

Contact

October 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

Life together is better!

Warwick is an amazing congregation, filled with a diverse group of folks at every angle. Diverse in age, diverse in theology, diverse in gender, diverse in color, diverse in occupations, diverse in sexual orientation, diverse in personalities, diverse in spiritual histories and very, very diverse in expectations.

Our strength is our diversity, bound together by a desire to know and follow Christ. I feel privileged to be invited to renew my covenant with you, as we continue creating a functional family of faith. For me, this is an exciting time, but a little bit scary time. To that anxiety, to that fear God continues to bring to me, "Do not be afraid. Walk in the light."

So, with courage and confidence in you – these are the lights guiding me right now.

- Equip the gifts of those gathering, so they might use them to the glory of God and for the building up one another and their worlds.
- Encourage the conversations that matter, so ideas and passions might find each other and be united to bring forth genuine caring ministries.
- Expand the worship opportunities, so there might be more access to worship and there might be more accommodation of different learning preferences. Increase the quality of Sunday morning worship with more fluid preaching, the visual arts and better preparation further ahead.
- Embrace the challenges. Right now, those challenges seem to be overcoming such limited time together as a people. I must increase my accessibility to you and your accessibility to each other.
- Enjoy the journey! These are amazing days to be alive.

I deeply value your thoughts, your points of passion – your story. Please let me know how I might serve you and your households.

With grace and gratitude,

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 October 26!



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 Voting Rights. In future Contact issues I will post other position papers regarding social justice issues.

The United Church of Christ and ... Voting Rights

Voting is at the heart of the democratic process. It is the most fundamental access point for individuals to engage in the public dialogue and have a voice in the public policy decision-making process that can shape the future of our local, regional, national and global collective life.

Justice cannot be achieved unless the rules for governing the democratic process are fair to all, yet voter rights have been significantly undermined in recent years. We have seen state efforts to restrict voter rights through stringent voter identification laws and rollbacks in early voting, and last year’s Supreme Court decision eliminated key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The UCC General Synod has long supported voting rights and addressing obstacles to participation in the electoral process within the broader context of the civil rights struggle.

UCC Speaks Out

The United Church of Christ’s General Synod decisively adopted a statement brought to the floor July 2 calling on the church to publicly support voter’s rights through public statements, advocacy and actions. The approved resolution was in response to the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down part of the Voting Rights Act as unconstitutional.

Prayerful Reflection

You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you. - Deuteronomy 16:18-20

In this passage from the Scriptures, we hear the call to carefully tend to the ways we order our collective life. A right relationship with God means the practice of right relationship in human community. We are all entrusted, particularly those with power, to make decisions that impact our life together as society.

The call is to act equitably, with impartiality and integrity, and with justice as a guiding value for the common good.

The standard of justice, found over and over in the Scriptures, is the wellbeing of the most vulnerable members of our community. It is the standard by which we discern whether the laws and measures for the order of our society are just and fair.

In our public life together today, where would you say that we are according to such a standard? What are the challenges before us? What might we need to change?



Financial Update as of September 11, 2016

Data provided by Terry Costello

INCOME	
Total Budgeted Income - 9 Months	\$54,975
Received - Year to Date	\$60,313 (as of 9/11/16)
	\$ 5,338 MORE than budgeted for 9 months
Pledged Income - 9 Months	\$42,000
Received - Year to Date	\$41,876 (as of 9/11/16)
	\$ 124 LESS than budgeted
EXPENSES	
Total Budgeted Expenses - 9 Months	\$59,580
Spent - Year to Date	\$60,208 (as of 9/11/16)
	\$ 628 MORE than budgeted
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 1,040.00*
	*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

October 1	Fall Baked Goods and Yard Sale
October 2	Communion Sunday* “What is your Super Power?” 11 a.m.
October 4	Communion to nursing homes
October 8	Young Adults Cook-out, See page 10
October 9	Sermon: “Settle Down” 11 a.m.
October 12	Book Club, 1:30 p.m.
October 15	EVA Annual Meeting, See page 7
October 16	Children’s Choir practice, 10 a.m. Sermon: “Nags Wanted” 11 a.m. 3rd Sunday Lunch with Guests, 12 p.m. See page 9 Crop Walk, See page 6
October 17	Last Day to Register to Vote
October 18	Adult Supper Club, 6 p.m.
October 23	Sermon: “Keeping-Up” 11 a.m. Trunk or Treat, 4 p.m.
October 30	Children’s Choir practice, 10 a.m. 5th Sunday



