

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
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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 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

** THE GATHERING *Adagio from Trumpet Concerto in D Major* Georg Philipp Telemann

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE *Adagio on 'Hyfrydol '* Charles Callahan

INTROIT *I Was Glad* Hubert Hastings Parry

* PSALTER LESSON *Psalm 122, with response 1* UMH 845

* HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH 211

A CALL TO ADVENT OBSERVANCE

CHORAL RESPONSE *Light the Advent Candles* Brad Nix

A MESSAGE FROM ISAIAH Cathelene Nunn

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE

RESPONSE *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel* UMH 211

PRAYER

Almighty God, disputes among people have escalated into violence and devastating words and even wars. Much suffering and despair have robbed us of life and joy and peace. Pour into us the hope for peace beyond our imaginations, that we may live into the fullness of your love and grace. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 24:36-44* Pew Bible NT 26

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

* HYMN *Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring* UMH 644

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 13:9-14* Pew Bible NT 153

SERMON *The Advent Quandary: What We Do Not Know* Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR OUR ADVENT WAITING

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY *Ave Maria* J. S. Bach/Charles Gounod

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

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

* HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* UMH 184

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* harm. J. S. Bach

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, Mabel Bullock

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Ushers, Neblett Bullock, Richard Hunter
Altar, Rebecca Harris
Acolyte, Ellen Hunter

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.

MUSIC NOTES: On this, the first Sunday in Advent, we warmly welcome guest trumpeter Dr. Paul Neebe to our celebration of Advent.

COMMUNITY PRAYER TREE: Wesley Memorial will host the lighting of the Warrenton community's first Community Prayer Tree, tonight at 7 p.m. on the front church lawn. All are invited for a time of prayer and placement of prayer "ornaments" on the tree. A second Community Prayer Tree event will be held on December 15, from 7-8 p.m. Please spread the word and plan to be here for this community-wide effort.

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: 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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: We are taking orders for poinsettias to be placed on the altar and around the church at Christmas. If you would like to purchase poinsettias to honor loved ones, please sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Mabel Bullock at 919 345-6292 or msybullock@gmail.com. Poinsettias are \$15 each, and orders must be received by Wednesday, December 17.

CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES: In keeping with our tradition of Christmas giving, our *Angel Tree* is up and ready for ornaments to be selected. We have ornaments on our tree for several individual people in the community in need as well as a family of 6, including 4 children, who lost their home and all belongings to fire in late October. Please select one or more ornaments from the tree and purchase/wrap the item(s) listed. Attach a gift tag with the name of the recipient, or the name portion only of the Angel Tree "ornament." The return deadline for Angel Tree gifts and gift cards is **Sunday, Dec. 21.**

WREATH PROJECT 2025: We are off and running! Todd and Claudia Wemyss provided a wonderful pile of boxwood for us to make the "early" wreaths this past Monday, and during the last two days, we have gathered another large pile of boxwood so that at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning, wreath makers can begin filling the remainder of our orders. The plan is to work day and night, throughout the week, until the orders are filled. Additional help is needed at least tomorrow and Tuesday, clipping more boxwood as well as making deliveries. Please plan to lend a hand and help out where needed.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

There will be a meeting of the Administrative Council on Sunday, December 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend, but church officers and committee chairs are especially needed at the meeting.

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, December 7, 2025

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Altar: Jennifer Franks

Greeter: Betsy Frazier

Ushers: Heath Frazier, Grady Strickland

COMING UP

Today - Community Prayer Tree Service,
7 - 8 p.m., Wesley Memorial Front Lawn

December 1 until complete - Boxwood gathering
and Wreath Making, Fellowship Hall

December 3 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
Advent Devotion, Warrenton Church
of God, S. Main St., Warrenton, 12 noon

Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room
December 7 - Administrative Council Meeting,
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

December 15 - Community Prayer Tree Service
7 - 8 p.m., Wesley Memorial Front Lawn

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

The family, friends and colleagues of
Dr. L. Beecher Henderson

Mike Aycock, Logan Barber, Mark Byam,
Chip Bristow, Lesa Bobbitt, 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,
Phil Hunt, Scott Lang, Diane Lynch,
The Rev. Ted Malone, Doris Milligan,
Luke McCullough, The Rev. Charles Owens,
Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley
and Holly Williams

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2025 Church Budget - \$112,115.95
Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,157.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$7,632.36
Attendance Last Sunday - 41