



## “A True Homecoming”

A message from Pastor Daniel H. Burch



I write this letter with anticipation, with butterflies, and with the utmost gratitude that my soul can muster. I can finally say that after months of construction, we... are... home. We have returned to the place of comfort, to the place that we all have worried about, and to the place that we all know as our home. Throughout this renovation project, all my colleagues, family, and friends have asked me, once I explain the project to them, “You mean.... YOU HAVEN’T PREACHED IN YOUR OWN, FIRST SANCTUARY?!” I usually blush and reply... “No, but I look forward to the day that I can.” Well, that day has come and what a journey it has been.

I have to admit something... and I go on record saying this: I could not have imagined starting my ministerial career like this. As I reflect on all that we have done in the midst of this process, I am astounded by how God has worked in the midst of this time. We have tried new and exciting ways of worshiping, we have gone to the High School and have come back, and we have new fellowships emerging. While our work for the Lord is not finished, it is important to

acknowledge the work that we have done. The Lord has truly blessed us by using each of us and our church leaders to get this project done with minimal debt and in a timely manner. The more I reflect on this project, the more inclined I am to say that I **could not** and **would not** imagine a better way to start my ministerial career.

Since it “’tis the season” for counting our blessings and celebrating the Glory we have seen in our lives, I am truly grateful for each and every one of you and for this church. We are embarking on a new chapter

in the life of this church and what a better season to start it in than Advent and with the Celebration of Our Lord and Savior’s birth. This year, let us celebrate by reflecting how far we have come, where we find ourselves presently, and with our eyes looking towards our bright future. I wish each and every one of you a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

May you be blessed and be a blessing,  
Pastor Daniel H. Burch

## Homecoming Celebration

Reception on December 3

Upon returning from our Wilderness Journey, we will have a Homecoming Celebration! We will partake in Communion, worship in our wonderfully renovated Sanctuary, and then, have a potluck dinner after service. We will celebrate this chapter being closed and a new chapter opened. Our Pot Luck Lunch starts at 12:15 pm and in order to get an evenly distributed spread the meal has been divided as such:

A-K: Main Dish/Meat    L-R- Side Dishes    S-Z Desserts

We hope you will join us for worship and fellowship on December 3rd and throughout our holiday season.

*Join Us*  
**Sunday at 8:45 & 11:00 AM**  
*Communion celebrated first Sunday of each month and every Sunday at 8:45AM.*

# Christmas Services and Information

## *Advent Service Schedule*

The Lectionary Passages for the Sunday Services in December are:

12/03/2017	First Sunday of Advent	Mark 1:1-8; Isaiah 40:1-11
12/10/2017	Second Sunday of Advent	Mark 13:24-37; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
12/17/2017	Third Sunday of Advent	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
12/24/2017	Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve	Morning Services: Luke 1: 26-38; Romans 16:25-27 Evening Services: Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and so we will be having our normal services of 8:45am and 11:00am, followed by our special Christmas Eve services of 7:00pm and 11:00pm. Our Christmas Eve services will be Lessons and Carols with Communion by candle light.

## Advent Reader Schedule

### *Reader Schedule for 11am Service*

<b>December 3rd</b>	<i>Ellen Brown, Frances Wilkins, and Debbie Dietrich</i>
<b>December 10th</b>	<i>Mike and Linda Steele</i>
<b>December 17th</b>	<i>Steve and Mickey Teese</i>
<b>December 24th</b>	<i>Becky McDaniel, &amp; Susan, Carlie, and Conner Pemberton</i>

## Sharing the Christmas Spirit

### *'Tis the Season for Giving*

If you are looking for a different kind of gift this year to give, here are couple of options; you can give a donation in someone's name to the Warsaw Community Food Pantry or to the Building Remodeling Fund at the church. We will give you a certificate in that person's name as a gift to present to them. Contact Bonnie Lowery or Teresa Adams for more details.

# USDA & Community Food Pantry

December 7 & 8

Work with volunteers from here and from other churches to provide food for persons in our community.

## **What do I do? What should I expect?**

On Thursday from 8:30-10:30am, unload the NN Food Bank truck and pack bags of food. Sort breads and pastries. Set up the Fellowship Hall.

On Friday 7:45-12noon, there are many options: welcome guests, help with registration, help in the kitchen, work with bags of food and baked goods, or carry bags in wagons for people. Pitch in wherever needed. Many volunteers go out for lunch afterwards at The Daily.

## **What do I wear?**

Comfortable clothes and comfortable shoes.

## **Why be part of the Food Pantry?**

The Food Pantry makes a big difference in the lives of hundreds of our neighbors each month. We can build relationships and be the hands and feet of Christ.

## **I can't make it, what can I donate?**

- Peanut Butter
- Canned protein
- Non-perishable fruit
- Canned vegetables



## Christmas Parade

*Join us for some fun!*

Join us on December 2nd for the Warsaw Christmas Parade. Meet at noon at the RCC parking lot. Wear your tacky sweater and join in some fun. Bring a friend if you want and come walk and hand out candy to the crowd. If you cannot walk, we can always use donations of candy.

