

Contact

February 2017 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

There is a simple saying that can guide us through our personal lives and our lives together as a faith community: It does not require a lot of analysis; it does not require us to be naïve - as some would have us believe. It is that command from Jesus, "Love your neighbor, as yourself." Whatever the circumstance – let love lead.

When we are offended, 'let love lead.'

When we are confused, "let love lead."

When we are disgusted, angry or really, really upset, "let love lead."

When we are infatuated, let love lead.

When we are at a loss for words, let love lead. When the words we want to spit out are harmful, more than helpful – let love lead.

When we have compromised ourselves – find a way to let love lead ourselves back to our true selves.

When we are winning – let love lead. When we are losing – let love lead.

When we are getting what we want – be sure it is love leading, not greed. When we are not getting what we want, be sure, is love leading?

Our Scriptures are full of counsel on this idea of loving. It is rooted in the fact, that our very creation is a product of a loving force and our ultimate purpose is to love and to receive love. It is the God within.

Interesting – 'love' in Scripture is a verb. It is describing an attachment to another, an intended affection, a pleasure found in either a person, object or event. It is internal desire shown externally – in action.

Letting love lead is very practical. It makes sense. It works. Martin Luther King said, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Jesus said, "You have heard it said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate your enemy, but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you." (Matthew 5:43-45)

Hate has never gotten anyone anywhere. Love has. How we love – that might be the question? How we choose to see the world – loving others as equal creations of God or feeling threatened by anyone different than ourselves? How do you let love lead?

My intention is to love, even in this time of heated and often reactive conversation – the desire of my heart is to 'let love lead.' My experiences have proven to me, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can really do that."

Let's figure it out people – how do we love each other, how do we love our enemies – maybe by receiving God's love more fully into our own darkness. I challenge us as a community – let love lead, as we worship and work together. Amen? Amen.

Grace always,

Sallye

In this Issue...

- Calendar ... Page 2
- Finances ... Page 4
- Women's March ... Page 7
- Lectionary ... Page 10
- Prayer List ... Page 10

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 February 24!

Upcoming Events

February 2	No choir rehearsal
February 5	Communion Sunday*, Sermon: "Mindgames" - 11 AM Guest Pianist: Priscilla Lockett
February 7	Communion to nursing homes
February 9	No choir rehearsal
February 12	Sermon: "ProChoices" - 11 AM Kayla Lennon's Ordination - See page 4
February 14	Senior Saints Luncheon - 1 PM
February 16	Choir rehearsal resumes - 7:45 PM
February 18	Sewing POP - 10 AM
February 19	Youth choir rehearsal - 10 AM Sermon: "I want it all" - 11 AM Baptism of Elliette Walden The Salt of the Earth: Gospel group - 4 PM
February 21	Adult Supper Club - 6 PM
February 22	Book Club - 1:30 PM
February 24	Contact Deadline - Send items to wuccupdates@gmail.com
February 26	Sermon: "Moving On" - 11 AM Parent's Day Out - NOON - 7 PM - See page 5 3rd Sunday Luncheon - 12 NOON
March 1	Ash Wednesday



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

Senior Saints Luncheon



You're Invited!
February 14
Senior Saints Luncheon
Valentine's Day
1 PM
Wear Red!

If you can join AARP, this one's for you!

Choir Notes

The director of music will be away in Hawaii for a few days. Our choir will experience a brief vacation from their normal duties.

The Warwick United Church of Christ Chancel Choir will not sing on Sunday, February 5th. No choir rehearsals on February 2nd and 9th.

The choir will sing on Sunday February 12th. Choir rehearsals will resume on February 16th from 7:45PM to 9PM.

Priscilla Lockett will be our guest pianist on February 5th.



Gospel Music at WUCC



The gospel group *'The Salt of the Earth'* will perform at

Warwick United Church of Christ on

Sunday, February 19th at 4 PM.

This group is holding a fund raiser for their radio station WKGM 940.

So, please come out on Sunday, February 19th
and enjoy some good old fashion gospel music.

*(And by the way, our very own director of music, Rudy Wilson,
is a member of this group.)*

Youth Choir

Rudy and Liz will be away in Hawaii for the next 13 days. Youth Choir rehearsals will be canceled until Feb. 19th.

Our next Youth Choir Rehearsal will be February 19th at 10 AM.



