

December 15, 2024
"Joy Begins with the Familiar"
Advent 3



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 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

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

Serving Today

Guest Speaker: Adam B. Carrier

Worship Leader: Mackenzie Butler Shenk

Song Leader: Micah Shenk

Reader: Twila Blume

Zoom Host: MaryDawn Carrier

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 Isaiah 61:1)

Leader: Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted. May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

People: We delight and rejoice in you.

***Candle lighting**

Reader 1: Like a cloth with frayed edges, our world leaves people on the fringes;

Reader 2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

Reader 1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

Reader 2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

[Candle lighting (first three Advent candles are lit)]

All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.

***Hymn of Preparation**

-- Hearing God's Word --

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-11

Luke 4:16-21

Message: "Joy Begins with the Familiar"

~ Speaker Adam B. Carrier

-- Responding to Worship --

***Hymn of Response**

*Sermon/Message Response

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Offertory Prayer & Offertory

Sharing of Announcements

-- Sending --

***Song of Sending**

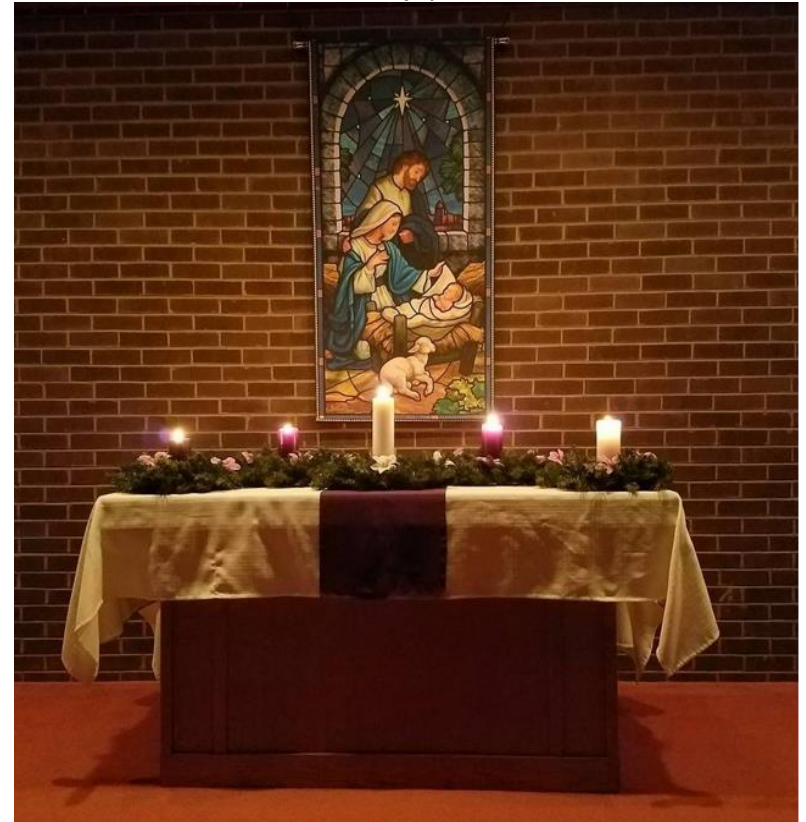
***Sending blessing** (based on Isaiah 61:10-11)

In the hope of God,

What was once cast aside now grows back;

Those on the fringes are woven back into the fabric.

Go forth now, clothed in joy!



☀ You're Invited to Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ☀

December 24, 2024 at 9 p.m., in the Warwick River Chapel.

Join us for a beautiful and meaningful evening as we come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We'll gather in the warmth of community and light to reflect on the hope, peace, and joy that Christmas brings. Inspirational carols and music. Bring your family and friends as we experience the light of Christ in a moment of peace and joy. Together, we will share in the miracle of this holy season.

Prayer and Praise Requests

- ❖ *“Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around Him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.” ~ Ezekiel 1:28 (NIV)*
- ❖ Continued prayers for God’s healing touch upon 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.
- ❖ Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Tanzania Mennonite Church, as they begin three days of Sister Care/Compassionate Care seminars on Wednesday. Church leaders Rev. Esther Muhagachi and Rev. John Wambura ask that we join them in praying for God’s spirit to move in powerful ways, to heal trauma and broken relationships.
- ❖ *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” ~ John 14:27 (NIV)*
- ❖ 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

**December 8, 2024 * Worship:34 * Offertory \$1,175.00
Building Fund \$1,548,339.05**

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: \$91,214.77
- Deficit: \$24,953.23

WRMC is 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)

Upcoming Events:

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

- Today, Dec 15 3rd Sunday of Advent
9:30am Adult Sunday School (school bldg.)
10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel)
Christmas Fellowship Meal follows Worship Service today
- Tues., Dec 17 3:30-5:30pm Drop-in Community Prayer Group (school bldg.)
- Sun., Dec 22 4th Sunday of Advent
- Sun., Dec 22 Poinsettias go home with donor participants
- Sun., Dec 22 4pm at Providence Mennonite Church, 13101 Warwick Blvd., NN, VA 23602: *Carol Service and Reception following*
- Tues., Dec 24 9pm Warwick River Chapel Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- ~~Thurs., Dec 26 Threads Together (on hiatus until January)~~
- Mon., Jan 6 Epiphany

Announcements

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. *Dear participants: remember to take your flower home with you on December 15th or 22nd and thank you for the joy you shared with your church family.*

Sunday, 12/22/2024 at 4:00 p.m. – Join Providence Mennonite Church for their **Annual Carol Service**, followed by a festive **Reception** ~ Everyone is welcome!
Location: 13101 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, Virginia 23602

Sunday, 01/19/2025 at 6:00 p.m. - You are invited to learn about “5 Things You Might Be Getting Wrong About Anabaptism and Why It Matters” at First Mennonite Church of Richmond, 601 E. Parham Rd. Richmond, VA 23227. The speaker, Dr. Mary Sprunger, has taught history at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA for 30 years. Join us for a lively examination of what 16th century ideas have to offer those of us trying to do church in an authentic way in the 21st century.

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: 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism Event: On Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, from 4-6pm at First Baptist Church of Richmond. Sponsored and organized by the Eastern District Council of VMC.
Be watching for the bus sign-up sheet!!!

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)

