

Contact

August 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

This Jesus guy...

I am rediscovering who Jesus was to his times and who he is to my life and work. So I share a bit of that journey with you. Our Scriptures give us insight to how he understood his role on this good earth, perhaps they can guide us into how/what our own life purposes and work could be. Jesus said:

"I am the true vine." John 11:105

How did Jesus 'grow with people?' What do you help grow in your life? Who are you attached to for your own growth? What shoots would you like to see spring forth in our congregation? in your own personal lives?

"I am the bread of life." John 6:35-48

Who do you feed? Consider this literally – first. Where are we involved in being sure people have what they need to eat? But also, how are we being fed and feeding each other with conversations and actions that make sure we are healthy enough to do the works God is calling us to do.

"I am the light of the world." John 8:12 – 9:5

Where do we need more light in our lives? What do we need to see more fully? Who are the lights of your personal lives? Who empowers you to see how to avoid falling, to find your way in the darkness? What area of our life together needs increased light?

"I am the gate." John 10:7

What gates have I walked through recently? Are there any places or ideas that I would like to visit, but just can't seem to open the gate? What doors are we able to open for others? What if we looked at our budget process as a gate opener? Are you or I keeping gates locked, rather than allowing others to come into our worlds? Are we afraid to walk through a new gate?

"I am the good shepherd." John 10:11-14

A good shepherd protects and feeds the sheep. Are we really good shepherds? By the way, who are our sheep? Whose sheep are we? Who do you feel takes care of you?

"I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25

Are there parts of you that you desperately want to be resurrected – perhaps your energy? Your creativity? Your desire to be in relationships? Your desire to know God or to be known more fully by someone? What have we allowed to die or has been killed within us, that needs to be resurrected to new life? The life word is interesting – it means energy - movement.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14.6

This is my core belief, that in the person of Jesus I am able to find my way, discover new truths and live a life of meaning and joy. But there are so many questions. How might we focus on pursuing truths that matter, in ways that work so we empower life in ourselves and in our world? What is your core truth? What ways are you living it? Where do you experience genuine life?

Perhaps the biggest question is not who Jesus was/is, but who we are. Let's talk.

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 August 28!

Upcoming Events

- August 6 Communion Sunday*
Sermon: "Where is Y(our) Boat?" - 11 AM
- August 13 Sermon: "Techniques or Theology" - 11 AM
- August 15 Adult Supper Club - 6 PM
- August 20 Sermon: "Fish Fries" - 11 AM
Presidential Praise (during worship, see page 3)
3rd Sunday Luncheon
- August 27 Sermon: "The Next Day" - 11 AM
Council Meeting (after worship)
- August 28 CONTACT Deadline (Send items to wuccupdates@gmail.com)
- September 23 Sewing POP - 10 AM



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

Adult Supper Club



August 15th, 6 PM
Steve's Steakhouse
11847 Jefferson Ave.
(757) 595-9483

Church Council Meeting

August 27th

Following 11 AM Service

Learn about the Strategic Planning POP's ideas for the Church building!

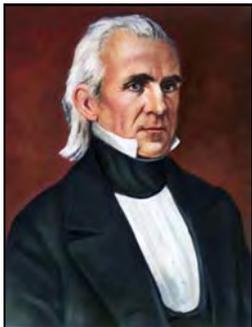
Open to Everyone. Only Council Members can vote.

Sewing POP

On **September 23, 2017**, the Sewing POP will meet at 10 am - 2 pm. We will be making pillowcase dresses. This is a mission project for children in Africa.

Contact Linda Manning for details (ldmanning@aol.com or [757-897-7982](tel:757-897-7982))

Choir Notes



Presidential Praise – President James K. Polk’s Favorite Hymn

On August 20th, one of our hymns for the 11AM morning service will be “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”. The grand design of this hymn is the positive message it presents of the kingship of Christ. All Christians give highest honors to Jesus’ name as they “crown Him Lord of all”. This hymn had special meaning to President James K. Polk as he carried out the task of expansion of territories during his administration.

James Polk (1795-1849) served as the 11th U.S. president from 1845 to 1849. He previously served as the 13th Speaker of the House of Representatives and as Governor of Tennessee.

At age 49, this democrat, President James Polk, set an agenda with four major goals: cut tariffs, reestablish an independent U.S. Treasury, secure the Oregon Territory and acquire the territories of California and New Mexico from Mexico. Polk eventually achieved all his goals.

