

# Contact

November 2016 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

I love the time of harvest, I love the fall colors. I love seeing fields leveled, children dragging pumpkins out of the patch. I love the costuming of Halloween – where we give each other permission to pretend. It seems to allow us to express a long spectrum of 'self' from the darkest sides of demons and dragons to the lightest sides of fairy princesses and superheroes.

This year a new lesson has come to me, as I am watching the leaves fall – that there is beauty in letting go. There is also a mess – remember the raking? But for new seasons of the life cycle – a letting go has to happen. Sometimes we have to let go of habits or traditions that may have even held us tight, even given us life. So, I ask myself what do I need to 'let go of' in order to be healthy, in order for my roots to go deeper, in order to benefit from the winter, so new growth can come?

Perhaps those questions might give you some guidance in your life. This is what I know for sure, when the leaves are all gone, you see the height of a tree, how tall it is, how far it has reached up. As we age I think that is a great gift we have to offer. Our value is not determined by what we can do but by who we really have grown to be. Our gifts to the community are gifts of ideas, of reason, of strength shaped by letting go of all that was temporary all along. Our seasons of life understood by years of knowing what was will never be the same again, but what will be is ours to enjoy.

I cherish this season in my life. I am grateful for those of you who allow me to share it with you. I am particularly grateful that this congregation has a lot of mature trees who are strong and hold us together and a lot of saplings who are ready to grow in the same forest.

Looking forward to the seasons ahead.

Grace Always,

*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 to **wuccupdates@gmail.com**

**Due by November 28!**



## Moderator's Corner

Recently I have been hearing about “social justice” issues in the news and I have heard several people ask “what is social justice?”. So this got me thinking about how the UCC, our denomination, regards such issues. This following article is about the UCC position on Aging. In future Contact issues I will post other position papers regarding social justice issues.

### Honoring our commitment to the dignity of older Americans

#### In celebration of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and the Older Americans Act

*Even when you are old, I will take care of you, even when you have gray hair, I will carry you. I made you and I will support you; I will carry you and rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4 - New English Translation)*

July 30th marked the 50th anniversaries of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security.

The United States is facing unprecedented increases in the older adult population. Since 2003 older Americans have increased by 8.8 million people. As the percentage of older Americans rises, so does concern for their economic stability.

Today more than 50 million older Americans receive Medicare benefits, 5 million receive Medicaid assistance and nine out of ten or 54 Million receive Social Security benefits (54% of married couples and 74% unmarried persons receive 50% or more of their income from social security. The OAA serves an average of 11 million older Americans per year. Its services include: meals, caregiving, homemaker services, transportation, case management, respite care and community services.



America's commitment to older Americans began in 1935 with the signing of the Social Security Act by Franklin D. Roosevelt that provided an economic lifeline for millions of people. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed into law Medicare and Medicaid which saved lives and protected the health and well-being of millions of American families by providing basic health insurance. In this same year President Johnson also signed into law the Older American's Act, (OAA) which protects elderly Americans, including Native Americans, from unfair discrimination in the workforce as well as providing protection and services to help older people stay independent and remain in their homes. The national nutrition program for the elderly was added to this Act in the late 1970s. Americans commitment is further evidenced by the annual White House Conference on Aging, which recognizes the importance of these key programs and looks ahead to the issues that will help shape the landscape for older Americans for the next decade. As new policies emerge that threaten the Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security safety net for older Americans, the church must renew its promises to seniors and recommit to spiritual principles that lift up the values of human dignity in order to protect older Americans from any attempts now or in the future that would dismantle or disrupt the health and economic security of families.

#### The United Church of Christ's Historic Commitment to Older Americans

The United church of Christ through the historic witness of its General Synod has reflected a faithful and prophetic engagement to address adequate support, programs and services for older Americans, endorse continuing education on ministry with older persons and engage in efforts to combat injustices and discrimination against the aged. Specifically, General Synod 12 in 1979 adopted the following excerpted policy statement by the UCC Advisory Committee on Aging which declares that "*older people are entitled to certain basic rights, including employment, retirement income, food, housing transportation and health care; opposes discrimination in employment because of age; supports guaranteed income above the poverty line; supports Social Security, calls for universal national health insurance; states that all programs should recognize that older persons have the basic right to serve as responsible and participating members of society.*"

For more information:

