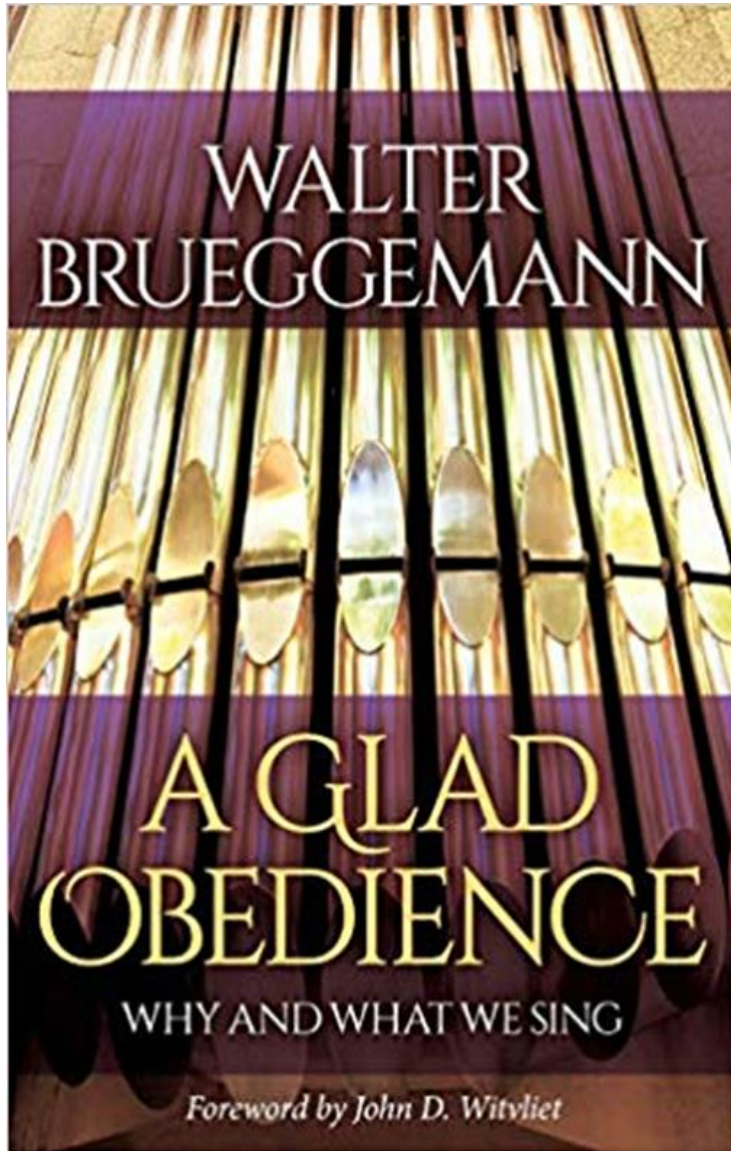
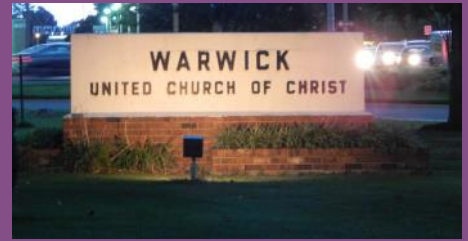


Contact

March 2019 Edition

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



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays @ 6:30pm
Starting March 7

Co-taught by Rudy Wilson &
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell

The Christian practice of hymn singing, says renowned biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann, is a countercultural act. It marks the Christian community as different from an unforgiving and often ungrateful culture. In this helpful and engaging book, Brueggemann discusses both why we sing and what we sing. The first part of the book examines the Psalms and what they can teach us about the reasons that corporate song is a part of the Christian tradition. The second part looks at fifteen popular hymns, including classic and contemporary ones such as “Blest Be the Ties That Binds,” “God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow,” “Once to Every Man and Nation,” “Someone Asked the Question,” and “We Are Marching in the Light of God,” and the reasons why they have caught our imagination.

Books are available for purchase online: https://www.amazon.com/Glad-Obedience-Why-What-Sing/dp/0664264646/ref=olp_product_details?_encoding=UTF8&me=

Also available at church for \$18

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Have info for the March CONTACT?
Send it to wuccupdates@gmail.com

Due by March 25!