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

Matsiko Choir Visits Warwick UCC

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, at 1:30 PM, Warwick United Church of Christ hosted the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. The choir presented an exciting action-packed concert of songs, dances and testimonies to the Warwick UCC community. This concert was the first in what I hope will be a series of concerts in the near future. The concert was so well received and it brought so much joy to the audience. I am pretty sure that if we ever get them to return to Warwick the Church will be packed. It was truly a pleasure to have these polite kids from Liberia, India and Peru to entertain the Warwick community with such energy, talent and professionalism. If you did not attend this concert you really missed a treat! Their purpose for the concerts involves raising money to help other children to have the things a lot of Americans take for granted. Food, Clothing and being able to attend college are just a few of the things the money from the Matsiko concerts provide for the children in need from Peru, Liberia and India. May God bless them as they continue to give Hope, Love and Joy through song and dance as they continue their world tour!



Rudy Wilson, Director of Music

Matsiko Choir Visits Warwick UCC, continued

Photos by Sue Howell & Brenda Tagge



Crop Walk 2016

CROP Walk, an element of Church World Service, will be held on Sunday, **October 16**. Registration begins at 1:00 PM and the 3-mile walk begins at 2:00. We walk symbolically because many people around the world have to walk many miles to get food and water, and to simply live. The funds raised help people in this country and around the world who need assistance, be it in times of natural and human made disasters, emergencies or for long term conditions. Warwick UCC has participated in CROP Walk for several years and it is hoped that we can make a significant contribution this year. Certainly floods in Maryland a few months ago and those presently happening in Louisiana will be assisted by the Church World Service.

Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will be shared by THRIVE Peninsula and the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, both organizations do great ministry to those in need in our community. More information will be forthcoming but “think on it” and let’s make Warwick a significant contributor.



Mission Collection



Looking to drop off items for mission collections? Check out the new drop off center! You'll find bins for just about everything that we collect at Warwick throughout the year. Does your POP need a collection bin? Let Amanda know and she'll make a label for one of the unclaimed bins. Check your bins weekly to pick up donations, please!

Housing Fund

As many of you know from the special appeal in a recent weekly e-blast, several members of Warwick have been working together to help a local college student in need of housing and other basic necessities. He has been found a safe place to stay for the next few weeks, and has accepted the job of Janitor here at the church.

We are asking for donations to offset his housing expense and transportation needs. If you are able to help financially, please make your donation to WUCC and note that it is for the Chris Davis Housing Fund. If you have questions and/or can help in other ways, please contact Barbara Harvey or Bucky Holmes.



An Old Fashioned Pounding

Twice Blessed is the Harvest We Share

You are invited to take part in an old-fashioned pounding which will begin on Sunday, October 18th. 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 1: Oct. 23

2 cans of gravy, 2 cans of broth, large box of stuffing

Week 2: Oct. 30

Box of bread mix or corn meal mix, can of cranberry sauce

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**

EVA Annual Meeting

EASTERN VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

47th ANNUAL MEETING

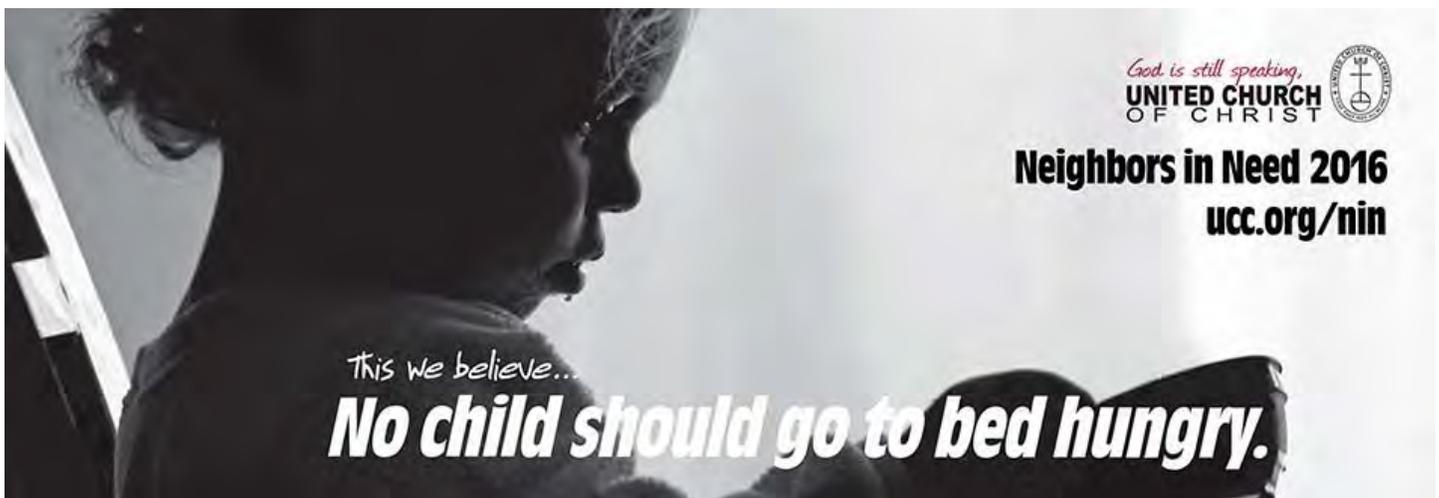
The Christian Church Uniting UCC
6049 Indian River Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Saturday, October 15, 2016

