

# Contact

September 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

### Our Life Together

**Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Labor Day - *Blessing of the Backpacks and School Year***

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, Grandparents Day - *Congregational Luncheon***

This is a potluck – perhaps bring your favorite recipe from your grandparents? Bring your grandparents, bring your grandchildren! Christian faith is intergenerational, we learn from each other. Spend time with each other – that is your greatest gift!

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 7 pm - *Forgiving Beads***

In the spirit of our Gospel Lesson, join Sallye in making bracelets or rosary's as a tool to help us receive and give forgiveness. Clay and threading materials will be provided. If you are a jeweler and would like to participate or donate materials, please let Sallye know. Facilitators are needed.

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, Sermon: “Lordy Mercy” - *A Call to POP!***

Let's use this Sunday to develop our life together. Bring a bag lunch or something microwavable and plan to meet for a couple of hours after church. This would at the least involve: LGBT POP, Children's POP, Buildings and Grounds POP and Visible Witness POP. Wine, juice and cheese provided. Perhaps if we can meet every other month or so regularly, we can avoid so many meetings that seem to get poorly attended.

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> - *Partners in Building: Cleveland***

Representatives from Warwick will attend a workshop with our national office to enlist them as a resource for future development of our property, specifically for the upgrading the building to be handicapped accessible.

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, Sermon: “Nonsense!”**

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> - *Amazing Race: Conversations that Matter***

Dr. Rhonda Zingraff and Warwick People  
Opening Session 3 pm on Saturday  
Catered Dinner  
Evening Session with Fireside Chat and Worship

**Sunday, October 1 - *World Wide Communion Sunday***

Special Sessions will continue.

### Upcoming Dates:

October 29<sup>th</sup> - Community Trunk or Treat Festival (date to be confirmed)  
November 19<sup>th</sup> - Festival Feast and Honoring of Our Elders  
November 27<sup>th</sup> - Advent Begins

*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  
September 25!**

## Upcoming Events

- September 3      Communion Sunday\*  
Adult Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
Sermon: "Labors of Love" - 11 AM
- September 10     Adult Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
Sermon: "Learning and Yearning" - 11 AM  
Congregational Luncheon (see front page)
- September 11     Women's Study Group - 10 AM
- September 16     Forgiving Beads - 3 - 7 PM
- September 17     Adult Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
Sermon: "Lordy Mercy" - 11 AM  
A Call to POP! (see front page)
- September 19     Adult Supper Club - 6 PM
- September 24     Adult Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
Youth Choir Practice - 10 AM  
Sermon: "Non-Sense" - 11 AM  
Presidential Praise (during worship, see page 3)
- September 25     CONTACT Deadline (send items to [wuccupdates@gmail.com](mailto:wuccupdates@gmail.com))
- September 30     Amazing Race: Conversations that Matter - 3 PM (see front page)
- October 1          World Communion Sunday
- October 8          Crop Walk
- October 15         New Members Welcomed



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

## Adult Supper Club



September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM  
Steve's Steakhouse  
11847 Jefferson Ave.  
(757) 595-9483

## Choir Notes



### Presidential Praise – President Grover Cleveland’s Favorite Hymn

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, one of our hymns for the 11AM morning service will be “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”. This was President Grover Cleveland’s most favored hymn, according to information provided by the president’s wife Mrs. Frances Cleveland.

Stephen Grover Cleveland (March 18, 1837- June 24, 1908) was an American politician and lawyer who was the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Cleveland was the only President in American history to serve two non-consecutive terms in office (1885-89 and 1893-97). President Cleveland and President Woodrow Wilson were the only two Democrats to be elected president during the era of Republican domination dating from 1861 to 1933.

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” is the best and one of only a few hymns that has been successfully translated into English from the Welsh language. Translated by Peter Williams, it consisted of three of the original five stanzas in Welsh. William Williams (no relation to Peter) was satisfied with the first stanza, but considerably revised the second and completely rewrote the third.

The tune Regent Square, which was sung to the text of William Williams during Cleveland’s presidency, was originally written for Horatius Bonar’s hymn “Glory Be to God the Father”. He named the tune Regent Square since Williams was the minister of Regent Square Church in London at the time. This same tune often has been used for James Montgomery’s 1816 Christmas hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory”.