[http://www.ucc.org/honoring\\_our\\_commitment\\_to\\_the\\_dignity\\_of\\_older\\_americans#.WBek\\_LAvQ8M.email](http://www.ucc.org/honoring_our_commitment_to_the_dignity_of_older_americans#.WBek_LAvQ8M.email)

# Financial Update as of October 27, 2016

Data provided by Terry Costello

INCOME	
Total Budgeted Income - 10 Months	\$61,083
Received - Year to Date	\$76,932.12 (as of 10/27/16)
	\$ 15,849 MORE than budgeted for 10 months
Budgeted Pledged Income - 10 Months	\$46,666
Received - Year to Date	\$51,957 (as of 9/11/16)
	\$ 5,291 MORE than budgeted
EXPENSES	
Total Budgeted Expenses - 10 Months	\$66,200
Spent - Year to Date	\$70,000 (as of 10/27/16)
	\$ 3,800 MORE than budgeted
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 2,170.00*
	*Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds. Includes UCC Special Offerings.
CURRENT FUNDS	
Checkbook Balance	Not available

## Electronic Tithing

Tired of writing checks each week or month? Tired of forgetting your offering envelope at home? Why not try Electronic Tithing! With a very simple application you can elect to have your pledged funds automatically withdrawn from your account, or credit card, and delivered to WUCC! You can also donate through our website using PayPal!

Contact **Terry Costello** for a form and more information!

## Upcoming Events

November 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends Liturgy and the Arts POP Meeting -9 a.m. Communion Sunday* Mental Health Sunday -11 a.m. Festival of Church Music - See page 5 Laymen's Fellowship Fall Rally - See page 7
November 8	Communion to nursing homes Election Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 13	A Celebration of All Saints & Harvest Dinner - 11 a.m.
November 15	Adult Supper Club - 6 p.m.
November 20	Sermon -11 a.m.
November 21	Women's Study Group - 10 a.m.
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
November 27	Sermon -11 a.m. Advent Begins
December 18	Christmas Cantata



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

## POP Updates

LITURGY AND THE ARTS (next meeting Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00)

As we approach the Advent season, we are looking to explore the creative juices of our congregants. Beginning this Saturday evening, November 5<sup>th</sup>, anyone who is interested in “jamming” with their musical talents or listening to folks jamming will gather in the sanctuary for a time of creative collaboration. This should be great fun! There is no required skill level to participate. Contact Nate Masters (540-455-5049) for more information.

This POP is also looking at ways to engage the congregation artistically through the Advent themes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Light. Stay tune – Advent is coming. We need your gifts and your participation.

VISIBLE WITNESS (Next meeting Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00)

How do we make our church more visible? This POP is addressing ideas involving signage and landscaping specifically. Linda Manning was able to have landscape designer Denise Greene from Sassafras Farm come and she had some simple ideas that we can consider to help people know we are here. A complete design with drawings could be developed for us for under a thousand dollars – to help us envision what could be done. Terry Costello has met with the zoning folks from Newport News regarding the possibility of a new electronic sign which would sit on top of the current sign. This involves a conditional use permit and a detailed process. The application process begins with an \$800.00 fee to the city. Warwick is a great gift to the community, but we must decide whether we are willing to prioritize our visibility in this space God has entrusted to us.

## Warwick Updates ...

# Choir News

The Warwick United Church of Christ Chancel Choir has quite an exciting month planned for November. Not only will the choir present wonderful anthems each Sunday in November at the 11AM service, our choir will also present great music for an additional event. On November 6th at 3 PM, our chancel choir will participate in

## A Festival of Church Music

sponsored by  
The United Campus Ministries at  
Christopher Newport University

**November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**  
**Pope Chapel**

Church Choirs from all over the peninsula will sing in a gigantic mass choir and will perform 3 anthems. Each church attending this event will also perform an additional anthem. This year The Warwick UCC Chancel Choir will perform as their additional anthem a piece entitled "Get on Board" written by Jay Althouse.

So if you really love church music please come to the Pope Chapel at Christopher Newport University on November 6th at 3PM. You will not regret it!

