

Contact

August 2018 Edition

Warwick United Church of Christ P.O. Box 120491 Newport News, VA 23612



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



A Pastoral Letter from Sallye

I am always grateful for the privilege of serving with Warwick. You are a creative, compassionate group of people who overall devote your lives to increasing the love of God in your homes, our congregation and the worlds in which each of you live.

I know that sometimes life is difficult and stressful. I work to see that Warwick is a place of sanctuary and support for you, not a place of stress or burden. For me, that has involved trying to be accessible from a distance, studying the best standards of practice for renewing congregations in this modern world and staying engaged with Christ through attending to the Holy Spirit's work within me and often within you. There are not words to express how much I enjoy this and appreciate the opportunity.

This type of adventure requires serious conversations at times. **This is the time.** Each of us must examine our trustworthiness. Are we dependable? Are we bringing our best selves to the table – actively using our gifts to increase the light? Are we open with each other, so people can respond to us and support us ‘where ever we are on life’s journey?’ Is church an afterthought or a priority, as we appropriate our time, our gifts and our monies.

I invite you to consider that for yourself. For me it led to selling my single-family home and moving into an apartment setting, to free up resources and reduce other responsibilities. For me, it meant working with you to bring James on board, so I could be more honest with what I had to offer both my family and my church. For me, it is involving increased discipline regarding my meditation and personal relationship with God. And for me, it is involving a new look at the expertise around intentional worship communities.

What might it involve for you? We are a blest people to have each other and share a common vision. I pray God's stirrings in your heart and your wisdom in responding. **May God ‘find us faithful’**

Thank you again for allowing me to share in ‘our life together.’

Gratefully,
Sallye

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

Send your info and suggestions to
wuccupdates@gmail.com

Due by AUGUST 27!

Calendar of Events

- Sun. August 12** Worship: Sermon: "Cutting Down & Building Up" - Rev. James - 11 AM
Care PoP Meeting - 10 AM
Wonderland: 3rd -5th grades - 10 AM; PreK - 2nd grades - 11 AM
- Wed. August 15** Book Club - 11 AM
- Sat. August 18** MARS One Day Bible School
- Sun. August 19** MARS Celebrations: Rehearsal - 10 AM
MARS Celebrations during Worship
Sermon: "Fear the Lord" - Rev. Sallye -11 AM
3rd Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon with guests from First UCC - Noon-ish
- Tue. August 21** Supper Club
- Thu. August 23** Choir Rehearsal Resumes - 7:45 PM
- Sun. August 26** Choir Returns! Worship: Sermon: "When Jesus is Difficult" - Rev. Sallye -11 AM
Wonderland: 3rd -5th grades - 10 AM; PreK - 2nd grades - 11 AM
- Thu. August 30** Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM
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- Sun. September 2** Youth Choir Rehearsal Resumes - 10 AM
- Sat. September 8** Holistic Wellness Expo (see pg XX)



Building Updates

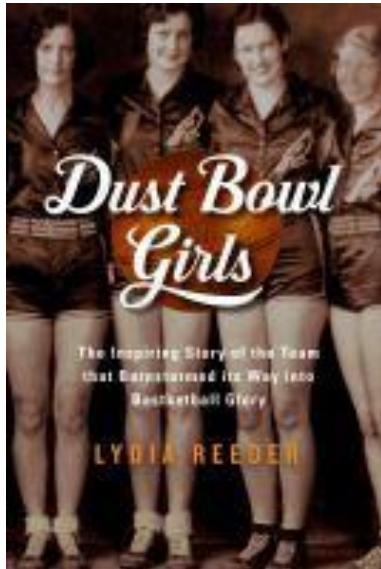
- A new thermostat has been placed in the Fellowship Hall. It is much easier to use and is wireless. The programming will be done from a computer. I don't have many details at this time since Bucky is in charge of this project.
- We need volunteers to clean the church, at least for the time being.
 - We need folks to sweep and mop the Fellowship Hall floor and the Hallway. The sweeping and mopping can be done on a Sunday morning before 10 am.
 - We need volunteers to keep the kitchen picked up, the counters wiped down, "stuff" put away and the refrigerator cleaned out. This can also be done on Sundays, either before or after church.
 - We need the bathrooms cleaned. This can be done any day, but preferable Saturday afternoon or Sunday mornings before service.
 - The following rooms are already taken care of: Nursery, Children's room, Pastors office and church office.

IF WE ALL CHIP IN TO DO SOMETHING ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS, WE CAN SAVE MONEY FOR OTHER CHURCH NEEDS.

Barbara Harvey

Book Club

The Book Club is looking forward to kicking off the 2018-2019 Reading Round on **August 15th**, 11-noon, with Lydia Reeder's "**Dust Bowl Girls**"
All are welcome to join the discussion!



Youth Choir



**Youth Choir Rehearsals
Are Back!**

**Sunday, September 2nd
10 AM—10:30 AM**

3rd Sunday Lunch

First UCC in Hampton will be attending our
Third Sunday Potluck
August 19th

Please be sure to
welcome First UCC to
Warwick!