The imagery of the hymn is drawn from the Exodus story of the Israelites’ journey to the Promised Land. It’s fairly certain that this text was especially meaningful to Cleveland during his second term because of the nation’s financial crisis of 1893. The first stanza’s last phrase could be better understood as “Feed me till I am no more in need, till the hunger of my soul is satisfied.” The second stanza, while coming from Exodus 17, clearly refers to 1 Corinthians 10:4, where Paul boldly declares, “The Rock was Christ.” It is from Christ that the “healing stream” flows. This stanza may have been helpful to President Cleveland as he dealt with the railroad strike and his use of federal troops in his first term.

The final stanza may symbolize the physical problems Cleveland encountered, such as his cancer. This also may have been a valued hymn during his moment of crisis in 1904 when Cleveland’s beloved daughter passed away.

President Grover Cleveland chose wisely in selecting this positive hymn of comfort as his favorite hymn of all.

*Rudy Wilson – Director of Music*

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

## Youth Choir Practice

The Youth Choir will have practice on  
Sunday, September 24th from  
10 AM to 10:30 AM



# Financial Update as of August 20, 2017

Data provided by Terry Costello

INCOME	
Total Expected Income - All Sources - 8 Months	\$ 55,663
Received - Year to Date	\$ 51,696
Expected Offering Income - Pledged & Loose - 8 Months	\$ 50,463
Received - Year to Date	\$ 44,446
EXPENSES	
Total Expected Expenses - 8 Months	\$ 55,663
Spent - Year to Date	\$ 57,930
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.	

## Warwick Missions...

# 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. This program runs from November to the following March for 20 weeks. Churches volunteer to be a “host” church where they are open as a shelter for seven consecutive days. Partnering churches provide volunteers and meals during the time that they are operating.

Warwick is scheduled to work on December 2-3 at Peninsula Korean Baptist Church at 972 Harpersville Road in Newport News and during the week of Jan 3 – Jan 10 at St. Jerome’s Catholic Church on Denbigh Blvd. This date has yet to be determined but it will be only one day during that week.

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. We are able to purchase food at the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank to help defray some food costs. As many of you know, my daughter is a teacher at Woodside, and she has many students that volunteer to work with us in this ministry. (They even show up at 4 am in the morning eager to serve breakfast!)

You may contact me at 570-8343 or email at [jrb351@msn.com](mailto:jrb351@msn.com) for any assistance that you may be able to give. I will be updating the Contact and bulletin as the time approaches.

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

Terry Costello

## Robin's Nest



Summer is almost gone, school is up and running, and so is the life of the church! September always brings in a refreshing beginning to the end of the year events in the life of the church. Keep on the look out for some changes with the children on Sundays as well. We hope to have some older children using their gifts in worship and in acolyting.

### Upcoming Calendar Events:

Sept. 10



Grandparents Day Celebration –

All children are asked to bring a picture of their grandparents in on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> to hang in the sanctuary to honor their grandparents on this very special day. We also invite all grandparents to come to worship on the 10<sup>th</sup> for a special recognition and Pot Luck Luncheon afterwards. This will be a great time to celebrate family!

Oct. 29

Trunk or Treat - 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. - On this Sunday evening, the adults of our congregation are invited to decorate their cars and bring “treats” for this special event for the children in our church and community. There will be fun for everyone! Special recognition and prizes will be given for the BEST Car Decoration, MOST SCARIEST Car, and MOST CREATIVE decorated car. The children will go from car to car to collect yummy treats, and carnival like games can be played by all. Sign up sheet for those decorating cars will be in the hall soon. More information on event will be coming.



Nov. 19



Children's Contribution to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Thanksgiving Luncheon – Our children will be making special “Thanksgiving” place mats and decorations for our Thanksgiving luncheon as their way of sharing their gifts with our congregation. They also are preparing a special prayer of thanks for our meal.

Dec. 3

Intergenerational Advent Fair – 3:00 – 6:00 P.M. – Everyone is invited to come and prepare for the Advent season! Each household will be building their own Advent wreath they can use in their home for the season, as well as making some other Advent crafts and gifts for their family and friends. Dinner will follow. More details to come.



Dec. 22



Caroling and Chili Supper – The whole congregation is invited to participate as we go caroling in our community neighborhood and bring some Christmas cheer. After warming their hearts, we will meet back at the church and warm our tummies with a chili supper. More details to come.

### Watch for more information coming about:

Secret Santa beginning in October.

Children's Christmas Program to be determined and announced in October.

### Reminder:

Children's Choir begins September 26.

## Adult Sunday School



*Jerusalem Lily,  
Newport News,  
Virginia*



*Hatteras Island,  
North Carolina*

Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion of scripture during this Season of Creation as we think about what it means to live in right relationship with each other and the whole of creation. We meet in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 10:30 am. Listed below is our focus for September.

