

2nd Sunday in Lent

Warwick Weekly

CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

Sunday, February 25 2024

This Week At A Glance

February 25 - Today

9am Worship - Lampstand (CC)
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Worship Sanctuary
11:30pm Denbigh Christian (CC)
2:30pm Private Event (CC)
6pm Children and Youth Fellowship
6pm Lent Bible Study (Rm 21)
8pm AA Mtg (Rm 20)

Monday, February 26*

9am Meals on Monday
6pm Upward Practice (CC)
6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH)
7:30pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 27*

9:30am Shekinah Prayer Time
11am Staff Meeting (library)
6pm Cub Scouts (27 & 28)
6pm Upward Practice (CC)

Wednesday, February 28*

10:30am Bible Study (Rm 20)
6pm Family Dinner Church (CC)

Thursday, February 29*

6pm Cub Scouts (27 & 28)
6pm Upward Practice (CC)
6:30pm Yoga (Rm 21)

Friday, March 1*

Memorial Service for Jim Cole
7pm Private Event (CC)

Saturday, March 2

9am Upward Game Day (CC)
Last Game Day

* Meals on Wheels Pick Up Location

For event and room reservations please email
Rodney Wise at facility.manager@wmumc.org
to receive a Facility Use Agreement

This week's Sermon is based on Mark 1:21-28.

Sermon Title: Good Enough: Can I Get a Witness?

Who is this man with an unclean spirit that shows up in the synagogue during this week's scripture? To us, he's loud, he interrupts and he draws attention to himself. Ironically, he does not have that effect on the people in the synagogue. Their attention is on Jesus. They are astounded by his presence and teaching. It's like nothing they have ever heard before. He has authority. His words mean something and they make a difference. Even the man with an unclean spirit is shocked and intrigued by Jesus. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

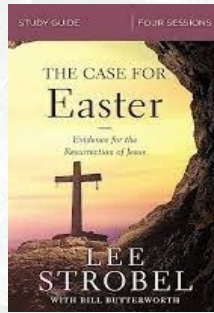
Jesus' authority fills not just the place but each person there. And almost immediately this man with an unclean spirit shows up. The presence of Jesus, the man with a clean spirit, draws out the presence of the man with an unclean spirit. Jesus has that effect on people. His authority and teaching reveal the truth about his listeners' lives. This one with the unclean spirit is an image of what the lives of those in the synagogue look like. His uncleanness is not about personal hygiene, immorality, being bad, or Judaism. Instead his presence "in their synagogue" describes the disease of their soul, their fragmented lives, and the many voices within them. In looking at him they see themselves and they are astounded by the contrast of the one who has a clean spirit. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" He senses the distance between his life and Jesus'. His words betray his isolation. It's not, however, just about him. He speaks not only for himself but for all those in the synagogue that day. He represents every one who has ever experienced the brokenness of life. He is the spokesperson for all who feel disconnected from themselves, others, or God. He represents the human condition. Behind his question is the unspoken longing and hope that Jesus would say, "Everything. I have everything to do with you." Those are the words that can begin to put his life back together. We're not so different. Each one of us also longs for that answer because we too know the separation and brokenness of our own lives. We've lived in isolation. We have been trapped in grief. We have carried the burden of guilt. The truth of those situations often reveals itself in the many personas we wear.

The true voice and the true image are always present. That's why this man with an unclean spirit can cry out, "I know who you are, the Holy One of God." He speaks from a deep place of knowing. His recognition of Jesus is at a profound level a recognition of himself and his own holiness. For every voice that denies that and leaves us crying, "What have you to do with us?" Jesus says, "Shhh. Be quiet. That's not who you are. You are mine and I have everything to do with you." Listen to that voice and you too will be astounded at what can become of your life.

Adapted from <https://interruptingthesilence.com/2012/01/29/i-have-everything-to-do-with-you-a-sermon-on-mark-121-28-epiphany-4b/>

Men's Fraternity Bible Study

The Men's Fraternity have started a four week Lenten study called *The Empty Tomb Changes Everything* which is based on the book *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel. This study invites you to look beyond Easter traditions, examine the evidence for yourselves and consider why Easter is important to your faith. Bring your Bible. It's not too late to participate, all men are invited and welcome. We meet in room 10 from 7pm to 8:30pm on Tuesday evening. Questions? Email or call Gerry Mingee at ggmingee@verizon.net or 757-880-9485



Lenten Bible Study - Morning & Evening Options

This year's Lenten study is based on the book *Witness at the Cross*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today. We are meeting on Sunday evenings at 6pm through March 25th and will be moderated by Pastor Angie and/or Pastor Esther. Please RSVP to Zena at Warwick.memorial@wmumc.org, books are available. The Wednesday morning Bible Study will also be studying the same book so if you miss one evening, you can join them on Wednesday morning.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10:30am. We started studying *Witness at the Cross*, by Amy-Jill Levine on Wednesday, February 14th but you are still welcome to join this study group, please reach out to Pastor Angie for a book. You are welcome to join us any Wednesday morning at 10:30am in Room 20. For additional information, please contact Pastor Angie.