THEME: "Equipping God's People"
Scripture: Ephesians 4: 12 (NIV)

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Neighbors in Need



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

We will be collecting the Neighbors in Need offering on October 9th, during the 11 a.m. service.

To learn more visit: ucc.org/nin

Our Church Family...

Book Club

Book Club meets Wednesday, October 12 at 1:30, in the Conference Room to discuss Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*. All are welcome. Contact Brenda Tagge for more information.

Jan Orr hosted the book club for a viewing of "The Chosen" on Wednesday, Sept. 28.



3rd Sunday Lunch with Guests

Penny Henderson and several folks from Lynnhaven Colony UCC will be with us for our third Sunday lunch (October 16). We hope to engage them in a discussion about their church's history and experience as they lost attendees/members, how they handled leadership and kept themselves going, as well as what they looked for in an interim and how they found one, then two and where they are now. Please plan to join us and bring a dish to share.

Adult Supper Club

The Adult Supper Club will meet on the 3rd Tuesday (October 18) at 6 p.m.
This month we will meet at The Vineyards at Kiln Creek.

1405-P Kiln Creek Pkwy, Newport News, VA 23602

Contact Bucky Holmes if you need additional information.



Women's Retreat

You're Invited...



WOMEN'S WEEKEND 2016

October 28th - 30th

Camp Selah +Sutherlin, Virginia

A time of RETREAT, not a conference.

Enjoy time in nature, in conversation and experiencing THE HEALING FORCE,
as you engage through drumming your own inner self and enjoy the joviality of a weekend away.
Other non-invasive activities will be available, but you can choose just to sleep the whole weekend.

There will be plenty of amazing food, you don't have to cook,
Fire poking, 'til your heart is content and
Conversations with Others Like Yourself.

You bring yourself, linens for a twin bed and whatever else you think you want to haul.

Rocking chairs are provided.
Good company is guaranteed.

\$125.00 (Scholarships are Available)
Register on line www.campselahministries.



E-Blast for Children, Families, and Intergenerational Activities

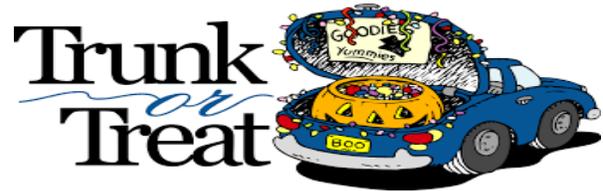
From the Children's POP of Warwick UCC

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

With Mr. Rudy

3rd & 5th Sundays

In October at 10:00 a.m.



October 23

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to decorate their car and come out for a great time with the children as they play some games and go "Trunk or Treating". There will also be some "treats" for the adults with the best decorated car, most spooky car, and several other categories. Sign up outside of the children's room if you are going to decorate a vehicle.

Young Adults Cook-out

October 8 5:00 p.m.

Come join us for a fall cook-out at Michael & Amanda Bartley's house. Children are invited. BYOBverage (responsibly), and a side dish to share with the group. Car-pooling is suggested because of limited parking.



Children's Church

For the next six weeks during Children's Church the kids will be making some gifts to give to others during the upcoming holiday seasons. Our goal is to teach the children to have joyful hearts in giving to others so that they can grow closer to God and understand the life-changing benefits of helping others who are alone and in need. Some projects we will be working on are:

- *holiday cards for the troops,
- *woven pouches for elderly shut-ins and nursing home patients,
- *holiday placemats for Meals On Wheels to deliver with the meals,
- *bring change every week to drop in the "Change for Change" jug that will benefit a local charity the children will choose as a group to give to.

Volunteers to help each week are always needed!! Sign up on the board outside of the children's room.

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!

Upcoming Activities:



What is a POP?

