

# Contact

January 2018 Edition



Warwick United Church of Christ P.O. Box 120491 Newport News, VA 23612 www.warwickucc.com 757-599-5164

*Where ever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.*



## Pastor's Message

"In the beginning . . . "

There are definitely endings and beginnings in our lives; the daily rising and setting of the sun reminds us that tomorrow is a new day, unless of course you are the 'night people.' You are the people running seven-elevens, administering the two a.m. medications, scrubbing the floors of nursing homes, delivering the stock for the next days sales. Perhaps you are the stocker coming in at midnight to be sure all those cans of pumpkin were under the right tag on the end of the aisle or the hottest doll was marked with the proper price.

For years, I delivered the Richmond Times Dispatch, beginning at 3 a.m. with Jesse asleep in the back of the wagon and returning by seven, work done. I have a bit of an idea of being one of those who worked in the night, without acknowledgement but with great expectation – even on Christmas Day. I came to appreciate this part of our world.

I remind you of this, to increase your awareness of the 'unseen' pieces of our expected culture of convenience and service. Ours is an unusually sophisticated society that requires a lot of each other and, quite frankly, of our families.

So, I ask myself, as pastor, as colleague, as a sister in Christ – what is realistic to expect of those who call themselves Christians – those who voluntarily have chosen to be a part of Warwick United Church of Christ. Your lives are busy – work, family – where will your own faith growth and faith expression occur – when. I actually ask myself are Sundays really important anymore. For this note, I go to the historic story of the birth of this fellow Jesus.

I think it is fair to expect these things:

Like the angels, for you to speak – particularly for those who might be most afraid.

Like Mary and Elizabeth, for you to be willing to serve – particularly in ways you've never served before.

Like Joseph, for you to be willing to stand up – consider the law, consider what might be proper, but DO

### What God would have you to do.

Like the Innkeeper, for you to share what you have – your space, your time, your resources.

Our obligation is to keep the story fresh, to keep the truths of the texts flowing, to keep stirring you up to 'love and good deeds'!

It all begins again, this Sunday morning – yep, the coffee is on, the community is gathering – a new beginning is showing up.



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Have a photo or news item you want to share in the next issue of the CONTACT?

Send your info to  
**wuccupdates@gmail.com**

**Due by  
January 29!**

*Sallye*

## Upcoming Events

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- January 1           **Happy New Year!**
- January 5           PORT over-night at Saint Jerome's Catholic Church
- January 7           EPIPHANY  
Older Kids Gathering - 10 AM (see page 4)  
Communion Sunday \*  
Worship with sermon by Rev. Sallye - 11 AM  
Congregational Meeting - following service
- January 14          Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM  
Worship with sermon by Rev. James - 11 AM  
Youth Choir Performs during service  
Kids Lock-In - 5 PM (see page 4)
- January 16          Adult Supper Club - 6 PM
- January 21          Older Kids Gathering - 10 AM (see page 4)  
Worship with sermon by Rev. Sallye
- January 28          Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM  
Worship with sermon by Rev. James - 11 AM
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- February 10         Spaghetti Dinner & Auction - 5:30 PM
- February 11         Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM  
Youth Choir Performs during service
- February 25         Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM



\* Gluten-Free Communion Bread is now being used to respect the health needs of many of our congregants.

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## Congregational Meeting

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On Sunday, January 7, 2018 after the 11 AM service there will be a congregational meeting to discuss the 2018 Church Budget and Officers

*All are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend.*

## Welcome Rev. James

Welcome Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell!

On Sunday, **December 10th**, with overwhelming consensus, the congregation agreed to try a 'co-pastor' model of leadership as we continue to move forward developing our life together and with the world. The Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell was voted to come on staff to co-pastor the good folks of Warwick and to guide the development of the congregation's resources, hopes and dreams.

The timing of this was guided by Rev. Robin resigning to take a full time position, and provides a distinct opportunity to revise how we are able to work together. One of the gifts of the model is that both James and Sallye can work within their own passions and call in ministry. For now, the biggest consideration is they will share the responsibilities of worship and preaching, Sallye will take the lead with Children's Ministry and Administrative details, and James will take the lead on Adult Formation and Strategic Planning.

As the POPs determine their priorities, ministers will either share assignments there (Such as Worship/Liturgy and the Arts) or specifically be the support staff for a POPs growing work.

Now the real test of partnering, collaborating, and discipling is about to begin.