Sunday School Classes

All classes now begin by 10:15am. Children are invited to gather in the toddler nursery room following worship.

To find out more about a class you would like to attend, feel free to ask one of our greeters or pastors as you exit the service.

Classes are meeting in the following rooms:

- Covenant Class - FH
- Family Faith Class - FH
- Trinity Class - Room 10
- Wesleyan Class - Room 21
- Wired Word/Blessed Mess - Room 20
- Children - Meet in the toddler nursery room
- Youth - Room 22
- Carpenters Class - Room 30



What Is A Bridge Church?

Bridge Churches are United Methodist faith communities which are confident they will remain United Methodist. **Bridge Churches** will provide pastoral support, nurture, and opportunities for connection during this time of grief and transition, always in response to each individual's needs, timing, and sense of God's call. These congregations bring no expectation of church membership; rather they offer support based on the needs of each person and community. Such support may include:

- * Individual pastoral care by laity and clergy from the **Bridge Church**;
- * physical space for groups to gather as they consider what faithful next step God is calling them to take;
- * providing information on ministry opportunities in which to engage – or not (there will be no pressure) - these opportunities may include: worship, the invitation to grow in discipleship, small group gatherings, Bible studies, and prayer opportunities as well as participate in mission opportunities to serve through hands-on ministries;
- * assistance in finding and connecting with other individuals and groups displaced by disaffiliating churches, both for grief support and for discipleship and discernment about faithful next steps;
- * help connecting with Conference and District resources to help them discern their next steps as they consider a new church home.

Lenten Offering 2024

This year, our Lenten offering will go to benefit 3 of our in-house ministry programs. - Meals on Monday "MoM", Dinner Church "DC" and our Family Ministries program. MoM is currently preparing and serving approximately 120 lunch meals every Monday to families in our community. DC, which is our Community Family Dinner, serves a hot, home cooked meal for dinner every Wednesday, along with an encouraging message and musical entertainment as we fellowship with the friends of our community. Many of our guests have become regular church visitors to Sunday worship as well as Wednesday night worship. Our Family Ministries has now encompassed our children's fellowship, youth and family ministries into one - Family Ministries. Every month in 2024, the children and youth will host an intergenerational event for all of our church members to participate in. This began last year with the Turkey Escape Room & Pie as well as the Christmas Gingerbread House & Donuts event. Recently they hosted a Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner event. All funds raised for Family Ministry will help them to host an amazing Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School week in June, youth mission trips, and much more.

All Lenten special offerings will be divided equally between the 3 ministry programs or you are welcome to choose just one to support (please mark your offering envelope with the chosen ministry if you wish to do that.)

We thank you in advance for your generosity to all of the mission and ministry programs.



PORT (People Offering Resources Together) Shelter

Annually we host the PORT homeless shelter program once a year for one week. This March, we host the program from March 6th to the morning of March 13th.

This local homeless shelter program is organized by LINK and splits the weeks from November through the end of March between local churches who host the program for one week at a time. Other churches who are not able to host the program step in to help provide meals and volunteers during 5 of the 7 nights. This year we are hosting 2 of the nights (this means we prepare and serve the dinner and breakfast. We host on Sunday, the 10th and Tuesday, the 12th.)

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- * Facility set-up before guests arrive (This may be Tuesday or Wednesday morning - time to be determined)
- * Opening check-in on Sunday, March 10th & Tuesday, March 12th from 6pm to 9pm (the youth will be helping on March 10th, but a few additional adults are welcome)
- * Dinner Kitchen Help on Sunday, March 10th & Tuesday, March 12th (we have a chef cook but any additional help, especially on Tuesday, is much appreciated)
- * Facility Manager coordinator for overnight (10pm to 7am) for every night (the 6th to the morning of the 13th)
- * Assistance with check-out on Monday morning the 11th and Wednesday morning the 13th 4:30am to 6:30am
- * Breakfast Kitchen Help Monday morning, the 11th and Wednesday morning, the 13th from 4:30am to 7am
- * Tagging of belongs and running to store room on Sunday the 10th & Tuesday the 12th (the youth are helping on the 10th so mainly the 12th)

For more information, please call the church office at 757-877-2270 and leave your name and number so our facility manager, Rodney Wise, can contact you (his extension is 123 or his direct line is 757-243-2182) and he'll get back to you to let you know where YOU can help. Sign-up sheets will be in the Sunday School classes.