MARS One Day Bible School

Music, Art, Recreation, Storytelling
Saturday, August 18th

We **NEED** your help! Possibilities: cooks for breakfast, set up and supervise outside activities, assist with rotations - music, art, recreation, storytelling.

Help us find us a small JOHN BOAT and a huge fishing net and gear for accessories.

Email or Text Sallye or Tina Bailey if you can help... Let's Do This!



**Don't forget to send in your pictures, updates, calendar items, suggestions
and other items of interest to WUCCUPDATES@GMAIL.COM**

SEPTEMBER Deadline is AUGUST 27th!

Choir News

I'm a firm believer in the necessity of good, strong choral ministry in a worship service. The enemy of our souls seems to flee, when a group of singers comes equipped to do spiritual battle. Our strength is the spirit of God. One of our weapons is religious music. On Thursdays, starting August 23rd from 7:45PM to 9PM; I will provide anyone ready to do spiritual battle with music, full of the positive, powerful statements of faith. On paper these statements have little value; but filtered through the voices and hearts of a dedicated choir, they become moments of challenge, encouragement and conviction. If you would like to take part in The Warwick United Church of Christ's Chancel Choir (Warwick's musical army of Christ), I invite you to join us on Thursday nights starting August 23rd from 7:45PM to 9PM.

Phillip Brooks, (lyricist of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"), once said: "We never become truly spiritual by sitting down and wishing to become so. You must undertake something so great that you cannot accomplish it unaided." Singing in the church choir is one of those things that enable us to become truly spiritual!

Come and serve Jesus Christ by singing in the choir starting Thursday, August 23rd at 7:45PM. The choir is scheduled to sing for the 11AM morning service on Sunday, August 26th!

See you for rehearsal August 23rd!!

Rudy Wilson – Director of Music



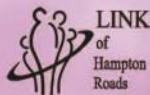
Local Events

Holistic Wellness Expo Of Hampton Roads

Saturday, September 8th, 2018



10am to 5pm



Marriott City Center
740 Town Center Dr.
Newport News, VA 23606

Medical and Naturopathic Resources, Accunet, Motivational and Holistic Psychological Therapies, Alternative Therapies, Aromatherapy, Beauty and Health Products, Crystals, Essential Oils, Healing Arts, Intuitive Art, Reiki, Nature Healing, Spirit Arts, Massage Therapy, and More...

For more information visit us at www.linkhr.org or contact Rachael at 757-595-1953x207 or r.gibson@linkhr.org

EVA GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

GENERAL THEME
"COMING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP"

SPECIFIC THEME
"PUERTO RIGAN PARTY"



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

NEW BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
15496 BENN'S CHURCH ROAD
SMITHFIELD, VIRGINIA 23430

REV. DOUGLAS L. JONES, SR., PASTOR

REV. ERNEST L. HAMLIN
EVA GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA COORDINATOR

A Letter from Our Treasurer

First off, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your treasurer. As many of you know, it has been a challenge in the most recent years, financially, for our church to do the good work that it has committed to do. But we have risen to the challenge every single time, and that is what I love about the people here.

As far as our finances go - our income is fairly steady, but our costs and expenses are increasing. Due to the age of the building, repairs have been needed and the cost of those repairs continues to rise. We have had some unplanned expenses this year that have been costly as well. Added to that, the church has received over the last decade or so, designated funds that were given for a specific purpose. Sometimes, these funds were in addition to tithing, sometimes they were instead of the tithes. At times, the church, in order to function financially, has had to use these designated funds for operating expenses. Every effort has been made to replenish those funds, although it has been a struggle to do this over the course of the last year.



The church council has made some very difficult decisions in the short term to try and address this serious situation. We have reduced some expenses and changed a position from a paid position to a volunteer position. I continue to pray about this, since these are very short-term fixes to a long-term situation. The church council made a decision to revisit these changes with the start of the new budget year. We as a church need to consider the long-term financial health of the church and how we maintain relevancy in a culture of constant flux. I pray as we move forward to come to solutions together.

Terry Costello - Treasurer

ReNewing Church Grant



Each year, the United Church of Christ provides \$350,000 in grants to local churches through its New Spiritual Communities and ReNewing Churches grant program. Warwick UCC's Stewardship and Strategic Planning POP's are hard at work applying for a \$20,000 grant from this program. As a church that has done much to revitalize in the past several years, Warwick is eligible as a ReNewing Church. This grant would be transformative for our congregation.

Our vision for this grant is "Amplifying the Progressive Christian Witness in Hampton Roads." Our goal with this grant is to make Warwick UCC a household name in Newport News and the surrounding area - that when someone is looking for an open, inclusive, hospitable community of faith, Warwick immediately comes to mind. We are hopeful that this funding will provide resources to 1) enhance internal and external communications, so that leaders, members, and staff are better connected and informed, and so that the community is aware of our offerings; 2) provide hospitality training to all interested members so that each person at Warwick will be equipped to welcome all persons who come through our doors, and 3) increase our visibility through outreach activities and presence at community events, festivals, parades, and other opportunities.