Calendar of Events

SUN. MARCH 3

9 – 9:30am Children's PoP Mtg

10am – 12pm WONDERLAND: Older Kids @ 10 AM, Younger Kids @ 11 AM

11am – 12pm Worship: Sermon: “Who then is this?” – Rev. James

WED. MARCH 6 - Ash Wednesday

THU. MARCH 7

6:30 – 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study

7:30 – 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal



SUN. MARCH 10 - Daylight Saving Time starts

10 – 10:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal

11am – 12pm Worship: Sermon: “Knowing YOUR Stuff” – Rev. Sallye

THU. MARCH 14

6:30 – 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study

7:30 – 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

SUN. MARCH 17 - Scout Sunday

10am – 12pm WONDERLAND: Older Kids @ 10 AM, Younger Kids @ 11 AM

11am – 12pm Worship: Sermon: “The Lord’s Lament” – Rev. James

MON. MARCH 18

11am – 12pm Women's Study Group: The Four Agreements

TUE. MARCH 19

6 – 7pm Adult Supper Club

WED. MARCH 20

11am – 12pm Book Club

THU. MARCH 21

6:30 – 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study

7:30 – 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

SUN. MARCH 24

10 – 10:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal

11am – 12pm Worship: Sermon: “Bargaining with Jesus” – Rev. Sallye

12 – 1pm Council Meeting

THU. MARCH 28

6:30 – 7:30pm Lenten Bible Study

7:30 – 8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

SUN. MARCH 31

10am – 12pm WONDERLAND: Older Kids @ 10 AM, Younger Kids @ 11 AM

11am – 12pm Worship: Messy Church

Follow the calendar on our website: www.warwickucc.com! Send events to wuccupdates@gmail.com

Sunday Volunteers for March

Communion Servers:

March – Alayne Jaffe (Lead); Sheryl Wayman (Assisting)

Counters:

March – Sheryl Wayman & Barbara Harvey



Council Meeting



March 24, 2019 - Immediately following the service. All members of Council and POP leaders (or a representative from each POP) are expected to attend. The next Congregational Meeting is April 7.

Announcements

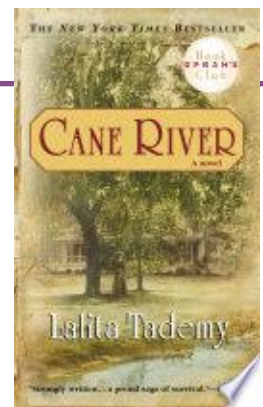
The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that **Mark Snell-Cook** has accepted the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Please note this change in your Warwick UCC Directory .

Book Club

Book Club will meet **March 20th** at 11 am to discuss Lalita Tademy's "Cane River."

All are welcome!



Financial Update as of February 21, 2019

2019 through mid-February

21% (\$18,926) of budgeted income received *

14% (\$12,291) of budgeted expenses used

2018 through mid-February

27% (\$25,142) of budgeted income received *

16% (\$14,666) of budgeted expenses used

Checkbook Balance

through 2/21/19: \$20,031.30 *

of which \$5,940.06 is designated funds

thus leaving \$14,091.24 in **general funds** for salaries, utilities, & general expenses

Historical Data

2017 – we experienced a \$6,786.48 loss (income – expenses)

2016 – we experienced a \$6,041.88 gain (income – expenses)

* FYI – The high \$ numbers are due to two members who submitted their entire annual pledge in January.

Mission Fundraiser

Dinner & Dance The Night Away!



A Benefit for
**LINK's Veterans
Shelter Programs**



Saturday, April 6th, 2019

MARY IMMACULATE CONFERENCE CENTER

2 Bernardine Dr.

Newport News, VA 23602

6:30 pm to 11:00 pm

**SILENT
AUCTION!**

**The Rocket Men
Playing Music from
the 50s/60s/70s**

CASH BAR!

Tickets: \$35.00

(plus \$3.77 fee per ticket)

Tickets Available at:

<https://linkdinneranddancethenightaway.eventbrite.com>

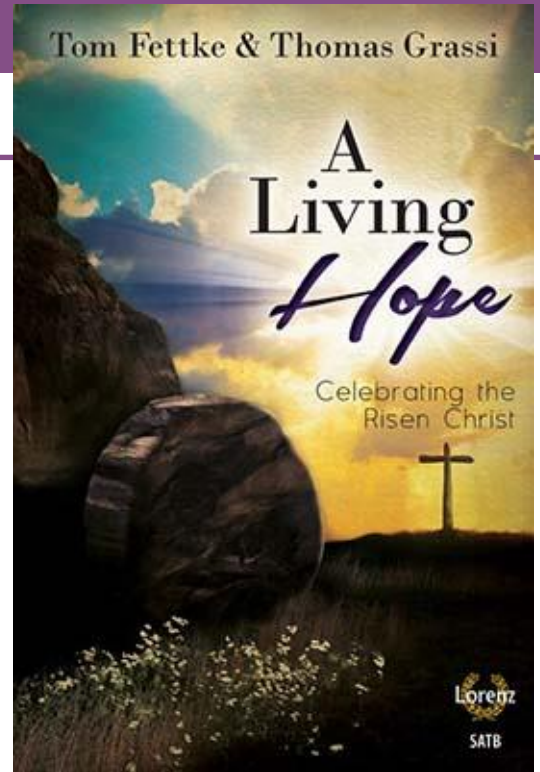
Easter Cantata

On April 21st at the 11AM morning service, the Warwick United Church of Christ Chancel Choir will present an Easter Cantata entitled “A Living Hope”. Combining the compositional talents of Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi, this inspiring cantata provides an unforgettable worship experience. I will create the orchestration for this cantata.

This eight-movement cantata moves us from the festivities of Palm Sunday, through the death and agony of Jesus, to our celebration of the resurrection message. “A Living Hope” is an inspiring and moving musical with narration that informs and touches the heart. It describes the joy and hope we have in the resurrected Christ.

I sincerely hope that you will attend the 11AM morning service to hear this great blessing through music entitled “A Living Hope” on April 21st. Warwick United Church of Christ is located on the corner of J. Clyde Morris Blvd. and Jefferson Avenue. The address is 10 Matoaka Lane, Newport News, Virginia.

Rudolph Wilson – Director of Music



Family Fun

Sunday **March 17th** we would like to honor all scouts present and past, boy and girl! Please let Lysie McIlhinney know who you are and how many years in scouting including leadership so we can be sure to honor you! After service we will be having a camp style food luncheon.

Sunday **April 14th** Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm Lunch will be provided following service before the egg hunt! If you would like to volunteer or donate to this event, please see Amanda Bartley.

Sunday **April 21st** Easter Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser immediately following the sunrise service. We will have pancakes! More details coming soon!

Thank you to everyone who donated items or came out to support the Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. We raised \$1370.50. If you missed the event Stephen Harvey was very entertaining and we had a blast!

Stay tuned for information on our next auction!



Strategic Planning PoP

As you may recall, the Strategic Planning POP met with 3 architectural companies back in 2017 for the purpose of evaluating our church space and how it could be changed/remodeled to better fit our needs (kitchen, Pastor's office, gathering area, handicap bathrooms, etc.). The POP reviewed 3 proposals and chose Q Design. In the Fall of 2017, the church Council approved sending the acceptance of the proposal to the congregation for a vote. At a congregational meeting in the late Fall of 2017, it was voted to accept the proposal by Q Design; however, proceeding with payment and contracting with Q Design was placed on hold due to two other priorities: revising the church Constitution and submitting a grant application through the UCC. Both of these projects took much time in completing and then we dealt with the church financial health.

Recently, an opportunity to request a grant from the CMA (Christian Missionary Association), which provided us with a grant to replace our boiler a few years ago, for the purpose of retaining the services of Q Design arose. I brought a request to the Council that the Strategic Planning POP request a \$6,000 grant from CMA to pay for the retainer and the work to be done for the architectural firm to prepare a Master Plan. Council approved and the 4 Trustees signed the CMA Grant Application.

The application has been submitted and we are now waiting for the response from CMA. If we receive the grant, the Strategic Planning POP will proceed with retaining Q Design and begin working with them in designing a Master Plan.

I will keep you all updated on our progress and hope that we will have a Master Plan by the end of 2019. After the Master Plan is completed, the congregation will begin discussing moving forward with suggested construction/remodeling.

If you have any questions, please speak with me.

Barbara Harvey, Chair of Strategic Planning POP.



Dedicating the New Area Day Service Center

The community is invited to attend a dedication ceremony on Tuesday, **March 5** at 11:00 a.m. to celebrate the new facility and learn about the center's comprehensive resources.

Newport News Day Service Center Now Open

New center is a beacon of hope and opportunity for the homeless

Often times, a person can transform their life when given an opportunity and support from someone who believes in them. To provide the resources homeless individuals and families need to improve their lives and break the cycle of poverty, the City of Newport News partnered with Volunteers of America Chesapeake to open the Four Oaks Day Service Center.

Four Oaks Day Service Center is a one-stop service and assistance center at 7401 Warwick Boulevard where men, women and families experiencing homelessness receive supports and are connected to comprehensive community services under one roof, all thanks to on-site partners. Programs at Four Oaks address issues related to employment, literacy, health and wellness and more.