Polk’s appreciation of music was not strong. There are no records of any hymns being sung in the white house while he was president. However, records do show that James Polk’s most favorite hymn was “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”. It became extremely popular in 1793 when American composer Oliver Holden wrote the tune “Coronation” to this Hymn’s powerful words. It has been sung to this tune ever since. Edward Perronet, who wrote the words of the hymn, was a protégé of John Wesley and served as one of his itinerant preachers for quite some time.

The 1st verse of the hymn is based on Matthew 28:18, Acts 4:12 and Revelation 19:16. The 2nd verse refers to the Christian church as the “new Israel” based on Galatians 3:29. Verse 3 an all-inclusive prayer for sinners to remember Christ’s atoning death; is from Lamentations 3:19. Using Revelation 7: 9 & 10, the message becomes clear for every tribe in verse 4; these words are for all people on our globe. The climaxing words in the last verse are beautifully stated in Philippians 2:10 & 11, which tells us that someday “every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father”.

I was surprised, being a lover of US history in high school and college, that these facts about Pres. James K. Polk had eluded me for several years. I hope this article has jogged your memories of the great deeds of this president.

Rudy Wilson – Director of Music

(This article was compiled using the information from “Presidential Praise” by C. Edward Spann & Michael E. Williams, Sr.)

Special Donations

From time to time church members will ask for donations for an activity outside of church related programs, such as the Citrus Sale for THRIVE, or the recent fundraiser by Rev. Robin for children’s cancer research, etc. For these type of donations, please give your donation directly to the individual who is “running the show” versus making the donation payable to WUCC or sending cash in an envelope through offering.

You may be wondering how you will get the tax credit for the non-WUCC donation. Unfortunately, you will need to contact the person in charge of that activity to get a receipt.

Per the IRS, we can only accept donations for our denominational special offerings, such as OCWM, or for a project directly related to WUCC, such as the Children’s POP, etc.

This may sound strange, but running the money for other fundraisers through the church accounts is considered “laundering” money. The person who is in charge of that particular fundraiser can provide Terry with the total amount of money raised so that we can report it to the congregation, but we cannot include it in our financials.

Please speak with Terry Costello if you have any issues. Thank you for your understanding.

Barbara Harvey – Administrative Community Facilitator

Financial Update as of July 27, 2017

Data provided by Terry Costello

| INCOME | |
|---|------------|
| Total Expected Income - 7 Months | \$ 48,705 |
| | |
| Received - Year to Date | \$ 45,461 |
| | |
| Expected Offering Income - 7 Months | \$ 44,155 |
| | |
| Received - Year to Date | \$ 40,520 |
| | |
| EXPENSES | |
| Total Expected Expenses - 7 Months | \$ 48,705 |
| | |
| Spent - Year to Date | \$ 51,733 |
| | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date: | \$ 1,594 * |
| *Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds. Includes UCC Special Offerings. | |

Building Update

Here is a quick update of some of the things that have been happening in and around the church building:

- The Strategic POP has met and reviewed the proposals of 3 architects regarding potential interior building renovations. The POP will present its findings and recommendations at the Church Council Meeting scheduled for August 27th, following the service. All are welcome to attend, though only Council Members can vote.
- A new recovery group will begin meeting at WUCC on Mondays (8:30 PM - 9:30 PM) and Thursdays (8:00 PM - 9:00 PM) as approved by the Council. An updated list will be placed in the hallway.
- The Fellowship Hall air conditioner unit needs to be inspected and perhaps repaired. The unit is dispensing its condensation through its overflow line vs. the correct line.

Barbara Harvey

Building Usage Note

As everyone knows, the Church is getting used by a lot of groups. We have a calendar in the hallway just outside of the Sanctuary. Anyone who has an activity or group meeting PLEASE put the event on the Calendar! You need to put the date and time and which room or rooms you need. We don't want to get two events scheduled for the same room at the same time. I appreciate your help.

Thanks, *Tim*

Missions Notes

From Amanda Bartley:

For a project for my psychology class this semester I am collecting feminine hygiene products, which will be distributed at the food bank at Marshall Early Learning Center later this summer. Marshall ELC is an elementary school serving low-income First Step and Kindergarten children and their families. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! A collection box will be available next to the Nursery.

For more information, feel free to email me at mandieleigh@gmail.com



As much as we don't want to admit, school will be starting before we know it! Virginia's tax free weekend for school supplies is August 4-6. This year we will be delivering supplies to Hidenwood Elementary, the church's zoned school. Items the school needs include tissues, sanitizer, Clorox wipes, Ziploc bags of all sizes, crayons, pencils, erasers, composition notebooks, etc. A supply list can be found at most retailers or at <http://hidenwood.nn.k12.va.us/documents/hidenwoodsapplylist.pdf>. Look for the collection box next to the Nursery.