At Warwick, on a trial basis, we suspended all committees and boards, and created a flexible, passion driven way of creating and sustaining ministry. - POP - Point, Place, People of Passion. This is our way of allowing people to answer the passions God calls them to and to respond quickly, but with others and with the support of their church. Our guiding values on this are simple: You need to find one another person who has an interest in the same vision or need and you need to allow anyone who wants to participate. So there are no secret meetings, just collaborative use of your gifts. The most important thing is communication with each other and the larger church body and us being sure you have what you need, whether that be space, time, materials - yes even money do the work.

POPs can work a short time or they can be a longer commitment - that's all up to the POP. You are not elected to a POP; you choose to serve with others who honor that choice. With the fall approaching and the holy-days ahead, I am looking for two new POPs to emerge.

VISIBLE WITNESS POP

This POP will work on how to increase WARWICK's visibility on this corner. While we will decide what to prioritize, at a minimum we will be looking a signage and grounds keeping. We will also be inviting members of our Recovery Groups to participate in this POP. We have been entrusted with this very busy corner, and we must make visible that we are here and ALL are welcome, no matter where they are on their journey. Please consider joining this POP! Our first gathering will be immediately following worship Sunday, October 9th. Pizza will be delivered. Donations for lunch welcome. BYOB.

LITURGY AND THE ARTS

Liturgy literally means 'work of the people'. It happens when we bring our creative selves to engage with Scripture and our spiritual yearnings. Anyone interested in the visual arts, drama, music, fabric, graphics please consider meeting together on Sunday, October 16th, at 9:00 a.m. Fruit and coffee/tea will be available to hold you over. Initially we will be looking at the season of Advent and our worship space. What might we do to engage all our senses in worship. If you know someone who has gifts, but are not regular participants in Warwick, please feel free to invite them.

Until lay leadership emerges (and I expect that to happen quickly) - I will convene these two POPS. Can't wait to see where your passions are!

Sallye

Register to VOTE!



The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming general election on November 8th is 5 PM on Tuesday, October 17th. To be eligible to register to vote you must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Virginia, and at least 18 years of age by Election Day. Citizens can register to vote online, in-person or by mail. Visit the Virginia Department of Elections' website at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

3rd Sunday Request

We all enjoy our third Sunday receptions. It's a time to visit with our friends and have a tasty lunch. However, there does seem to be a recurring problem—that is the food that is left over. We are asking folks who bring food to please take it home with you or give it away. If not, it sits in the fridge and grows “green stuff” –not good!! Thanks!

Lectionary Readings for October 2016

October 2, 2016

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26 -or- Psalm 137
-or-
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 9, 2016

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
-or-
2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15c
Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

October 16, 2016

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
-or-
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 23, 2016

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
-or-
Sirach 35:12-17 -or- Jeremiah 14:7-10,
19-22
Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Luke 18:9-14

October 30, 2016

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
-or-
Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

Adult Sunday School

Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion of scripture during this Season of Pentecost: a time of growing in faith. We will explore a number of Jesus' teachings and parables about discipleship from the gospel of Luke. We meet in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 10:30 am. Listed below is our focus for October.

October 2: Living Love Letter

To acknowledge ways we have received faith and have nurtured faith in others. (Job 38:1-18)

October 9: Reoriented toward Gratitude

To reflect on the experience and practice of gratitude. (Luke 17:11-19)

October 16: A Voice for Justice

To persevere in prayer and working for the ways of God's reign. (Luke 18: 1-18)

October 25: Dance of Pride and Humility

To cultivate a spirit of humility that opens us to God and one another. (Luke 18:9-14)

October 30: Salvation for All

To be assured of God's acceptance which empowers us to accept others. (Luke 19:1-10)

Come join us even if is 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

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

Boiler Fund - \$3485 still needed — we have collected \$4015 so far!

Flooring for bathroom in the church conference room – the bathroom door can not be closed (\$100)

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*)

New sink in the ladies room (\$210)



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	Cindy Kilgore	Jeffrey Spielberg
Kelly Bennett	Ann Lange	Rodney Thompson
Rosemary Brownrigg	Donna Langston	Stan Thompson
Geraldine Bolden	Greg Logan	Rosie Upshur
Tony Colden	Heidi & Mike Lord	+ Donal VonGryffn
+ Cook-Snell Family	Lynsie McIhinney	Meredith White
Costello Family	Audrey Noble	
Kevin Court	Miguel O	
Emerson Family	+ Jessica Polanco & Family	
Joe Gosselin	Greg Ryan	
+ Hernandez Family	Jesse Saunders	
Sandra Ingari	Nancy Simpson	
Mike Kelpaul	Russ Southard	

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