



# Warwick Weekly

## Sunday, October 1, 2023 World Communion Sunday

### This Week At A Glance . .

#### October 1 - Today

8am Lampstand Band Rehearsal (CC)  
9am Worship - Lampstand (CC)  
10:15am Sunday School  
10:15am Facebook Service  
11:15am Worship Sanctuary  
4pm Drama Rehearsal (CC)  
5pm Private Party (FH)  
6pm Children & Youth Fellowship (CC)  
8pm AA Mtg (Rm 20)

#### Monday, October 2 \*

9am Shekinah Prayer Time  
9am Meals on Monday  
6:30pm Boy Scouts (FH)  
7:30pm Choir Practice

#### Tuesday, October 3 \*

9:30am Shekinah Prayer Time  
10am Crafts (FH)  
11am Staff Meeting (library)  
6pm Cub Scouts (27 & 28)  
7pm Men's Fraternity Bible Study (Rm 10)  
7pm Drama Rehearsal (CC)

#### Wednesday, October 4 \*

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

#### Thursday, October 5 \*

9:30am Shekinah Prayer Time  
6pm Cub Scouts (27 & 28)  
6:30pm Yoga (Rm 21)  
7pm Drama Rehearsal (CC)  
7pm Barbara Liddick Circle (FH)

#### Friday, October 6 \*

Meals on Wheels (pick up location)  
7pm Drama Rehearsal (CC)

#### Saturday, October 7

12pm Court of Honor  
6pm Drama Rehearsal (CC)

\* Meals on Wheels Pick Up Location

### Message this Week Based on Matthew 20:1-16

This week's parable - like all parables - is not really about laborers or wages any more than the others are about sheep and goats. This is a story about God's goodness, His patience and forgiveness, and the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a story about generosity and compassion. It is a story about grace. It underscores the thought that the thing God enjoys most about being God is the thrill of being merciful, especially to those who don't expect it and often feel they don't deserve it.

We do not know who may need to hear the message of forgiveness inherent in this parable, but however late you think you are, however many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made or talents you think you don't have, or however far from home and family and God you feel you have traveled, I testify that you have *not* traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines.

The Master's reward in the Final Judgment will not be based on how long we have labored in the vineyard. We do not obtain our heavenly reward by punching a time clock. What is essential is that our labors in the workplace of the Lord have caused us to *become* something. For some of us, this requires a longer time than for others. What is important in the end is what we have become by our labors.

So if you have made covenants, keep them. If you haven't made them, make them. If you have made them and broken them, repent and repair them. It is *never* too late so long as the Master of the vineyard says there is time. ... don't delay. It's getting late.

Adapted from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/>

#### Prayer

We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him to work, school, home. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, (at least, for those who need it - but surely, not us). Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

For all event and room reservations please email Rodney Wise  
at [facility.manager@wmumc.org](mailto:facility.manager@wmumc.org).



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING THANKSGIVING?

Are you interested in joining others for your Thanksgiving meal if you do not have other plans? We are gathering in the church Fellowship Hall at 1PM for a pot luck holiday Dinner. Turkey will be provided. Join us for dinner and a fun time! If you are interested please let Sina Hofler know no later than November 1. Phone—(H)-757-877-6109, (C)-757-869-2960, [email-hofler2@verizon.net](mailto:email-hofler2@verizon.net).



## Sunday School Classes

All classes now begin by 10:15am. Children are invited to gather in the Celebration Center following worship or meet in room 29 for class to start at 10:15am.

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
- Young Adults - Room 24
- Children - Room 29
- Youth - Room 22
- Carpenters Class - Room 30



## Wednesday Bible Study

You are invited to join us on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30am**. We are currently studying "Journey Through the Bible Volume 14: Romans - Philippians." We still have a few books available and the cost is \$11. Please see Pastor Angie if you need one. This book highlights pivotal points in the scripture, lifting up the Bible's most significant stories, themes, events and people. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am in the library. You can catch up with the reading but you can join in at any time for this Bible Study. For additional information, please reach out to Pastor Angie.

## "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 Celebration Center.

**Volunteers needed for Meals on Monday** (reach out to Linda Brooks at 757-880-4622 or Linda McLawhorn at 757-713-1519) **for making/donating dessert items for 120 meals** and **volunteers needed for Dinner Church** (reach out to Judy Claus at 757-570-4532) for help with set up/clean up, cooking, greeting, etc.

We have secured 2 small grants for 2023 to help support both of these ministries, but any additional donations are gratefully appreciated for both programs. You can mark your offering "MoM" or "Dinner Church." Please feel free to invite anyone to either or both events.

**Everyone Is Welcome** - you can use the invite cards that are around the church to encourage friends, family, or anyone you know to join you for dinner or our Facebook event page.