Reflections . . .

Things I learned from children; Summer 2017

I have been privileged to spend a month on 37 acres, with over a hundred children and adults who care about them. I am always inspired by those who fear the water on the first day and beg to jump in the deep on the last. I am forever amazed by those who feel so deeply as they choose the color they will paint their rock, the silly song they like best and their willingness to try anything. But most of all, my confidence in God is renewed as I watch a child reach up and take the hand of their camp buddy, to walk in the dark to their sleeping space – once again, trusting a stranger they only just met. Yes, my friends, God is still speaking. Will we listen?

God is most often experienced through our senses... the more we touch, see, hear our environment, the more we will experience God.

Implications: Spend more time in nature and more time in my right brain, than my left.

Warwick Implications: Where do we use our right brains in our life together? Could an art studio be helpful in the church? Perhaps in-house retreats that allow this type of time.

Feeling safe and loved is the basis for all exploration – mentally and physically.

Implications: Creating safe, accessible places and people is crucial to spirituality.

Warwick Implications: Can our congregants identify one person who they feel safe to share their life with – it's good and not-so-good parts? Does this need to be more intentional?

Stories are forever new!

Implications: Embrace these ancient texts and make them come alive for this generation.

Warwick Implications: Take a text and stick with it! Create ways for congregants to share their own insights into the same texts.

Questioning is the first step to creating. Yes or no questions stop the conversations.

Implications: Genuine curiosity is essential to genuine relationships.

Warwick Implications: Formation of the right questions is crucial to assessing our life together and preparing for the future together. We must not be afraid. We must avoid the tendency to discard the past and instead build upon it.

Any day is limitless:

Implications: Be sensitive to every moment, realizing it has enormous potential. Live in it!

Warwick Implications: Pay attention to the evolving community that is gathering. All of us are increased by each other.

Sallye

General Synod 31: Justice Recap

July 12, 2017

Written by **Jessie Palatucci**



The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is the national decision-making body for our denomination, responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC. From June 30 – July 4 members of our denomination gathered to consider a number of resolutions or statements of witness on social and political issues that we (members from throughout the life of the church) believe are of concern.

Here's a brief recap, featuring coverage from **United Church News**, of some of the actions taken by the General Synod that relate to our work as justice advocates:

Actions Taken



UCC Honors Standing Rock Youth Water Protectors

The United Church of Christ presented the inaugural Movement Makers Award to the youth of the Standing Rock Water Protectors on Saturday, July 1, to a standing ovation from the entire house. Ten young people stood as representatives of their movement, testifying both to the work they have done and to their commitment in the continuing struggle. ([Read more.](#))

Traci Blackmon elected overwhelmingly to lead UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries

The Rev. Traci Blackmon was elected the executive minister of United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries by delegates to General Synod 2017 on Sunday evening, July 2, after serving in that capacity as acting executive minister for 19 months. ([Read more.](#))

UCC marchers demand immigration justice

In its first action as an Immigrant Welcoming Church, the United Church of Christ marched with the family and friends of an Annapolis, Md., artist and grandfather, seized outside his home on his way to work and detained the past three months by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Some 275 people, chanting in English and in Spanish, gathered to support the family of Guillermo Recinos Morales and to urge the ICE chief counsel to reopen his case so he can apply for asylum and remain with his wife and children in his Annapolis community. In the blazing July sunshine, the group rallied outside General Synod at the Baltimore Convention Center and headed to the Baltimore ICE headquarters a few blocks away for a vigil and prayer service. ([Read more.](#))

Resolutions Passed

United Church of Christ emphatically affirmed an Immigrant Welcoming Church

Underscoring the love of neighbor, with several speakers proclaiming that no human is illegal, delegates to General Synod 2017 overwhelmingly declared itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination and called on all settings of the United Church of Christ to do the same. ([Read more.](#))

Synod votes to support Palestinian children in Israeli military detention

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution calling for an end to what is being described as "traumatic" practices by Israeli military against Palestinian children. The resolution, brought forward by 16 individual UCC churches, calls on the state of Israel to guarantee Palestinian children younger than age 18 their basic due process rights and to prohibit any use of torture or ill-treatment of detained juveniles in the occupied territories. ([Read more.](#))



Our Denomination ... (cont'd)