James contact # is: [202-560-3246](tel:202-560-3246)

James email is: [JASDarnellUCC@gmail.com](mailto:JASDarnellUCC@gmail.com)

Sallye's contact # is: [804-350-1187](tel:804-350-1187)

Sallye's email is: [hardyrev@yahoo.com](mailto:hardyrev@yahoo.com)

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be serving alongside Sallye Hardy as your new co-pastor. I am grateful for your confidence in our leadership, and for your willingness to explore this new model of co-pastoring. I look forward to getting to know you better in the next few months - I hope to meet with many of you one on one for coffee, lunch, or dinner to learn about each of you and your hopes for our faith community. It is my great joy to take on this more official role with you, having been a part of Warwick UCC since May 2017. I pray that God will richly bless us with a long and fruitful ministry at Warwick.

I am originally from Peoria, Illinois. I earned a BA in theatre history from Illinois State University in 2006 and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington in 2011. I was raised in the United Methodist Church, and was later confirmed in Peoria Heights (IL) Congregational Church. In November 2011, I was ordained a minister of the United Church of Christ at my home church, The United Church + Die Vereinigte Kirche (UCC/UMC) of Washington, DC, a historic German-English bilingual congregation. From 2011-2012 I served as the pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in rural St. Clair, Missouri. From 2012 - 2017, I returned to Washington, working in fundraising full-time at The George Washington University and United Nations Foundation, while providing volunteer assistance in my home congregation and pulpit supply elsewhere. I was the coordinator of The United Church's Fall Sale & German Luncheon which annually raised \$10,000 over two days. Prior to being ordained I served as an intern for Plymouth Congregational UCC in Des Moines, IA; New Church UCC in Peoria, IL; Washington, DC Office of the United Church of Christ; Bethesda UCC in Bethesda, MD; Human Rights Campaign and Interfaith Alliance national offices, both in Washington, DC. I have served as a delegate to the UCC General Synod five times, and served on the board of directors of Justice and Witness Ministries and on the UCC Council of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Presently I serve on the board of directors of the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society and the UCC Historical Council. Outside of ministry, I currently work full-time as a Development Research Analyst at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which brought me to the Hampton Roads area in May 2017. My avocations include history, community theatre, singing, and German language, culture, food, and music. Also, a German-American historian, I was the editor of "A Little Girl From Niederstetten," a post-war memoir, and am presently working on "Frankfurt am Potomac: The German Speaking People of the District of Columbia."

It is such an honor to serve with you. I know that Newport News needs our open and affirming, inclusive, compassionate witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. May we explore new and exciting ways of sharing and living out God's love for all, in partnership together.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell



## Financial Update

The Financial Update will be provided with a full end of year report at the January Congregational Meeting, January 7, following the 11 AM service.

*All are Welcome and Encouraged to Attend!*



## Building Update



- Lightbulbs have been replaced inside the church. We have a few on the outside that need replacing, but have to be done at night so we can “see” which ones are out.
- There are plans to clean out the shed. The holidays and cold weather have delayed this a bit, but I expect a date in January will be picked for shed cleaning.

If you see that something is not working or is broken please let me know and I will work at getting the task done.

*Barbara Harvey*

## Children's Programs

### January 7, 2018 Older Kids Gathering

On the Sundays when the Youth Choir does not have practice, the older children (3rd through 5th grade) will be meeting at 10 AM. The dates for January are the 7th and 21st. Light breakfast available for all at 9:45 in kitchen - so come join us. Nursery and playground will be open.



### January 14, 2018 Kids Lock-In

Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. until Breakfast with Parents on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.

A night of fun and service!  
Volunteer Sign Up Outside Children's Room

### January 14 & 28, 2018 Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will have practice on Sunday mornings, January 14th and 28th at 10 AM and will be **performing** on the 14th during the 11 AM service!

Future Practices at 10 AM:

February 11th & 25th, March 11th & 25th, April 1st



## The Mitten Tree



Bring Children and Adult Hats and Mittens  
All will be shared with  
a local school and PORT  
Located outside the Children's Room



## Missions Updates

### A Thank-You from Peninsula CROP Walk

#### *Peninsula CROP Walk*

94 Hopkins Street  
Newport News, VA 23601  
757-223-9591



December 14, 2017

Warwick United Church of Christ  
PO Box 120491  
Newport News, VA 23612

Thank you for your participation in the 2017 CROP Walk. We are grateful for the enthusiasm that your congregation brings to the Walk. This is a real blessing. We all are thankful to have you folks make this an annual event that your congregation supports. As you know, both local, national and international people depend upon the support we help give.