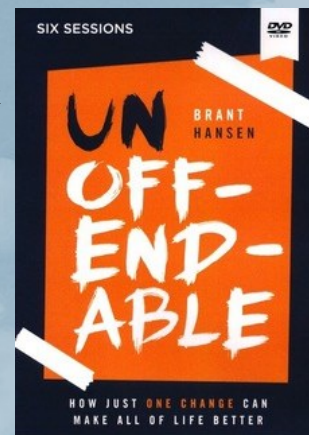
**You are invited to join us for a great meal, musical entertainment, devotional message brought to us by a pastor or a lay member and plenty of fellowship. If you are not currently able to join us for church on Sunday or you miss a Sunday, this is a great way to join us during the week, in the evening,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

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



## Men's Fraternity Bible Study

Join the Men's Fraternity on Tuesday nights at 7pm in Room 10 for the 6 week study of "Unoffendable" - how just one change can make all life better. Brant Hansen shares practical ways to live life with less stress and more care by becoming unoffendable. This week will be the 3rd week, but you are welcome to participate. For more details, contact Gerry Mingee at [ggingee@verizon.net](mailto:ggingee@verizon.net)



## Free Lunch & Learn Hosted by Cremation Society of Virginia

You are invited to a free lunch at Smoke BBQ Restaurant, 10900 Warwick Blvd., on **October 10th at 12noon**.

This lunch is hosted by the Cremation Society of Virginia and will give you food for thought about reducing the emotional and financial stress of losing a loved one.

Please RSVP to Sharon at 757-236-0259.



### FREE Lunch & Learn

October 11, 2023 | 12 P.M. - NOON

Cremation Society of Virginia  
HAMPTON ROADS OFFICE  
**LIMITED SEATING**  
RSVP to Sharon at (757) 236-0259

Join us for food for thought about reducing the emotional and financial stress of losing a loved one.

Smoke BBQ Restaurant  
10900 Warwick Blvd.,  
Newport News, VA 23601





## Children & Youth Fellowship Groups

### Children and Youth Ministries

Our Youth Director, Kerry, works with our Children's Fellowship Coordinator, Sharon, to host a fun and exciting time every Sunday for the children and youth for the upcoming School year. Our Children and Youth ministry programs meet September to May. The Youth meet in the youth room, while the children meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. You can follow the youth on their Facebook page (WM Youth) for week to week activities which includes other meetings and activities outside of Sunday Youth Fellowship. Children meet in the Fellowship Hall and Youth meet in the youth room on Sunday evenings at 6pm.

If your child would like to participate in children's fellowship activities (age 2 to 5th grade), please contact Sharon Ellis at 757-478-5020. If your child would like to participate in youth ministry activities (grades 6 to 12) please contact Kerry Blazek at 757-310-9891.

### Flowers for the Sanctuary

We have been enjoying some anonymous donations of flowers for the Sanctuary and Narthex over the past few weeks, including the flowers from Pastor Angie's son's wedding before that. It has been so nice to have fresh flowers in our church. If you would like to donate altar flowers at any time—even a nice bouquet from the grocery store—please let Zena in the church office know which week you would like to do so and if there is a special reason for them (anniversary, birthday, etc.) Call the church office at 757-877-2270 or email [warwick.memorial@wmumc.org](mailto:warwick.memorial@wmumc.org).



**Trunk or Treat**—please bring your car and decorate for our Trunk or Treat event on October 22nd. Please contact Sharon by email [cutygrgal@cox.net](mailto:cutygrgal@cox.net) or cell 757-478-5020. If you cannot help with a car, donations of extra candy are also appreciated. Bags can be left in the church office through Friday, Oct 20th.

### Elder Balance Presentation

Our Care Team and Senior Fellowship bring you a continued presentation with more advanced strengthening of core and building for better balance from Ellen Polacheck and Sandy Marcuson.

**Saturday, October 21st at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.**

This will be an in-person presentation only. The first training is still available on our Facebook page. If you would like to know more, please reach out to Sina Hofler at 757-877-6109.

### WMUMC'S Respite Care Ministry

We are here to help! If you need help with buying groceries, picking up prescriptions and bringing them to you, or just need someone to talk to and check up on you, please contact **Sina Hofler at 757-877-6109 (home) or 757-869-2960 (cell)**. We have volunteers who have offered to help other church members who have difficulty going out. If you are in need of any help, please contact Sina. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, you are also invited to contact Sina. May God continue to bless this ministry.

A few members of the Men's Fraternity Group would like to assist the men and women in our church with their home needs. If you need some help with home repairs or safety improvements in your home for medical issues or other reasons, please call the church at 757-877-2270, Frank Blake at 757-876-9799 or Sina Hofler at 757-877-6109.