On average, we house between 60 and 80 homeless men, women and children. We open the doors at 6:30pm and serve breakfast at 6am before they leave the property each morning (Thursday to Wednesday) for the day.

We will welcome donations of new or gently used clothes as well as new packs of men's and ladies underwear in all sizes. Feel free to drop off any donations to the church office before March 4th.

It is truly a blessing for our church to be able to participate in this program, but we do need lots of volunteer assistance. We pray that you can help.



Join us for the Easter season this year and invite friends to celebrate the Hope that comes with Easter.

We will celebrate Holy Week beginning with a special Maundy Thursday service followed by Good Friday. Saturday will be a fun Easter Egg hunt for the children before the blessings of Easter morning on Sunday, March 31st with our sun rise service hosted by our youth.

Palm Sunday, March 24th: Worship at 9am and 11:15am

Thursday, March 28th: Maundy Thursday Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm

Friday, March 29th: Good Friday Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm.

Saturday, March 30th: Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages. Promotional fliers will be available soon. 10am to 2pm.

Sunday, March 31st: Easter Sunday - Sun Rise service on the lawn by the cross at 6:30am, followed by breakfast in the Celebration Center, hosted by our youth.

9am Modern Contemporary Lampstand Worship in the Celebration Center - high energy, modern Christian music led by our Lampstand Band and worship leader. This service is streamed to Facebook and YouTube.

11:15am Traditional worship in the Sanctuary with age-old hymns and anthems led by our choir and music directory.

Many things are being planned by our worship committee, connect and evangelism teams to make all of these events meaningful, fun and blessed. Please plan to join us and invite friends and family to one or all of these events.





Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are held on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. All are welcome, no pre-registration required. The cost is \$12 per class. Classes are beginner friendly and work with any level. This class is a good place to start for those new to yoga. The instructor is Bethany Caddell and you can contact her by email at Bethanycaddell@christianyogastudio.org or through www.christianyogastudio.org.



Save the Date

Join us on Saturday, March 16th at 1pm on the church lawn by the cross. Bring your animals to be blessed, all sizes and species are welcome. Just remember to bring them in carriers or on leashes or leads. The service will be outdoors and if it rains, it will be postponed to a later date.



Blood Drive Warwick Memorial UMC

Fellowship Hall
38 Hoopes Rd.

April 27, 2024

9am to 2pm



American
Red Cross

Gifts and Offerings

Please remember that we no longer have a "building fund" to donate to. Any offerings marked "building fund" will automatically be applied to our Operating Budget. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

"Meals on Monday" and "Family Dinner Church"

* Free Lunch available on Mondays between 12 noon and 1pm. Pick up from Fellowship Hall side of building.

* Free Family Dinner every Wednesday night at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone Is Welcome - you can use the invite cards that are around the church or our Facebook event page to encourage friends, family, or anyone you know to join you for a little worship, a little praise and an awesome dinner.

Both of these ministries need our support. If you are able to give a donation to help keep them up and running, you can mark your offering "MoM" or "Dinner Church." Please remember that you are welcome to extend an invitation to community members to either or both events. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Linda Brooks at 757-880-4622 or Linda McLawhorn at 757-713-1519 for Meals on Monday or Judy Claus at 757-570-4532 for Dinner Church.

Join us for a great meal, musical entertainment, devotional message brought to us by a pastor or a lay member and plenty of fellowship. If you are not currently able to join us for church on Sunday or you miss a Sunday, this is a great way to join us during the week, in the evening, for worship.

Something good happens every week - come and see for yourself and remember to bring a friend!

Volunteers Needed: We need help with set-up and break down, please reach out to Tim Claus to learn more about how you can help!

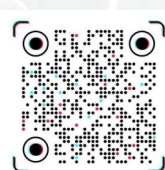


Come and Be Social With Us . . .



