

December 22, 2024
"Recognizing God's Presence Through Others"
Advent 4



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

MaryDawn Carrier, Congregation Chair

Chris Miller, Elder & Council Co-Chair

Sue Yoder, Outreach Chair

Worship 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: Twila Blume

Song Leader: Noah Shenk

Reader: Jackie Zimmerman

Zoom Host: Mackenzie Butler 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 Luke 1:26-38)

Leader: The Lord is with us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Can you conceive it?
Don't say, "It's all relative."

People: It's real! It's right now! It's right here!

Leader: Come young, come old.
Let us worship in the name of Jesus,

All: *for nothing will be impossible with God!*

***Candlelighting**

Reader 1: Mary was told that she would be the mother to the promised
Messiah.

Reader 2: And she responded, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as
you have said."

Reader 1: With the courage of Mary, we can accept the journey ahead of us.

Reader 2: But we do not need to walk it alone.

Reader 1: We need the support of others.

[Candlelighting (four Advent candles are lit)]

**All: *With Christ as our center, we join hands with others, walking together
on the journey.***

***Hymn of Preparation**

-- Hearing God's Word --

Scripture Readings: Luke 1:26–49
Psalm 113

Message: "Recognizing God's presence through others."
~ 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 Jesus be nurtured, and born, and grow in our lives
so that he would find a home with us,
we would be at home with him,
and the world would be blessed
to see and know and love this Jesus—God-with-us. Amen.



*The Lord Himself is our first and greatest gift.
Rejoice in the Lord Always.*

Prayer and Praise Requests

- ❖ “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.” ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:16
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ *Pray for everyone in our Church Family, that they may feel God’s presence in their Christmas celebrations.*
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Protect our students, staff and all the families that they may enjoy this time and return to school renewed and ready for a brand new year.
- ❖ As we enter the week of Christmas and remember Jesus’ birth, millennia ago, in a land crushed by oppression, join Mennonite Mission Network in looking for the surprising ways that the Prince of Peace is being born in our own fractured communities today. Let us continue to pray and act in ways that build peace.
- ❖ 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 22 Gabriella Davis
Dec 23 Graham Wagner
Dec 24 Micah Shenk
Dec 27 Theresa Siebels
Dec 27 Delma Brenneman
Dec 31 Donna Nice

December 15, 2024 * Worship:40 * Offertory \$1,301.00 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:	\$92,515.91
Deficit:	\$23,652.09

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 22 4th Sunday of Advent
9:30am Adult Sunday School (school bldg.)
10:40am Sunday Worship Service (Chapel)

Today, Dec 22 Poinsettias go home with donor participants

Today, Dec 22 4pm at Providence Mennonite Church, 13101 Warwick Blvd., NN, VA 23602: [Christmas Carol Service & Reception following](#)

Tues., Dec 24 9:00pm WRMC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Chapel)

Wed., Dec 25 Merry Christmas! (no church services today)

~~Thurs., Dec 26 Threads Together (on hiatus until January)~~

Sun., Dec 29 Sunday Worship

Mon., Jan 6 Epiphany

Announcements

TODAY: *Dear participants: remember to take your flower home with you today, December 22nd and thank you for the joy you shared with your church family.*
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.

TODAY: Sunday, 12/22/24 @ 4 p.m. – Join Providence Mennonite Church for their **Annual Christmas 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!!!