Financial Update as of Dec. 31, 2016—End of Year

Data provided by Terry Costello

INCOME	
Total Expected Income - 12 Months	\$73,300
Received – In 2016	\$93,781
	\$20,481 MORE than budgeted for the year
Total Expected Pledged Income - 12 Months	\$56,000
Received – In 2016	\$65,240
	\$ 9,240 MORE than budgeted for the year
EXPENSES	
Total Expected Expenses - 12 Months	\$79,440
Spent – In 2016	\$87,739
	\$ 8,299 MORE than budgeted
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 3,315*
	*Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds. Includes UCC Special Offerings.

Money Matters

- We are developing our Discretionary Fund, so immediate needs of people can be met without judgement. This fund is distributed at the discretion of the pastor and moderator (also a deacon). If you would like to contribute to this fund, please indicate that on your check or envelope.
- INCREASING THE LIGHT Covenant Cards are very slowly coming in. Please complete the card and your Talent Survey, so we might best plan the ministries of the church and you might be best connected to share your light in service and mission. Extra cards are available on the front altar of the church. Remember, if you'd like to pledge you may do so anonymously.

THRIVE

In January, Bucky Holmes was named volunteer of the month and featured in the THRIVE newsletter.



THRIVE Volunteer of the Month: *Bucky Holmes*

About 5 years ago, Bucky Holmes of Warwick United Church of Christ came into contact with THRIVE during his quest to create a day shelter for homeless Peninsula residents. Maria Cory, THRIVE's past executive director, served on his board for a time, and Bucky noticed the organization was also passionate about homeless prevention. It was a match!

"I like the philosophy of what (THRIVE) is doing," Bucky said. "I think THRIVE is going to grow even more as more people need assistance and more people get involved."

Since that time, Bucky has served on the THRIVE Board of Directors for several years; he organizes the annual fruit fundraiser (3 years and counting), serves on the Family Volunteer Day committee, and facilitates shoe drives with the Scottish Rite Temple. But that's not all. Just 2 years ago, Bucky came up with yet another creative way he could give back.

Bucky decided to place a large collection bin in his front yard; he attached a donation sign to promote our Walk a Mile In Their Shoes Mission and started taking donations. Since then his house has served as a shoe drop-off point for the surrounding neighborhoods, and it has been wildly successful! Bucky makes regular deliveries to THRIVE with all the shoes dropped at his house from the community. Each time our organization receives funds from this mission, he posts a fresh sign outside, to thank his neighbors for helping THRIVE reach new milestones in funds raised. He loves giving feedback to people who donate to let them know they are making a difference.

Bucky, we want you to know you are making a difference! We appreciate your hard work, fresh ideas, and commitment to our organization. Your passion to help people on the verge of homelessness inspires us all. Thank you!

An Invitation

Many of you will remember Kayla Lennon from her time with us as the Associate for Children and Families. Kayla resigned in 2015 to continue her studies at seminary. We are pleased to receive an invitation for all the WUCC family to attend her Ordination!

Sunday, February 12th

4:00 PM

Grace Baptist Church

4200 Dover Road, Richmond, VA 23221



Children's Events

By Rev. Robin Mansfield

Warwick United Church of Christ

CHILDREN'S E-BLAST for all families, young & old



February 26 Noon - 7:00 p.m.

Parents, you deserve a break, and we are going to give you one! On Sunday, February 26 leave your children with us and go enjoy yourselves for the day. The kids will be enjoying their time making crafts, watching a movie, playing games, learning about "church" and "sanctuary", and of course there will be food. Lunch, snacks and dinner will be provided. Sign your children up at the children's room board by February 19 so enough food and adult supervision will be provided.

March 26 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Parents & Children Seder Dinner

What a wonderful time for parents and children to learn about Passover and experience a Seder meal. There will also be a craft to make together to take home and remember the experience. More information to come.



April 9

Spring Fling & Easter Egg Hunt

More information to come soon!



MAY

Information Coming Soon!

School's Out - Cool Out Cookout

June 25 5:00 p.m.

Let's reach out to our community & kick-off the summer. Fun for ALL!!!



UCC at the Women's March

On Saturday, January 21, 2017, thousands of people across the nation marched on D.C. and in sister cities. Warwick UCC's own Linda Manning participated in the D.C. march and Rev. Sallye Hardy marched in the sister march in Charlottesville, VA. They were not alone! The UCC as a denomination had a large showing at the marches.