The 2017 Walk raised \$11,415.33. This is a record for the Newport News/Peninsula Walk. Your congregation contributed \$530.00. Thank you for your willingness to help make this happen.

The 2018 CROP Walk will be on October 21. We will be in touch about this later in 2018.

In Christ's Service,

LeRoy Griffin  
Chair

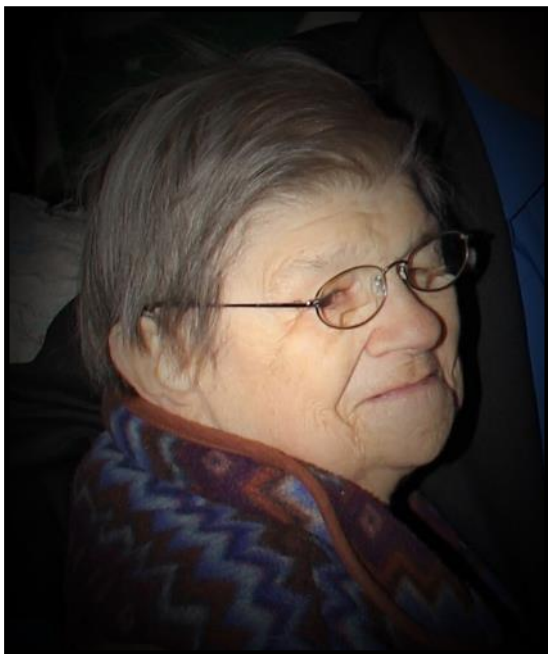
### News from THRIVE Peninsula



If interested in joining 40 other weekly volunteers who invest in this ministry, please call [757-877-6211](tel:757-877-6211) x3.  
Volunteers needed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



## In Memoriam



Our congregation lost another of its pillars as December came to a close. On December 30, 2017, at about 9:30 PM, the LORD called Jean Pikul home to her reward. She leaves behind her husband, Joe. She is sorely missed by her daughter Barbara Harvey, son-in-law Stephen Harvey, granddaughter Angela Harvey and the extended family. They all need our love and prayers at this time.

We miss you Jeanie-bug!



## Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

February 10th, 2018

### *Warwick UCC's Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction*

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Mark your Calendars Now!

To Benefit the Children's Program

Contact Terry Samm-Garris to RSVP and/or to donate auction items.





## Warwick in Pictures

### ADVENT



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR



### ADVENT FAIR





CHRISTMAS



SECRET SANTA



Want to see your pictures on the web or in the Contact?  
Send them to [wuccupdates@gmail.com](mailto:wuccupdates@gmail.com)



## Lectionary Readings for January 2018

### January 7, 2018

*Baptism of the Lord*

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

### January 14, 2018

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

### January 21, 2018

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

### January 28, 2018

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

## Prayer List

(Names given verbally are spelled to the best of our ability)

Mickey Allen	Michelle Flores & Family	Sasha Patterson
Anderson Family	Hal & Marge Giesekeing	Ronda Peffley
Mike Barnes	Pat Grant	+ Family of Jean Pikul
Kelly Bennett	Barry Graham	Puerto Rico & USVI
Bentley Family	Hurricane Victims	+ Ryan Family
Geraldine Bolden	Dianne Howe	Lori Sanders
Tristian Brown	Sandra Ingari	Jesse Saunders
Trudy Burdge	Mike Kelpaul	Maurice Sears
Larry Burns	Cindy Kilgore	Nancy Simpson
+ Christensen Family	Ann Lange	Will Smith & Family
Tony Colden	Donna Langston	Bob Snaz
Bonnie Cook	Heidi & Mike Lord	Jeffrey Spielberg
Costello Family	John Maclean	+ Spielberg Family
Kevin Court	Mrs. Martinez	Family of Mark Sturgis
Zack Culum	USS McCain	Cynthia Thomas
Bonnie Dinges	McMullin & Family	+ Thomas Family
Martha Dunn & Family	Audrey Noble	Donal VonGryffin
Dvey Family	Notoella Family	Meredith White
Emerson Family	Miguel O	Rachel York
Yvette Ferguson	Terry P	Students & Teachers
USS Fitzgerald & Family	Larry Paccone	
Meg Gruber	Ted & Michelle Paccone	

+ Pray for the families who have lost loved ones in the past year.