This is a great opportunity for us. But it is not guaranteed. Last year 78 churches applied for grants, and fewer than 20 received one. Yet, Warwick is in a great position as an open and affirming, multiracial, multicultural church that is in the midst of revitalization. Should we receive a grant, we will be expected to raise matching funds - and I sincerely hope that if you believe in this vibrant community of faith, you will make an investment in this program for growth and visibility. Until then, these two POPs need your support, prayers, and BIG ideas on how we can amplify our message of God's welcome and love for all to the wider community.

Peace, Rev. James

A Guide to Gifting

Your gift to Warwick United Church of Christ changes lives. It helps the people of Hampton Roads know that God loves them unconditionally. It gives children a safe place to learn and grow. It gives meaning to people's lives, providing space to wrestle with life's questions. It transforms hearts and minds.

Your gift, no matter the amount, makes Warwick United Church of Christ a place active and alive with the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are several different ways to give to Warwick.



PLEDGING

This fall, we will engage in a pledge drive. Unlike PBS and NPR, we won't interrupt your favorite program to do so! But like any not-for-profit organization, we rely on faithful stewards like you to be able to change lives, to minister to Newport News and beyond. Your pledge is an estimate of what you plan on giving in the coming year. It demonstrates your commitment to the life of this community of faith and helps us project what ministries we will be able to pursue in the coming year.

This kind of giving is undesignated, meaning that it is intended for our overall annual fund. Each year, we discern as a community how we will commit our resources for the work of God in this place. Like the early church, we unite all of our resources for our common purpose. While designated giving for a special project is occasionally appropriate, many times designating giving to a particular area can actually detract from the overall budget. Rather, giving to the annual fund shows trust and commitment to our wider community.

BANK TRANSFER

You can also give directly from your bank account via an automatic monthly transfer. This option saves you the time of having to write a check every month. Please see treasurer Terry Costello if you would like to set it up.

ONLINE GIVING

Giving online is simple and easy! Just go to www.warwickucc.com and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will see a "Donate Now" button. Clicking this button will take you to a payment page where you can set up your payment via PayPal, credit card, or debit card. You are even able to make this a recurring monthly payment so that you don't have to remember to make a payment.

PLANNED GIVING

You can leave a legacy to Warwick long after you are gone. A planned gift is a future gift that you can make now to ensure that WUCC has resources to continue changing lives and blessing Newport News for many generations to come. Such a gift often comes through a bequest of assets, like cash, stock or real estate, or making the church a beneficiary of life insurance or retirement policies. The UCC has planned giving experts who can assist you in planning such a gift.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your giving, please contact treasurer Terry Costello or Rev. James.



THRIVE

WE NEED BAGS!



THRIVE Peninsula needs your help collecting plastic/paper bags to pack food for the people of our community



Please bring contributions to...

THRIVE Peninsula

13195 WARWICK BLVD. UNIT 2C, NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23602

THRIVE named a United Way Partner Agency

On July 1, 2018 THRIVE Peninsula was officially added to the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula partner agency family. This allows community members to designate donations to THRIVE through the United Way Workplace Giving Campaign, which kicks off in the fall.

If your workplace participates in the United Way Campaign, please consider inviting a THRIVE representative to speak during the kickoff meeting. To learn more about the United Way and Pathways Out of Poverty visit: www.uwvp.org



Lectionary Readings for August 2018

August 5, 2018

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 19, 2018

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 26, 2018

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

August 12, 2018

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51



Prayer List

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

Mickey Allen	USS Fitzgerald & Family	McIllnery Family
Anderson Family	Michelle Flores & Family	Audrey Noble
Anthony	Stephanie Fraizer	Miguel O
Mike Barnes	Gloria Franklin	Terry P
Amanda Bartley	Hal & Marge Giesecking	Larry Paccone
Leon Bates	+ Gosser Family	Ted & Michelle Paccone
Kelly Bennett	Barry Graham	Polanco Family
Nan Bergin	Pat Grant	Puerto Rico & USVI
Geraldine Bolden	Hall Family	+ Ryan Family
Trudy Burdge	+ Pikul/Harvey Family	+ Sample Family
Larry Burns	Dianne Howe	Jesse Saunders
Carter Family	Hurricane Victims	Rev. Cordula Schmid-Wassmuth
Bob Christian	Sandra Ingari	Nancy Simpson
+ Christensen Family	Island of Kauai, Hawaii	Will Smith & Family
Carolyn Clayton	Mike Kelpaul	Bob Snaz
Tony Colden	Cindy Kilgore	Jeffrey Spielberger
Costello Family	Ann Lange	+ Spielberger Family
Kevin Court	Donna Langston	Gary Takata
Eleanor Darnell	Heidi & Mike Lord	Cynthia Thomas
+ Dinges Family	John Maclean	+ Thomas Family
Martha Dunn & Family	Linda Mann	Donal VonGryffn
Dvey Family	Grant Mansfield	Lynn Whither
Emerson Family	Nevaeh Martin	Meredith White
Yvette Ferguson	Mrs. Martinez	+ Winter Family
Celena Forukem	USS McCain	Rachel York
Aubrey Fitzgerald	John McIllnery	Students & Teachers

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