Resolutions Passed - continued from previous page

Cuban embargo causes suffering, General Synod resolves to open doors

A resolution that began with UCC delegations to Cuba and exchanges in the Southern Conference produced a strong Synod resolution to end the United States embargo that blocks normal cultural, educational and economic exchange between nations that are neighbors. ([Read more.](#))



Declaring the Earth is the Lord's, UCC calls for environmental imperatives for a new moral era

The United Church of Christ, noting both the urgency of climate change and the continued debate over its existence, is "raising its prophetic voice" to urge the "healing of the Earth." On Monday, July 3, the delegates of the General Synod passed a resolution that calls on clergy across the life of the church to preach about the moral obligation to protect God's creation, and appeals to its members to lead efforts to educate and advocate for legislation to reduce the human impact on the environment. ([Read more.](#))

Youth voices lead the way on gun violence resolution

Guided in large part by the voices of youth, General Synod 2017 enthusiastically passed a resolution of witness Monday urging the recognition of gun violence as a public health emergency deserving of federal funding for scientific research. ([Read more.](#))

Delegates Approve Economic Justice Resolution Calling for Living Wages, Job Creation, and a \$15 Minimum Wage

Delegates to the United Church of Christ's General Synod 2017 approved a resolution calling for all jobs to pay a living wage, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, job creation so everyone who wants a job has one, and support for workers seeking better wages and working conditions. The final resolution was a combination of two resolutions brought before Synod for consideration from the Connecticut Conference and the UCC Economic Justice Movement. ([Read more.](#))

General Synod addresses need to promote opportunities for people with disabilities

Approved by 98 percent of the General Synod delegates on Tuesday, July 4, the resolution "Toward Disability Justice" is, at its core, a guideline for the wider church on how to include persons with disabilities in their ministries and social justice witness. The resolution calls the church to "points of justice," such as the ADA, access to public education, fair wages and unemployment, police brutality, health disparities, and disaster preparedness—all of which build on what General Synod has spoken to. But it also adds to what it has not—for instance, addressing the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. ([Read more.](#))



Synod Affirms Wendy's Boycott

General Synod voted overwhelmingly to endorse the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' boycott of Wendy's restaurants. That resolution cited Wendy's refusal over the past 10 years to join the Fair Food program, which has sought to improve working conditions in the Florida tomato fields. The resolution noted that 14 other major food retailers participate in the program, and have agreed to purchase tomatoes only from suppliers who meet a worker-designed code of conduct that prohibits slavery and sexual harassment, establishes a grievance procedure and provides a penny-a-pound pay raise for tomato pickers. ([Read more](#) and [sign the petition to boycott Wendy's.](#))

For more information, this article can be found at: http://www.ucc.org/general_synod_31_justice_recap



Lectionary Readings for August 2017

August 6, 2017

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

* Isaiah 55:1-5

* Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2017

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

* 1 Kings 19:9-18

* Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2017

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

* Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

* Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2017

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

* Isaiah 51:1-6

* Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

* Alternate First Reading and Psalm

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| + Anderson Family | Michelle Flores & Family | Sasha Patterson |
| Mickey Allen | Terrie Sam-Garris | Ronda Peffley |
| Kelly Bennett | Pat Grant | + The Polanco Family |
| Mike Barnes | Barry Graham | Carlos Polanco |
| Geraldine Bolden | Harold Hall | Greg Ryan |
| Xavier Bonano | Sandra Ingari | Jesse Saunders |
| Tristen Brown | Mike Kelpaul | Lori Sanders |
| Trudy Burdge | Cindy Kilgore | Nancy Simpson |
| Larry Burns | Ann Lange | + Will Smith & Family |
| Ann Charlescraft | Donna Langston | Family of Mark Sturgis |
| Tony Colden | Heidi & Mike Lord | Jeffrey Spielberg |
| Dvey Family | Mrs. Martinez | + Spielberg Family |
| Costello Family | Nate Masters | Bob Snaz |
| Kevin Court | Donald Msessersmith | Cynthia Thomas |
| Bonnie Dingers | + McMullin & Family | + Thomas Family |
| Martha Dunn & Family | Audrey Noble | + Upshur Family |
| Yolanda Earl & Children | Notoella Family | Donal VonGryffin |
| Emerson Family | Miguel O | Meredith White |
| Fawn Faulks | Larry Paccone | Kathy Young |
| Yvette Ferguson | Ted & Michelle Paccone | Rachel York |
| + USS Fitzgerald & Family | Terry P | |

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