

# Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

Established 1812  
Warrenton, North Carolina



The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor

The Reverend Connie Mitchell Shelton, Bishop  
North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church  
700 Waterfield Ridge Place  
Garner, North Carolina 27529  
Phone 800 849-4433

The Reverend David Joyner, District Superintendent  
[heritagedistrict@nccumc.org](mailto:heritagedistrict@nccumc.org)

*Our mission is to assist people in recognizing God's call to a new life through faith in Christ Jesus. We exist to worship God, to serve Christ and to love our neighbors in the same way God loves us. We are a family of believers who profess our imperfections at the same time that we strive to help each other become more Christ-like through worship, education, service and fellowship.*

# Service of the Word

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

---

** THE GATHERING	Slane	Healey Willan
------------------	-------	---------------

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.*

PRELUDE	Slane	Charles Callahan
---------	-------	------------------

CALL TO WORSHIP

Every season of our lives seems to be filled with opportunities that easily fill our days, but sometimes the busy days do not always feel productive. *Yes, indeed. Sometimes it feels wearisome and fruitless.* God's Word proclaims that God does not desire for us to simply be busy, but God desires for our activities to result in goodness. *That is where we sometimes get stuck. May God help us grasp a better way to use our time, our energy and our dreams.*

PRAYER

*Holy God, help us to find that balance in life where we put into practice those activities that produce goodness and bear the marks of justice. Amen.*

* HYMN	Be Thou My Vision	UMH 451
--------	-------------------	---------

* PSALTER AFFIRMATION	Psalms 118:14-29	UMH 839-840
-----------------------	------------------	-------------

* GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 71
----------------	------------------------	--------

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Isaiah 65:17-25	Pew Bible OT 659
----------------------	-----------------	------------------

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR THE PRAYER PAL BOOKS

GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 21:5-19	Pew Bible NT 80
---------------	--------------	-----------------

ANTHEM	Go Not Far from Me, O God	Nicola Antonio Zingarelli
--------	---------------------------	---------------------------

EPISTLE LESSON	II Thessalonians 3:6-13	Pew Bible NT 194
----------------	-------------------------	------------------

* HYMN	Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us	UMH 381
--------	---------------------------------	---------

SERMON	Make Yourself Busy Doing What is Right!	Reverend Gooch
--------	---	----------------

PRAYERS FOR THE BUSYNESS OF LIFE

THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
-------------------	--	---------

OFFERTORY	Slane	David N. Johnson
-----------	-------	------------------

\* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 94
------------	---	--------

* HYMN	Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above	UMH 126
--------	--------------------------------------	---------

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE	Go Forth for God	UMH 670
-------------------	------------------	---------

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE	Slane	Noel Rawsthorne
------------	-------	-----------------

*The Light of Christ leads us out into the world.*

\*\* Please enter in preparation for Christian Worship.

\* All who are able may stand.

---

---

Pastor, The Reverend Ray Gooch  
Liturgist, Jeff Harty  
Greeter, Paula Pulley

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt  
Altar, Vivian Paynter  
Ushers, John Coleman, Steve Milligan

---

---

**TO OUR VISITORS:** We welcome all of our visitors today! In this hour, may your life be filled with peace as we worship our Lord together. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join us. Please sign a visitor's card and let us know if you would like a call or a visit.

---

**PRAYER PAL BOOKS:** Pastor Ray has purchased copies of *Praying Around the Tree* by Jodie Barrett, and they are being distributed to adult Prayer Pals. The goal is for adult Prayer Pals to send the books to child Prayer Pals prior to the first Sunday of Advent, November 30.

---

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** The Warren County Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 23 at the Courthouse, 3 p.m. Following the service, Thanksgiving boxes of food will be distributed to families in need. We are now collecting items for the boxes which may be left in the back entrance to the narthex. A list of needed items is on the credenza in the narthex.

---

**ADVENT READINGS:** November 30 begins the season of Advent. Readers for the Advent Old Testament Lesson and lighting the Advent Candle for each Sunday are needed. There is a registration sheet in the narthex. You may sign up as a family, a collective group or as an individual to help with the readings.