Rudy Wilson, Director of Music

## Warwick Events ...

# Christmas Cantata

The month of December brings lots of celebrations and activities to Warwick United Church of Christ. Caroling, Our Children's Christmas program and our annual Christmas cantata are just a few of them.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> at 11AM, the Chancel Choir of Warwick United Church of Christ will present a cantata entitled "Bethlehem's Joy. This cantata was written by Stan Pethel with additional music by Jay Althouse, Mark Hayes, Anna Page and Jean Shafferman.

*Bethlehem's Joy* is a cantata that celebrates the wondrous miracle surrounding the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. With a touch of calypso and a dab of gospel along with traditional Christmas carols and original songs, Bethlehem's Joy is certain to fill the hearts of all believers with a sense of wonder and joy in God's goodness. On December 18<sup>th</sup> at Warwick United Church of Christ during the 11 AM worship, let the Child of Bethlehem awaken the child inside of you and celebrate Bethlehem's Joy with our Chancel Choir!

Rudy Wilson – Director of Music



## Celebration of All Saints & Harvest Dinner

You are Cordially Invited to the  
Warwick United Church of Christ's

# A CELEBRATION OF ALL SAINTS & HARVEST DINNER

Sunday

**November 13th, 2016**

Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service.

Contact:

Angela Harvey - 757-660-9229

Ann Fitzgerald - 757-324-1508

Warwick United Church of Christ

10 Matoaka Lane

Newport News, VA 23606

## Fall Rally - Laymen's Fellowship



# FALL RALLY



*Eastern Virginia Association  
(of the Southern Conference/UCC)*

## Laymen's Fellowship

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016 Registration at 4:30 PM**

**There is a \$2.00 Registration Fee for Members (not for guests)**

### **PORTSMOUTH UCC\***

5900 Portsmouth Blvd • Portsmouth, VA 23701

Church Telephone: 757.488.6075

**Cost is \$8 Per Person (includes a Buffet Dinner)**

***WE NEED A HEAD-COUNT, SO PLEASE RSVP BY OCT 30***

Larry Faulk, *Pres.*  
(757) 771.1556 (C)

Herman Powell, *Sect.*  
(757) 532.7473 (C)

## REMINDER

**Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday,**

**November 6th.**

**Time to set the clocks BACK!**



## An Old Fashioned Pounding Continues

### *Twice Blessed is the Harvest We Share*

You are invited to take part in an old-fashioned pounding which will begin on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Many years ago, the community would provide help to families in need by having everyone bring a pound of something for their neighbor. With WUCC's version of this tradition, participating families bring designated items each Sunday over a 7-week period to provide an entire holiday dinner for several families selected by LINK.

Simply bring the designated item with you to church for collection during the offertory. To help you plan your shopping, the weekly items are listed below.

Week 3: Nov. 6

Box of instant potatoes, can of corn

Week 4: Nov. 13

2 large cans of sweet potatoes

Week 5: Nov. 20

Cake mix and icing or brownie mix

Week 6: Nov. 27

2 large cans of green vegetables

Week 7: Dec. 4

Cash donation for turkey (suggested \$10)



**Feeding the  
Community**

## PORT

Warwick has been a faithful partner in PORT, a program where volunteers from interfaith groups work together in providing shelter to our homeless population. Churches provide shelters while partnering churches provide the support to work the shelters. It is an amazing program that I have been fortunate to have been involved with for over 10 years.

Warwick is scheduled to work on December 3-4 at Peninsula Korean Baptist Church at 972 Harpersville Road in Newport News. We will be checking in guests, serving dinner, and serving breakfast. We need volunteers for the check in process, serving dinner, staying overnight and serving breakfast.

Warwick is also working in partnership with Faith Ministry on December 8-9 at Warwick Memorial UMC at 38 Hoopes Road in Newport News. Faith Ministry will be providing check in volunteers and serving dinner. Warwick will be working the overnight shift and cooking and serving breakfast. We are able to purchase food at the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank to help defray some food costs. I have also enlisted the help of a small business owner that will help reimburse Warwick for cost of the food. Warwick is also blessed to have some very eager students from Woodside High School to work with us in this ministry.

If you unable to help work at these different sites, please consider helping by making desserts for the dinner hour. Anything that you can do to help will be most appreciated!!

You can contact me at 570-8343 or email me at [jrb351@msn.com](mailto:jrb351@msn.com) with anything that you can do to help!

*"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters you do to me" Matthew 25:40.*

In His Grip,

Terry Costello

## Adult Supper Club

The Adult Supper Club will meet on the 3rd Tuesday (November 15) at 6 p.m.