## Fight for Good

*Salvation Army Bell Ringing*

Once again the Warsaw United Methodist Church members will assist the Salvation Army with the Red Kettle fundraising by ringing the bell on December 2nd from 9:00 to 6:00 in front of the Dollar General Store.

- |       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 9-10  | Bill and Dottie Garrison              |
| 10-11 | Bill and Kathy Herbert                |
| 11-12 | Sarah Sichel                          |
| 12-1  | Dick and Dee Billings                 |
| 1-2   | Letilia Seymour                       |
| 2-3   | Kim and Ted Salmon and Evelyn Garrett |
| 3-4   | John Seavey                           |
| 4-5   | Daniel Burch                          |
| 5-6   | Aubrey and Marian Mihalcoe            |

Many thanks to all those members that donate an hour of their time to help the children of our community have a brighter Christmas.

# WUMC Outreach and Events

*Weekly and Monthly*

## BIBLE STUDY & SMALL GROUPS FOR ALL AGES:

*Adults*—Studying the gospels, led by Bill Herbert & Gordon Wilkins.

*Youth*—Join Teresa Adams and Bill Garrison for bimonthly gatherings to focus on missions, Bible study, prayer, and building relationships with each other and with God.

*Children*—Younger elementary class (to 2nd grade); Older elementary class (grades 3-5) are held at 9:45AM on Sunday mornings.



### COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR:

Stop by The Daily to have a cup of coffee and chat with the pastor. Come for conversation, questions, and more. If you prefer a more private conversation, please make an appointment with the church office. If for any reason The Daily is closed, the location will move to Hardee's.

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

Suzanne Shrader will lead a new bible study focusing on Adam Hamilton's *Moses* each Tuesday from 10-11:30. Join us in the Ladies classroom for learning and fellowship.

### LOVE WEDNESDAYS:

*Our way of thanking our neighbors for what they do in this community! Help spread some love and gratitude!*

For Dec. 13th, we are collecting cookies/brownies for the High School teachers and a plate of goodies for the School Board as a thank you for their wonderful hospitality while we were holding our Sunday services at the High School.



Help lift up and encourage our neighbors. Who would you like to recognize? Who is often overlooked? Give ideas to Teresa Adams at [adamsfamily98@verizon.net](mailto:adamsfamily98@verizon.net) or Pastor Daniel at [danielburch@vaumc.org](mailto:danielburch@vaumc.org).

## Altar Flower Schedule

*Sign up to provide flowers for the altar*

The beauty of the altar flowers serves to enhance our worship services. If you are interested in providing flowers, please contact Bonnie Lowery.

### Altar Flowers for December:

<b>3</b>	Mike and Linda Steele	In Memory of our Parents
<b>10</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Edwards In	Memory of our Parents
<b>17th, 24th, 31st</b>	Poinsettias	

# United Methodist Men

*UMM Update*

The WUMM met on November 5th in the youth house. We were blessed with a great turnout of 16 attendees and a great breakfast provided by Scott and Jan Lodge and Tony Adams. Art Cox mentioned that relief for the tornado victims in Virginia had slowed due to more efforts being diverted to hurricane disaster relief efforts in Texas and Puerto Rico. Our group approved a \$200 donation to UMCOR earmarked specifically for Virginia disaster relief.

I brought an issue to our group regarding a young boy at Richmond County Elementary School who is battling health related problems due to both diabetes and gluten intolerance. Family finances limit their ability to provide proper snacks for the young boy. We approved a donation of a \$100 Food Lion gift card for Richmond County Elementary school nurse Sinka Thomas. Nurse Sinka will use the gift card to purchase proper snacks that the boy can have at school. The cost of the gift card was shared equally by the UMM and one of our members. Thanks for your blessings.

In other business we finalized plans to pick up our Christmas Trees on November 30th. We will have the stand set up late in the afternoon that day so come by and pick out your tree early to get your best selection. My thanks to all the volunteers who continue to make this fundraiser a success each year. Our next meeting will be Sunday, Dec. 3 back in the fellowship hall.

Happy Holidays,

Tony Adams  
President, UMM

## Mission Update

*Message from Art Cox*

Many members of our congregation participated in Operation Inasmuch on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017, covering a variety of construction repair projects at local homes and patient contacts at the Orchard. Our community service work was hailed as a fellowship success the following evening at a dinner hosted by Cobham Park Baptist Church.

The Northern Neck Food Bank increased its donor solicitation list by more than 35% this year. The resulting call for increased volunteer support to prepare and stuff envelopes was met by volunteers from the community including our church. Early responses to solicitation mailers have been quite good, and we are optimistic that the NNFB's financial position will be substantially strengthened. Our members, particularly Leticia Seymour, and friends contributed approximately 70 hours of volunteer work to this effort.

Special recognition is accorded to Bill Herbert and Marian Mihalcoe for their initiatives in shepherding the Angel Tree and the Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells projects. Frankly I was so tied up with the NNFB that these projects were in danger of languishing without their initiative taken.