### Hawaii UMCOR Relief

Please continue to pray for the residents of the Island of Maui, Hawaii, after the wind-driven wildfires last week prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage, totally destroying the town of Lahaina. As of August 14, UMCOR coordinated with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings as first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area.

Additional gifts can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>

By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174 or by check through the church offering, please mark "UMCOR-Hawaii" on the memo line. We will send the collected funds directly to UMCOR advance 901670.

### Called Church Conference

A called church conference has been scheduled for October 10 at 5:30 at the church. Everyone who is able to attend is asked to be present and cast a vote on our SPRC finances for the 2024 budget.

### Angel Wings

We need to see pictures of our Angels! We have 2 sets of wings painted on the wall by the youth room, stop by and take some pictures and share them with us at [warwick.memorial@wmumc.org](mailto:warwick.memorial@wmumc.org) or on your Facebook page and tag us at #WMUMC. The children can stand by the butterfly wings on the other wall.





## 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](mailto: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:

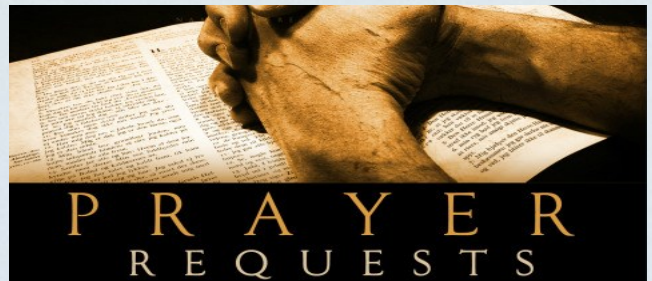
1. Come to the Sanctuary @ 9am on Mon. and 9:30am on Tues and Thurs. for community time of prayer.
2. Join Zoom daily for Daily Prayer time at 1pm. During the week days this is led by one of the pastors and on the weekend it is led by Linda McLawhorn
3. Pray on your own daily with materials.
4. Ask someone 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 **tomorrow, Monday, October 2, 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](mailto: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](mailto:pastoresther@wmumc.org) or [pastorangie@wmumc.org](mailto: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) \* Evelyn Bilk (Charter Assisted Living) \* Frances Topping (Mennowood) \* Nancy Setty \* Norma Coleman \* Anne Corliss \* Marvin & Pat Hill (Barbara Amaker's brother and sister-in-law) \* Jim Cole \* Clara Reid \* Katie Tanner-Barker \* Sam Federico, Sr. (Sam Federico's father) \* Jim Russell \* Tiffany Brandt \* Jeff Cox \* Marion Bonacci \* Sara Manner \* Susie Stein (Fern Holley's niece) \* 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) \* Gene Osborne \* Gail Henry (Rodney's mother-in-law) \* Sharon Davenport \* Joy Robinson (her mother and brother are both having medical issues) \* Ginny Chappell \* Josie Cole \* Donna Shafer \* Lawrence & Cheryl Pruitt \* Erin Finley-Orick \* Sue Holiday \* and all those who are grieving or sick.

**Deployed Armed Forces:** Laura Lomas, Brian Budlove, Lance Sczesny (Coast Guard).

## Attendance Numbers (9/24)

9:00am: 62  
10:15am (online): 118  
11:15am: 52  
Sunday School: 67  
Dinner Church 9/27: 57

## Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church

**Rev. Esther Naana Agbosu**  
Senior Pastor  
[PastorEsther@wmumc.org](mailto:PastorEsther@wmumc.org)  
804-580-1504 (c)

**Rev. Angie Hoen**  
Associate Pastor

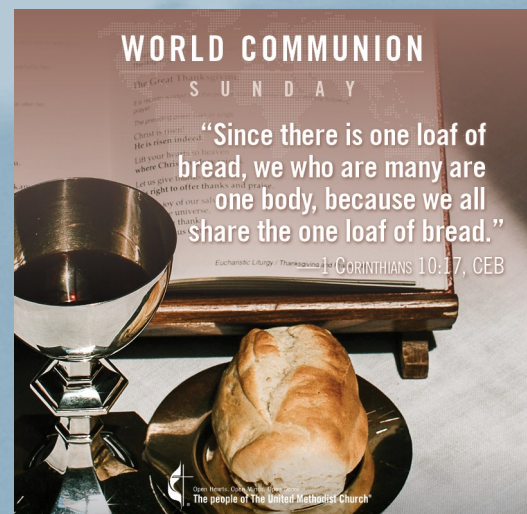
[PastorAngie@wmumc.org](mailto:PastorAngie@wmumc.org)  
757-234-8962 (office)

