     |
| Dec 18 | Shawn McDaniel  | Dec 27 | Theresa Siebels |
| Dec 21 | Kathryn Baer    | Dec 27 | Delma Brenneman |
| Dec 22 | Gabriella Davis | Dec 31 | Donna Nice      |

### A writing from Amy Gingrich, MennoMedia Executive Director, dated 12/6/2023:

*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

## Upcoming Events:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Today, Dec 8   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent<br>9:30am Adult Sunday School (school bldg.)<br>10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel) |
| Tues., Dec 10  | 3:30-5:30pm Drop-in Community Prayer Group (school bldg.)  |
| Thurs., Dec 12 | 6:00pm Threads Together (school bldg.)   |
| Sat., Dec 14   | 9:00am – 12noon WRCLC Cookie Walk (school building)  |
| Sun., Dec 15   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent   |
| Sun., Dec 15   | Christmas Fellowship Meal follows Worship Service  |
| Sun., Dec 22   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent   |
| Sun., Dec 22   | Poinsettias go home with donor participants  |

## Announcements

**12/14/2024: WARWICK RIVER SCHOOL’S COOKIE WALK is next Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 9am.**

**12/15/2024: WRMC CHRISTMAS-THEMED FELLOWSHIP MEAL FOLLOWS DECEMBER 15th WORSHIP SERVICE:** Your favorite main courses, sides, and desserts. Come fellowship with your WRMC congregation.

**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.

**Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)** weekly updates from many locations. Go to <https://mds.org/weekly> reports/. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/-z2bkwOB4qQ>

**02/02/2025: SAVE THE DATE: 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anabaptism Event:** On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, from 4-6pm at First Baptist Church of Richmond. Sponsored and organized by the Eastern District Council of VMC. Sponsored and organized by the Eastern District Council of VMC.



### WRMC OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS 2024

**WRMC OFFICE WILL BE OPEN:**  
Dec 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, Jan 2, 3

**WRMC OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31, Jan 1**  
Always closed Mondays

Dr. Mary S. Sprunger has taught History at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg for over 30 years. She attended Bethel College, Kansas (BA) and the University of Illinois (PhD). She has published numerous



articles on the intersection of social, economic and religious history in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Netherlands, focusing especially on Amsterdam Mennonites. Mary and her husband, Rachid, are the parents of two young adult children and enjoy overseas travel together. Mary is a member of Park View Mennonite Church.

**AT FIRST  
MENNONITE CHURCH  
OF RICHMOND**

**601 E. PARHAM RD.  
RICHMOND VA 23227**

**FREE EVENT!**

**SUNDAY  
JANUARY 19TH  
6:00PM**

**5 THINGS  
YOU MIGHT BE  
GETTING WRONG  
ABOUT  
ANABAPTISM  
AND WHY IT  
MATTERS.**

On January 21, 1525, a small group of Christians who questioned the religious and political establishment rebaptized each other in Zurich, Switzerland. The 500th anniversary of this event is a great time to do some myth-busting and assessment as we reconsider what historical Anabaptism means for us today. Join us for a lively re-examination of what 16th-century ideas have to offer those of us trying to do church in an authentic way in the 21st Century. Topics will include the relationship to government, rewards and challenges of urban churches, roles of women, and changing ideas about how to interpret martyr stories in light of systemic racism. All are welcome!

**DESSERT RECEPTION  
TO FOLLOW**

including Menno Simons decorated sugar cookies! (vegan friendly)