I wish to thank everyone for their consistent support throughout 2017, and the opportunity to work with you again in 2018.

# Youth Group Activities

## *Upcoming Events*

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:

We will be attending a Play on December 10th at 2:30 in Richmond.

It is Christmas Cookie Drop time and we are in need of those wonderful tins but mostly COOKIES to fill the 40 tins that we need to drop off. Again remember please do not be alarmed if you get a ring at your door you might be the lucky one who gets cookies on that night.

Be on the look out for our painted rocks in Warsaw that the youth group painted to put out in town.

### HYPER YOUTH:

Our NEW and EXCITING youth group for middle schoolers has hit the ground running! Our new name, HYPER Youth, reflects our enthusiasm for serving and gathering. Our next meeting is on December 10th at 2pm. We will be decorating Christmas cookies for Operation Cookie Drop. We will join in with our High School Youth group to deliver for these cookies on December 17 at 7pm. All 5, 6, and 7th graders are welcome!

The youth have identified several activities they would like to pursue. In order to do so, they are aware that we will need to do some fundraising. We hope that you will come out and support our new youth group on January 7 after the 11 o'clock worship service for a soup and potato lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Julia Blackley-Rice, [jblackley808@gmail.com](mailto:jblackley808@gmail.com) or 333-3432.

# UMW Updates

## *Upcoming Events*

Our last meeting of 2017 will be a Christmas covered dish luncheon on December 12 at 12:30 pm. Carole Blackley is hosting this special event at her home, 325 Cat Point Drive, Warsaw VA 22572. Bring a main dish, side, or dessert to share; drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Carole by phone 804-443-7050 or email [carole\\_blackley@yahoo.com](mailto:carole_blackley@yahoo.com).

Starting with our January 9 meeting, we will go back to our starting time of 12 noon. Bring your lunch if you would like, or you can eat before you come. Dessert and drinks will be provided. The New Year is a good time to start a new thing – join United Methodist Women!

# Fellowship Beyond Our Walls

*Providing support and encouragement for one of our members*

Kim, Ted, and Josh's family have wished me to express their deepest appreciation for the support they have received during this time in their lives. They are so grateful for this church and each and every one of you. They are comforted to know that they, and Josh, are welcomed with open arms and with Christian love in this community.

In regards to being in fellowship with Josh -  
Josh Garrett's Mailing Address is:

Joshua Garrett – 20143117  
C-3 #41  
Rappahannock Regional Jail  
PO Box 3300  
Stafford, VA 22555-3300

The requirements for writing Josh are very strict, but we have to remember that they are in place for a reason. We think the world of Josh and that he would not use letter writing for nefarious purposes, but there are those who have. These regulations are meant to protect all involved in the process.

- All return labels must be handwritten. No stick on return labels
- If you send Josh a card, it must be BI-fold and have no glitter.
- Nothing can be sent in the card (no prayer cards, Upper Rooms, etc.)
- If you wish to send Josh a book:
- You CANNOT send him a book directly from you. It has to be sent directly through the publisher or distributing company (i.e. Amazon)
- We can only send PAPERBACK books. No hardback books.

Here are some of my thoughts on what to say to him if you are finding it difficult to find the words.

- Share your feelings.
- Tell Josh how much you miss him, that you care about him, and are thinking of him
- Give him appropriate updates on what is going on in your life.
- It is always a good thing to express your feelings regarding Josh and the situation presented before him.

However, if we stop there, a feeling of separation is still there. By giving Josh appropriate updates in your studies, faith, and life, he can still feel incorporated into our community.

- Share faith questions and thoughts.
- As United Methodists, we believe that being in faith conversations with our brothers and sisters in Christ is critical to the development and processing of our faith. Pose questions to Josh, share a bit of your story, and tell him things you have been pondering.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Daniel H. Burch

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 8am - UMM 8:45am - Worship 9:45am - Small Groups 11am - Worship	4	5 8am - Prayer Group 10am - Bible Study	6 7pm - Choir Practice	7 8:30am - USDA Set-up 6pm - Cub Scouts	8 8am - USDA	9
10 8:45am - Worship 9:45am - Small Groups 11am - Children's 11am - Worship 3pm - Scout Den Leader	11	12 8am - Prayer Group 10am - Bible Study 1pm - UMW	13 7pm - Choir Practice	14 6pm - Cub Scouts	15	16
17 8:45am - Worship 9:45am - Small Groups 11am - Worship 12:15pm - Church Council	18	19 8am - Prayer Group 10am - Bible Study	20 Newsletter Deadline 7pm - Choir Practice	21 6pm - Cub Scouts	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 8:45am - Worship 9:45am - Small Groups 11am - Worship 7pm - Christmas Eve 11pm - Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 8am - Prayer Group 10am - Bible Study	27 7pm - Choir Practice	28 6pm - Cub Scouts	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:45am - Worship 9:45am - Small Groups 11am - Worship	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6

Warsaw United Methodist Church

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