---

**COMMUNITY PRAYER TREE:** Plans are underway for the Warrenton community's first Community Prayer Tree, hosted by Wesley Memorial UMC. The Prayer Tree will be erected on the front church lawn. The community will be invited to meet at the Prayer Tree on November 30 and December 15, from 7-8 p.m., for prayer and placement of prayer "ornaments" on the tree. Wesley Memorial is selling "Meet Me at the Prayer Tree" sweatshirts to publicize the event. The order form is in the narthex or you may place your order with Lisa Bolton at [LBolton5@nc.rr.com](mailto:LBolton5@nc.rr.com). Shirts are \$30. Orders and payment are due by November 15.

---

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS:** Warren Ministries United is hosting weekly Advent Devotions on Wednesdays at 12 noon at local churches. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch, and the host church will provide beverages and dessert. The schedule for the remaining devotions is: Nov. 19, Cooks Chapel Baptist Church, 219 Cooks Chapel Rd., Warrenton; Dec. 3, Warrenton Church of God, S. Main St.; Dec. 10, Jerusalem Global Methodist Church, 850 Paschall Station Rd. Warrenton; Dec. 17, Coley Springs Missionary Baptist Church, 224 Park Town Rd., Warrenton. There will be no devotion service on November 26.

---

**MUSIC NOTES:** The tune of our opening hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*, is *Slane*, a traditional Irish melody. *Slane* was first published in 1909 in Patrick Weston Joyce's *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs: A Collection of 842 Irish Airs and Songs*. The harmonization in our hymnal is adapted from Eric Routley's arrangement in *Congregational Praise*, 1951. Four different settings of *Slane* by four different composers are our organ voluntaries for this morning's worship service.

**WREATH PROJECT 2025:** The Wreath Project is underway! Bows were made on Wednesday, and soon we will be pinning boxwood to wreath forms. We will gather boxwood on **Nov. 28 & 29**, then start making wreaths on **Dec. 1**. The wreaths needed for the first Sunday of Advent will be made on **Nov. 24 and 25**. A full schedule has been sent out via email - please plan on helping with this churchwide project.

---

**HELP NEEDED:** Those who are able are asked to remain after church on Sunday, November 23, to help bring down the church's Christmas trees from a second floor Sunday School room, so that they can be erected and decorated the next week before the first Sunday of Advent.

---

**BASKET COLLECTION:** Basket funds provide relief to those in need in our community. In 2024, the amount raised was \$2,777.00. Thanks to all who contribute throughout the year.

---

**SUNDAY, November 23, 2025**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-69 (208);  
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

**Altar:** Stephie and Jeff Harty

**Greeter:** Stephie Harty

**Ushers:** Kent Copley, Lee Whitley

---

### **COMING UP**

**November 19** - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary  
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church  
Advent Devotion, Cooks Chapel Baptist  
Church, 12 noon

Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room  
**November 23** - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
Courthouse Square, 3 p.m.

**November 28-29** - Boxwood gathering for wreath  
project

**November 30** - Morning Worship, Paul Neebe,  
Guest Trumpeter  
Community Prayer Tree Service,  
7 p.m., Wesley Memorial Front Lawn

**December 1 until complete** - Wreath Making,  
Fellowship Hall

---

---

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Tom Aycock, Jules Banzet, Mary Lou Bond,  
Anne Harris and Saralee Scott

### **Friends**

The family, friends and colleagues of all who  
are killed or injured in senseless violence  
All parties involved with the fragile peace deal,  
hostage/prisoner exchange in the Middle East  
The families of all in peril in Ukraine

Mike Aycock, Logan Barber, Chip Bristow,  
Lesla Bobbitt, Mark Byam, Elke Capps,  
Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman, Syd Cooper,  
Abby and Josh Cordes, John Boyd Davis,  
Jake Echols, Suzanne Fleming, Allen Harris,  
Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland, Donna Hunt,  
Scott Lang, Diane Lynch,  
The Rev. Ted Malone, Doris Milligan,  
Edgar and Debbie Milligan and Family,  
Luke McCullough, Evelyn Ostendorf,  
Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley and Holly Williams

---

### **Wesley Memorial UMC**

**210 N. Main St., PO Box 614**

**Warrenton, NC 27589, 252 257-2129, church**  
**wesleyemorialumc.net**

**webmaster@wesleyemorialumc.net**

### **The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor**

3590 NC 56, Creedmoor, NC 27522  
raygooch1950@gmail.com, 919 548-4295

**2025 Church Budget - \$112,115.95**

**Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,157.00**

*Collection Last Sunday - \$999.00*

*Attendance Last Sunday - 36*