@WARWICKMEMORIALUMC

Instagram



Share your QR code so others can follow you

TikTok



Facebook



Give Now

Church Library

Are you looking for a particular book, or would just like to see what our library has to offer? Feel free to scan this QR code which will now lead you to the church library on-line. Look up a book to see if we have it and then get directions to locate it in the library. You are welcome to check out books and return at your convenience. If you would like to donate books for the library to use or to give away to our Dinner Church guests, feel free to leave any donations on the table in the library.



Taking the child in his arms, he said to them "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:36-37



Our Youth Director, Kerry Blazek, works with our Children's Fellowship and Family Ministries Coordinator, Sharon, to host a fun and exciting time every Sunday for our children and youth during the school year. Our Family Ministries programs for the children and youth meet most weeks from September to May.

Students in 1st – 5th grades (Children's) and 6th – 12th grades (Youth) are invited on Sunday evenings, 6 – 7:30 pm for a time of fellowship, learning through lessons, and fun with games.

Check the calendar below for monthly events and reach out to leaders for more information.

Sharon Ellis (Children's Ministry) 757-478-5020 or email cutyrgal@cox.net

Kerry Blazek (Youth Ministry) 757-310-9891 or email kerryblazek@gmail.com

* February 25th Family Lesson Night

If you would like to come and help on Sunday evenings, we are always thankful for new Volunteers - come and have some fun and help with the faith journey of our Children and help to develop our family ministry program.

Kerry has planned a monthly activity for all church members to participate in with our youth, so please stay tuned each month for details.

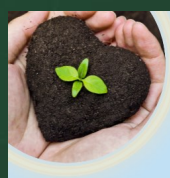


Upward Basketball Through March 3rd

We are winding down, just 1 more weekend to go - can you believe it?? Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help with this amazing ministry. Volunteers are still needed for 3/2 for various different jobs including greeting and socializing with our guests, score keepers, half-time devotion readers, helping with concessions and more. Please reach out to Kerry B or Sharon E if you would like to learn more about volunteering or just stop by to see how you can help out.

Upward recognition Sunday will be on March 3rd. We will showcase the ministry program and the service that will be led by our youth group. Kerry Blazek will deliver the message at both services - 9am and 11:15am. All Upward participants are welcome to attend worship with us next Sunday.

Their awards recognition and dinner will be from 4pm to 7:30pm.



ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Planting the Seeds For
A Faithful Legacy



Endowment Fund Information Notebook

Information regarding the Endowment Fund has been placed in a green notebook in the church Library on the shelf above the computer monitor along with the Finance Team notebook. The Endowment Fund notebook contains the following items:

- * End of Year Endowment Fund Status Report for 2023
- * Latest report from the Virginian UM Foundation where the funds are invested
- * Current Operational Guidelines for the General Endowment Fund
- * Endowment Grant Program Guidelines
- * Original Resolution Establishing the Endowment Committee
- * Church Council Minutes Authorizing the Establishment of an Endowment Committee
- * Operational Guidelines For the Bennett Family Endowment

WMUMC Endowment Grant Program

Active members of Warwick Memorial are eligible for an Endowment Grant for church related training, outreach activities, or ministry activities. All requests must support the mission and vision of WMIMC. The scholarships mentioned below generally are not meant to completely pay for training or a mission trip, but rather to fill in the gap between the funds the person can personally come up with and what the total training/trip will cost them.

Church Related Training - The purpose of this element is to provide scholarship assistance for attending church related training, or to study for the ministry.

Outreach Element – The purpose of this element is to provide funding to organize, develop, strengthen, or participate in **future** outreach activities. An outreach activity is one that results in someone getting helped **directly** in some way, such as physically or spiritually, within a reasonable amount of time. Although existing outreach activities will be eligible for these funds, priority will be given to “innovative” activities that introduce new or changed methods or areas of church outreach, program or study. Therefore, requests should be for outreach activities that are not normally funded through the annual operating budget of the church. Scholarship assistance to participate in outreach activities is also available under the conditions described in the opening paragraph.

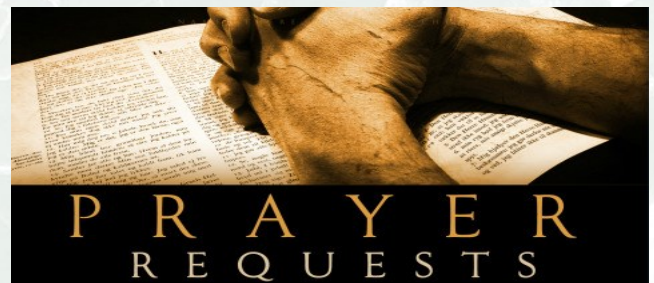
Ministry Element - The purpose of this element is to provide funding to strengthen or expand existing ministries or to initiate new ministries. Ministries include, but are not limited to, preaching, teaching, music, health, activities for children, youth or adults, education, worship, etc. Requests for new ministry funding should be for ministry activities that are not normally funded through the annual operating budget of the church.