Women's Marchers around the country celebrate call for change

January 23, 2017

Written by **Connie Larkman** (www.ucc.org)

The Women's March on Washington and its Sister Marches around the country drew UCC members like a magnet, compelled by the Spirit to show up, step out and demand a just world for all. There were hundreds of them, some wearing aprons, others carrying signs, chanting, singing and shouting in a joint witness for justice in several cities around the country on Saturday, Jan. 21.

In D.C., UCC-area churches hosted hordes of visitors for hospitality and pre-march prayer. Friday night, Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ welcomed 70 people, some from as far away as Florida, for a potluck the evening before the march.

June Jeffries, president of the church's Women's Fellowship, stressed the importance of interconnection. "We are not just a solo church but we are part of a denomination, of the Central Atlantic Conference, and of the Potomac Association. We need to be aware of positions the national church is taking and activities of our association."

So Jeffries and her group marched for themselves, and for the church. "I see Peoples as being a leader, and I think we should be at the forefront of activism. We connected with many people, had conversation, took pictures. We were buoyed by the size of the crowd and the absence of ill will. Never heard a harsh word. It was a good experience."

"I have been to a lot of marches. And protests. And vigils. But I have NEVER seen anything like what happened today," said Jessie Palatucci, a communications specialist in the UCC Washington D.C. office. "People stood for hours. They cared for the strangers among them, offering encouragement, sharing food and signs. And when we began to march, it became immediately clear that we could not be contained. The people spilled over on to the streets of Washington. It was a powerful reminder that that we are in strong, mighty, faithful company as we work to make the world more loving and just."

"This was a witness rooted in history," Sandy Sorenson, director of the UCC Washington D.C. office said of the event. "From this spot at 10th and G Streets, NW, UCC members had gathered to join the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs, Justice and Freedom, the 1993 march for LGBT equality, the Children's Defense Fund Stand for Children March, the 2005 March for Women's Lives and many other marches for peace and an end to gun violence."

On Saturday, the march came alive with a positive, buoyant energy. "There was a prevailing sense of hope in the power of people to lift up an alternative vision for our common life, one defined by a sense of connection, common struggle, inclusion and openness," Sorenson continued. "People of all genders and gender identities marched together. It spanned generations and reflected an intersecting range of issues that have a renewed sense of urgency at the dawn of a new Administration and Congress. There were recurring chants of 'Love not hate, that's what makes America great' and 'No hate, no fear, everyone is welcome here.'"

Before the march in the Minnesota capitol, the Rev. Emily Goldthwaite Fries, associate minister of Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis, helped offer a blessing. She was heartened at the makeup of the crowd. "I'd say the turnout of 60,000 in St. Paul was awesome. Many said they were marching for the first time ever. That's great!"

That might have been the case all across America. Crowds around the country well exceeded estimates — a half-million in D.C.; 175,000 in Boston; 150,000 in Chicago; 100,000 in Seattle; 60,000 in St. Paul; and 15,000 in Cleveland.



Hans Holznagel, former UCC national staffer and a member of Archwood UCC in Cleveland, noted "an uplifting celebration of resistance" as he joined other advocates on Cleveland's Public Square.

"I marched to practice the resolve I'll need to speak out against policies of the incoming administration that I predict I'll disagree with," Holznagel said. "It was also, for me, a way of opposing the disrespectful way our President has spoken about women. I learned from our mothers and fathers in the Civil Rights Movement that being present with your body, your voice and your spirit is part of the Christian path. It can change things."

"I don't know how many people participated in the Women's March in Boston — only that there were enough of us that for three hours I could barely move," said the Rev. Vicki Kemper, pastor, First Congregational Church, UCC, Amherst, Mass., one of several UCC churches represented there. "And that the people were unfailingly kind, positive, patient, creative, and determined. That we couldn't reach the UCC contingent, but we had church on the T, (transit system) with our entire car — led, at first, by children — singing "This Land is Your Land," "We Shall Overcome," and more. That Rita, the 92-year-old sitting next to me in her wheelchair, marched in the '50s with MLK. And that hope is alive and well. Watch out, world!"



"A lot of people wore their 'Be the Church' aprons," said Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, associate conference minister, Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, of the Boston event. "While watching on the sidelines of the March, a lot of people asked to take a picture of me in the apron — lots of thumbs up and smiles and a few requests about how to order them. In that way our witness was spread too!"