Four Oaks is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. For additional information on the Four Oaks Day Service Center, call 757-926-8643.



What To Do With Empty Churches

A few weeks ago, I read the subject article in the Houses of Worship section of the Wall Street Journal written by Karl Zinsmeister. He states,

“Wander any large US city and you’ll spot a serious mismatch. Majestic old houses of worship have only vestigial congregations. Without their endowments these cathedrals, chapels and synagogues couldn’t keep the lights on.

Meanwhile, those same cities have booming evangelical fellowships, traditional Catholic gatherings, Korean congregations, Spanish language flocks, and swelling members of Lubavitch Jews. These and other rising groups are too young to enjoy the inherited resources of shrunken assemblies. Instead they meet in auditoriums, theaters or strip malls. Some worship on Saturdays or at night, in sanctuaries rented from mainline churches.”

“Everyone gains from the humanitarian behaviors of religious people. Yet the proportion of adults who attend religious services weekly is now down 36% according to the Pew Research Center. Young people in particular are falling away. In 2016 nearly 4 out of 10 American adults under 30 said they have no religious affiliation.”

“A classic 1986 study by Harvard economist James Freeman, subsequently confirmed by other scholars, found that black males living in the inner-city poverty tracts were far less likely to engage in crime and drug use if they attended church. Church attendance also was associated with better academic performance and more success in holding jobs and helped counterbalance threats to child success like parental absence, low school quality, drug traffic and local crime.”

“Among Americans who attend services weekly, 45% do volunteer work, compared with 27% for the entire population, according to Pew data. People with religious affiliation give several times as much money to charity every year as other Americans. And not only to religious causes. Two-thirds of people who worship at least twice a month give to secular causes compared with less than half of non-attendees. The average secular gift is 20% bigger when coming from a churchgoer.”

Warwick UCC is blessed by many old and many young members, retired and working, scientific, military and educational persons. This is a population that Warwick should advertise to build on the membership.

HK Holmes

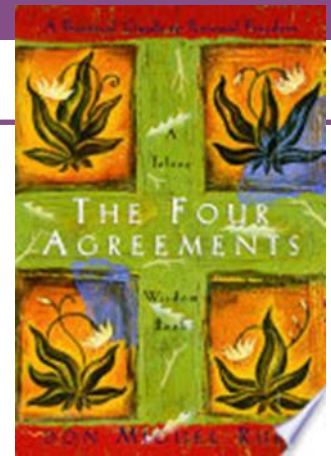


Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group will meet again on Monday, MARCH 18 at 11 am to discuss the third of The Four Agreements: Don't Make Assumptions. This agreement says to "find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama."

Please join us even if you have not read the book. Your input on your own experiences with assumptions could benefit someone who heard your words. No judgments are made, just genuine fellowship with other women.

Suzanne Howell



Lectionary Readings for March 2019

March 3, 2019

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



March 10, 2019

1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 17, 2019

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35 - or -
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 24, 2019

3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 31, 2019

4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Praying Together...

MARCH 2019

Mickey Allen
Anderson Family
Lea Avertin
Mike Barnes
Leon Bates
Kelly Bennett
Nan Bergin
Geraldine Bolden
Trudy Burdge
Larry Burns
Carter Family
+ Cassell Family
Bob Christian
Rebekkah Chriscoe
+ Christensen Family
Carolyn Clayton
Tony Colden
Bonnie Cook

Costello Family
Kevin Court
Martha Dunn & Family
Emerson Family
Evans's Family
+ Yvette Ferguson
+ Fitzgerald Family
Michelle Flores & Family
Celena Forukem
Gloria Franklin
Dr. Bruce Kauder
Grant Mansfield
Hal & Marge Giesecking
Terry Sam-Garris
Pat Grant
Barry Graham
Hall Family
Dianne Howe

Sandra Ingari
Mike Kelpaul
Cindy Kilgore
Ann Lange
Donna Langston
Heidi & Mike Lord
John Maclean
Nancy Mayle
Linda Mann
The Methodists
Loraine Palmer
Polanco Family
Audrey Noble
Larry Paccone
Ted & Michelle Paccone
Katie Ryder
+ Ryan Family
Jesse Saunders

Gail Sears
Nancy Simpson
Elizabeth Sunderland
Jean Stockman
Heidi & Shawn Sweeney
Bob Snaz
Jason Spielberger
Jeffrey Spielberger
Gary Takata
Cynthia Thomas
Sedonia Trippel
Donal VonGryffin
Tim Wayman
Meredith White
Rachel York
+ Students & Teachers
+ Wilmath Family
Winter Family