### **September 3: Forest Sunday**

To celebrate God as the one in whom all creation lives and moves and has its being.

### **September 10: Land Sunday**

To stay grounded in the assurance of God's presence through the rhythms of pain and healing heard in the voice of the land.

### **September 17: Wilderness/Outback Sunday**

To live faithfully as part of Christ's community immersed in the wildness of God's creation.

### **September 24: River Sunday**

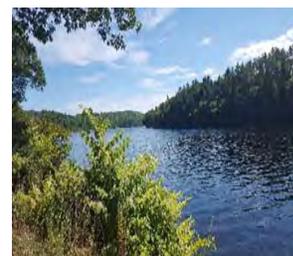
To be inspired by John's vision of God's river of life, renewing all creation.



*Skyline Drive, Virginia*



*Hubbard Glacier,  
Alaska*



*Androscoggin River,  
Maine*

**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.**

## Women's Study Group - Circle



All women in the church and their female friends are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall on the third Monday of each month at 10 am to talk and listen to each other and to explore topics of concern and inspiration. In addition to this fellowship, we will be discussing the Gospel of Luke as "There is yet more truth and light to break forth from God's Holy Word."

Quoting the introduction: One of our forebears in the faith, John Calvin, described God's Word as not simply words on a page, but as an event. Calvin said something like this: "God's Word occurs when the same Spirit is present to those who read as to those who wrote." God's Word is an event, an event that happens when receptive hearts and minds open themselves to Scripture in the company of other seekers and believers.

Due to scheduling difficulties, September's meeting will be the second Monday. So, circle the date: **September 11<sup>th</sup>** and join us from 10 to 11 am in the Fellowship Hall.

See you there,  
*Sue Howell*

## Commentary: This Little Light

August 24, 2017

Written by Michael Neuroth

In Charlottesville two weeks ago, I experienced a darkness I cannot describe.

I felt that darkness as I looked at the face of white supremacy, as white men with shields, clubs and assault rifles gathered in Emancipation Park, feeding off hate and provoking chaos, violence, and, ultimately, death. In the weeks since, tears have flowed as I recall this moment.

I have also felt overwhelmed by the darkness of my own fear and privilege. I have wrestled with that privilege expressed in my shock at this experience, compared to those who experience racism and hate daily because of their race or religion. I have also struggled with the chaos in Emancipation Park and my fear of bodily harm. I was physically there, singing and chanting with those gathered, but I wasn't one of the few who risked blocking access to the park. I grieve that I did not do more.

Amidst the darkness, I also experienced moments in which God's kingdom unforgettably broke through to counter evil and hate in ways too powerful to describe. I felt hope and courage tangibly in arms linked together. I heard it in the words of Rev. Traci Blackmon. I saw it in the faces providing logistical, medical, and pastoral support.

I especially heard God's kingdom in the voices that courageously sang "This Little Light of Mine" in the face of militant hate. This song, borne out of the context of slavery and later sung by civil rights leaders, will never be the same to me. I have sung the words all my life, but I have never experienced them like that- as words of resistance. In Charlottesville, these 'Little Lights' who sang of freedom, inclusion and hope were lights to me and to many others. These images and songs now shine more brightly in my memory than any torch wielded that Friday.

We are called to shine our 'little lights' now in response to the darkness we face. As we confront new manifestations of white supremacy, we also face nationalist ideologies that threaten nuclear war, deny safe harbor to refugees, and hasten climate disaster based on the false premise of "America First" exceptionalism. We experience fear and separation from each other. In the face of this darkness, the world needs the church to be a light, all of us combining our candles in a holistic effort toward peace and justice. I believe one way to do that is to renew our witness as a Just Peace Church.

September 17th is Just Peace Sunday. The theme, "Remember, Repent, Renew: The Way of Just Peace," speaks to our current moment and calls us to engage practices of remembering, repenting and forgiving, and renewing hope. As part of this Sunday, churches will light candles to join our light with the lights and hope of others who long for Shalom. Together, we can shine a light in the darkness and build a Just World for All.



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Michael Neuroth is Policy Advocate for International Issues of the United Church of Christ.

## Lectionary Readings for September 2017

### September 3, 2017

#### *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
\* Jeremiah 15:15-21  
\* Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### September 10, 2017

#### *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
\* Ezekiel 33:7-11  
\* Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

\* Alternate First Reading and Psalm

### September 17, 2017

#### *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114 - or - Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
\* Genesis 50:15-21  
\* Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### September 24, 2017

#### *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
\* Jonah 3:10-4:11  
\* Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

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