"Not everybody could get to our gathering spot and we were not able to stay together once the March started, but I think it was uplifting to be together," Vander Hart continued. "Before we left our meeting place, we turned to someone close by and named what we would do after this day so that it became a movement not just a moment. We held up blessing hands towards each other and prayed — 'God bless us, for this moment, for this movement, for your will in

the world.'"

"I was moved, inspired, challenged, energized and blessed by the Women's March in D.C.," said the Rev. Rebecca Voekel, of Lyndale UCC in Minneapolis, who traveled to the capital with her family. "With my kindred all over the world, I'm ready to keep working religiously for justice!"

"I hope that people will hold to that feeling and keep showing up at marches, and building relationships, and speaking out," said Palatucci, "both to their elected officials and among their friends and families."

"For its shortcomings, Saturday's worldwide witness was historic and significant," said Sorenson. "Now comes the test. Now the hard work must begin. Now comes the painstaking, far less visible work of educating, organizing and mobilizing for systemic, institutional change on the local, regional, national and international level. Now is the time to forge partnerships, coalitions and networks for sustained, long-term changemaking. Now is the time for justice advocates to engage in all manner of decision-making forums, from school board meetings, to corporate board meetings, to newspaper and television editorial board meetings."

"The true consequence of Saturday's massive, global witness hinges on what we do as justice advocates in the days, months, and years ahead."

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Keep up-to-date with United Church of Christ's national news sent to your inbox weekly at www.ucc.org/keeping_you_posted

Do Justice ...

The prophet Micah calls us to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." In our country one of the key ways this happens is through the legislative governing processes. If you want to engage effectively with your elected officials, the best way to do that is by phone messages and/or written communications. Below are listed the elected federal and state officials for our Hampton Roads area:

U.S. Senators

Kaine, Tim - (D - VA) Class I

231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-4024
Contact: www.kaine.senate.gov/contact

Warner, Mark R. - (D - VA) Class II

475 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-2023
Contact: www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Contact

U.S. Representatives

Wittman, Robert J. - (R - VA) 1st District

2055 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515-4601 (202) 225-4261

Taylor, Scott - (R - VA) 2nd District

412 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4215
Contact: <https://taylor.house.gov/contact>

Scott, Robert "Bobby" - (D - VA) 3rd District

2600 Washington Ave., Suite 1010, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 380-1000
Contact: <http://bobbyscott.house.gov/contact>

Virginia

Governor Terry McAuliffe

Common Ground for Virginia, P.O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218 (804)786-2211
<https://governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/>

Senator T. Montgomery "Monty" Mason 1st District

Capitol Phone:(804) 698-7501 District Phone:(757) 229-9310 E-mail: district01@senate.virginia.gov

Senator Mamie E. Locke 2nd District

Capitol Phone:(804) 698-7502 District Phone:(757) 825-5880 E-mail: district02@senate.virginia.gov

Senator Thomas K. Norment Jr. 3rd District

Capitol Phone:(804) 698-7503 District Phone:(757) 259-7810 E-mail: district03@senate.virginia.gov

Senator Lynwood W. Lewis Jr. 6th District

Capitol Phone:(804) 698-7506 District Phone:(757) 787-1094 E-mail: district06@senate.virginia.gov

To search your for your representatives by your address, go to: <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

Lectionary Readings for February 2017

February 5, 2017

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-13
Matthew 5:13-20

February 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11
Matthew 5:38-48

February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 26, 2017

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

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

Mickey Allen	Bernie Klein	+ Greg Ryan
Kelly Bennett	Cindy Kilgore	Jesse Saunders
Rosemary Brownrigg	Ann Lange	Nancy Simpson
Geraldine Bolden	Donna Langston	Will Smith & Family
Larry Burns	Kayla Lennon	+ Jeffrey Spielberg
Tony Colden	Heidi & Mike Lord	+ Spielberg Family
+ Cook-Snell Family	Nate Masters	Bob Snaz
Costello Family	Audrey Noble	+ Thomas Family
Kevin Court	Miguel O	+ Rosie Upshur
Emerson Family	Nate Masters	Donal VonGryffn
Yvette Ferguson	Terry P	+ Sheryl Wayman &
Michelle Flores & Family	The Peninsula Area	Southard Family
Joe Gosselin	Larry Paccone	Meredith White
Barry Graham	Ted & Michelle Paccone	Rachel Williams
Sandra Ingari	Baby Liam Polanco	
Mike Kelpaul	Polanco Family	

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