Last month we met at The Vineyards at Kiln Creek and enjoyed fine food and fellowship.

Contact Bucky Holmes for additional information.

Photo by Brenda Tagge



## Women's Study Group

Monday, November 21, 2016 10 am in Fellowship Hall

Come for a lively discussion of An Unhurried Life

### *The Practice of "Slowing"*

Thoughts to Ponder:

What do I need to do to be spiritually healthy?

Do I suffer from "hurry sickness"?

Will I buy anything that promises to help me hurry?

Have I largely traded wisdom for information?

Am I willing to give up "good food" for "fast food"?

Hmmmmmm, come and share; listen and laugh; learn about slowing.

See you there!

Sue Howell



## Children's Church

During the next four weeks, the children will be learning about being thankful and the joy of helping others. They will be working on some service projects to share with others during the upcoming holiday seasons. They will be making Christmas cards for the troops, book marks to hand out to those who receive the Meals-On-Wheels meals, and some woven projects to hand out to shut-ins. We will be caroling in December, and putting together gift bags to hand out to the homeless during the holiday seasons. As always, helping hands on Sunday mornings are always welcomed.

### CHILDRENS UPCOMING EVENTS

December 11 – 4:45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHILI SUPPER

December 18 – 5:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

### **"Christmas Letters"**

*A reflection about the people of Christmas and sing of favorite Christmas carols.*

## **Lectionary Readings for November 2016**

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**November 6, 2016**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 – or – Psalm 98

-or-

Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

**November 13, 2016**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12

-or-

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

**November 20, 2016**

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

-or-

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

**November 27, 2016**

**First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

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## **Adult Sunday School**

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After the Season of Creation and Pentecost, we begin celebrating the Season of Advent on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Come join us as we discuss passages that include powerful visions of hope and peace as seen through the eyes of the prophet Isaiah. We meet in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 10:30 am. Listed below is our focus for November.

November 6: God is Near to All

To praise God and deepen our understanding of God's presence and action in our lives.

(Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21)

November 13: Joy Begins Now

To maintain hope in God's vision of a world of justice and peace and work to help bring it about.

(Isaiah 65:17-25)

November 20: Christ over Chaos

To explore images of Christ and ponder what it means to follow in the way of Christ.

(Colossians 1:11-20)

November 27: God's Path to Peace (Advent)

To explore what it means to live in God's ways of peace.

(Isaiah 2:1-5)

Come join us, even if it's only once a month! It is informal but exciting as we share our thoughts in a safe and loving atmosphere.

## WUCC is still looking for Wishmakers!

By Barbara Harvey

**THANKS to Peggy Cassel for making the following wishes a reality: Bathroom Flooring in the Conference Room & Ladies Bathroom Sink!**

**Wishes needing to be filled** (donations and/or labor): *Please designate your donation to a specific wish.*

**Boiler Fund** - \$3225 still needed — we have collected \$4275 so far!

**Flooring** for the church conference room - *(estimate needed)*

**Paint & labor (or donations)** for the church office and Meals on Wheels room  
*(Approximately \$135 for paint for each room, labor NOT included)*

**Labor** – touch-ups in paint needed for the hallway

**New door locks** for the front sanctuary doors *(estimate needed)*

All prices are approximates, and/or ranges. Actual costs may be less.

Please consider fulfilling a wish or combining your resources with another individual/family to make our wishes come true.



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

Mickey Allen	Mike Kelpaul	Greg Ryan
Kelly Bennett	Bernie Klein	Jesse Saunders
Rosemary Brownrigg	Cindy Kilgore	Nancy Simpson
Geraldine Bolden	Ann Lange	Russ Southard
+ Buffa Family	Donna Langston	+ Jeffrey Spielberger
Tony Colden	Kayla Lennon	+ Spielberg Family
+ Cook-Snell Family	Greg Logan	Rodney Thompson
Costello Family	Heidi & Mike Lord	Stan Thompson
Kevin Court	Lynsie McHinnery	Rosie Upshur
Emerson Family	Audrey Noble	Donal VonGryffn
Joe Gosselin	Miguel O	Meredith Whit
Barry Graham	Nate Masters	
Sandra Ingari	+ Jessica Polanco & Family	

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