38 Hoopes Road | Newport News,  
VA 23602  
[WMUMC.org](http://WMUMC.org) | 757.877.2270

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

## Thank You

I want to thank you all for your texts, calls and prayers. We all appreciated all you have done for our family. My mom has and is still trusting in God and we know he has the final say. Mom has a long journey of chemo and trying to heal. We just want everyone to know that we love you and thank you for your continued prayers. It is always hard to watch a loved one suffer, but to know we have all the love and support helps with the process and healing. God bless, Sherri Wise (Rodney's wife)



## **Why A Called Church Conference, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.**

*This church conference is for our church membership to vote yes or no on pulling funds from our initial endowment account.* The initial investment was \$173,000. Over the years, we have used funds from the earnings of this money for various different things: mission trip grants, educational grants and once or twice we have used it to help balance our operating budget.

Post-Covid we have struggled a little to get ourselves back on our feet with the increase in various expenses like electric, gas, general maintenance supplies for the facility and every day items used within the church (postage, paper, toilet paper, soap, common store items, etc.) We placed an income line into the 2023 budget to use funds from the endowment earnings.

As of the end of September, we have not had to use those funds but as we move towards the end of the year and annual expenditures hit our budget, we may need to rely on some or all of that amount—the less we use in 2023, the more that will be available to help in 2024.

However, if we base our 2024 budget on the 2023 budget, the known income will be short approximately \$80,000. Known income is the pledge gifts, non-pledge gifts from known givers, rental income, facility use income, etc. We do not expect to have a roll-over of funds as we have most years in the past. Technically, the devastation of Covid has caught up with our church. We have lost a number of members to moving away to be closer to family, passing away, or changing churches for various reasons.

We have gained new members over the past 2 years, post-covid we have had 2 successful confirmation classes and brought 5 youth into membership, some past members have returned and transferred their membership back to us. Our Dinner Church and Meals on Monday programs are bringing new people to our church and to our events – **we ARE growing, we ARE a prospering church.** Support for the Red Bird mission trip and Honduras mission trip, our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, the support to upgrade our Celebration Center audio visual and lighting equipment, and much more are all funded with very generous second mile giving – funds that are given from the heart and not through our operating budget – our Family Life and Operating Fund.

As you heard from Henry a few weeks ago, we have over \$400,000 in various K Accounts for different missions and ministry programs within our church – wow! This operating budget shortfall is a temporary set-back. We are rebuilding, but, to continue our growth, we may need to use funds not only from the earnings of our endowment account, but also some of the initial endowment fund, possibly as much as \$32,000. If we do have to use it, we pray it will be a one-time need and this will prevent us from needing to make any drastic changes to our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) budget, which could mean cutting down to one pastor, and reducing other staff members' hours/salaries. This will not help us to continue with our recovery and could be very detrimental to the overall health of our church.

Continued on reverse



We are not doing this to scare you. As you know, we are a very strong, loving, supportive church, but sadly, rising costs of various things that our church uses on a daily basis and post-covid recovery, have caused us to get to this position. Ultimately, our goal is to be self-sustaining again, with more church members/supporters and more tithing, more events that bring in funds for our operating budget (including facility use by community partners), and thus, have more income to our 2024 operating budget.

A copy of our current budget is available in our church library on the shelf above the computer. You are invited to look at it at any time in order to understand where our money is allocated. Please think hard about this decision and attend the church conference on October 10<sup>th</sup> to vote YES to use the endowment principle if needed or NO to not use it and make other cuts within our budget.

**Summary:**

**What is the vote?** If we receive the 2/3 majority of votes for yes, we will place the \$32,000 of Endowment Fund Principal along with about \$50,000 in Endowment Fund earnings in our 2024 budget as income to balance the budget.

If the majority vote is no, then our teams will need to make choices on what to cut in our budget. This will mainly affect SPRC and dramatic changes will occur to the way our church functions. Ultimately, the more money that can come in to support the 2024 budget, the less we will need to use from endowment earnings or the endowment principle.

**What else can you do to help?** Bring a friend to church, share our events and posts on Facebook, spread the word of our amazing mission and ministry programs, participate in our events, volunteer for anything that interests you.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jim Corliss, Henry Bennett or Pastor Esther.

Please join us on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary for this Church Conference and let us know your vote.

**Warwick Memorial's  
Living Word Drama Team Presents:**

# *Steel* **MAGNOLIAS**

BY ROBERT HARLING

**Directed by Dave Amaker**

**Production Dates and Times:**

Friday, October 27th at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 28th at 7:30pm

Sunday, October 29th at 2pm

Tickets \$15 in advance or at the door.

Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church | 38 Hoopes Road | Newport News | VA | 23602

757-877-2270 | [www.wmumc.org](http://www.wmumc.org)