For more details about this program and the application process, please call or text Henry Bennett at 757-877-2258 or send e-mail to jhbenn3940@gmail.com.



Church Prayer Requests

Your church family cares about you and your loved ones. We want to stay connected and support each other, so if you have a prayer request and would like one of our pastors to call and pray with you, please email prayerchain@wmumc.org. Someone will be in touch as soon as possible. If you would like the prayer put out to our membership prayer team, please let us know.



Shekinah* Glory Prayer Group

The prayers of the righteous man are powerful and effective.
James 5:16

You can participate in the following ways:

1. Come to the Sanctuary @ 9:30am on Tuesday mornings for community time of prayer.
2. Join Zoom for Prayer time at 1pm—Saturday and Sunday only, led by Linda McLawhorn
3. Pray on your own daily with materials.
4. Ask someone to be your prayer partner.

Prayer points include our leaders—national, state and local; our school system; our church—pastors, leadership team, Sunday School teachers, ministers, missions - Upward Basketball and Cheerleading, Meals on Monday, Community Dinner, PORT, youth and children's' ministry programs, shut-ins - and any personal prayer requests.

*The Glory of the Divine presence

Senior Fellowship Breakfast Group

The Senior Fellowship Breakfast Group gathers together the first Monday of each month. Next gathering will be

Monday, March 4,
at 9am at Vancostas
on Warwick Blvd.
Stop by the bulletin
board across from the
Fellowship Hall to see
a group picture of our
fellowship group.



Sick? Going to Hospital?

If you are hospitalized, planning surgery, or have become ill, please contact the church office at 877-2270 or by emailing warwick.memorial@wmumc.org. If you have an urgent situation, please call **the church office at 877-2270 (9am to 5pm or go to the pastors' phone extensions)**. If you are going to the hospital, please let us know the date, time, and hospital where you will be receiving care. Due to HIPAA regulations, the hospital will not automatically inform the church of your hospitalization. *If you would like some pastoral time with either pastor, feel free to reach out to them by emailing them at pastoresther@wmumc.org or pastorangie@wmumc.org.*

Prayer List

Please pray for those at home, in the hospital or care facility:
Gordan Chan (The Chesapeake) * Ruth Ritenour (Mennowood) * Betty Palmer (Hiddenwood) * Frances Topping (Mennowood) * Nancy Setty * Norma Coleman * Anne Corliss * Marvin & Pat Hill (Barbara Amaker's brother and sister-in-law) * Clara Reid * Katie Tanner-Barker * Jim Russell * Jeff Cox * Marion Bonacci * Sara Manner * Wilma Miller (Sheri Vann's mother) * Chuck and Cynthia Nothstine * Jim Taylor * Barbara Freund * Raye Gwyn (Mary Jackson's mom) * Frank Felice (Dan Felice's Dad) * Joy Robinson (her mother and brother are both having medical issues) * Ginny Chappell * Lawrence & Cheryl Pruitt * Erin Finley-Orick * Bea Hoal * Donna Curran * Gene Osborne * Jeanne Shaffer * Jane Shaffer * Cindy and Doug (Beth Stabnow's friends) * Megan (Christine Dimock's granddaughter) * Ken Marcuson * Judy Hackett * Frank Crispens * Janette Crowder * the family of Jim Cole, and all those who are grieving or sick.

Deployed Armed Forces: Laura Lomas, Lance Sczesny (Michigan, Coast Guard).

Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church

Rev. Esther Naana Agbosu
Senior Pastor

PastorEsther@wmumc.org
804-580-1504 (c)

Rev. Angie Hoen
Associate Pastor

PastorAngie@wmumc.org
757-234-8962 (office)

38 Hoopes Road | Newport News,
VA 23602
WMUMC.org | 757.577.2270

Church Office (Zena):
warwick.memorial@wmumc.org
Facility Manager (Rodney):
Facility.Manager@wmumc.org

Attendance Numbers (2/18)

9:00am: in-person: 85
Online: 180
11:15am: 61
Sunday School: 70
Dinner Church 2/21: 52

