

# 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  
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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 Word and Table

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

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\*\* THE GATHERING                      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*                      Charles Callahan

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE                      *Of the Father's Love Begotten II*                      Wilbur Held

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is a season filled with the promises of God to a despairing world. It is a world in great need of hope. It is God's gift to us who are willing to hear God's Word and put our full trust in God. *It is a season for which we have hungered. Now may God fill us with a peace that is not overcome by the perplexities of life. May we go forth in peace to spread to this world God's hope.*

PRAYER

*Holy God, fill our worship with your Spirit, that we may be filled with the strength and power you give us to become the peacemakers who can turn weapons into tools that sustain life for all. Amen.*

\* HYMN                      *Heralds of Christ*                      UMH 567

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING                      Vivian Paynter

A MESSAGE FROM ISAIAH                      *Isaiah 11:1-10*                      Pew Bible OT 609

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

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

PRAYER

*God of peace and mercy, restore to us the joy of our salvation as we watch for the growing shoot that comes from the family of Jesse. May we never tire of working for and expecting peace in all the unsuspecting circumstances. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON                      *Matthew 3:1-12*                      Pew Bible NT 2

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM                      *O Come, Emmanuel*                      Mary MacDonald

EPISTLE LESSON                      *Romans 15:4-13*                      Pew Bible NT 154

\* HYMN                      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*                      UMH 384

\* A PSALM PRAYER                      *Psalms 72:1-7*                      UMH 795

SERMON                      *The Advent Promise: A New Shoot from an Old Stump*                      Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR ADVENT PROMISES

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

OUR CONFESSION

*Our living, Almighty God, betrays our commitment to peace. Forgive the ways we hinder and break down peaceful living, and renew within us the assurance that your trust in us can change the world. Amen.*

|                             |   |        |
|-----------------------------|---|--------|
| OFFERTORY                   | <i>Of the Father's Love Begotten I</i>          | Held   |
| * PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS |   |        |
| * DOXOLOGY                  | <i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i> | UMH 94 |
| THE GREAT THANKSGIVING      |   | UMH 13 |
| SHARING THE HOLY MEAL       |   |        |
| OUR THANKS                  |   |        |

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Open the world to the joy of your gifts of Jesus Christ, that all might know and believe. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

|                            |  |         |
|----------------------------|--|---------|
| * HYMN                     | <i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>         | UMH 203 |
| * BENEDICTION AND BLESSING |  |         |
| * CHORAL RESPONSE          | <i>For the Bread Which You Have Broken</i> | UMH 614 |
| * CHIMING OF THE TRINITY   |  |         |
| * POSTLUDE                 |  |         |

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

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

*\* All who are able may stand.*

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Pastor, The Reverend Ray Gooch  
 Liturgist, Jeff Harty  
 Greeter, Velvet Boyd

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Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt  
 Ushers, Heath Frazier, Grady Strickland  
 Altar, Jennifer Franks

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**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.

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**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.**

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**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.

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**MUSIC NOTES:** The tune *Divinum mysterium (Divine mystery)*, as set to the text *Of The Father's Love Begotten*, is the inspiration for the organ voluntaries heard this morning. Dating from the eleventh century, the tune is an early vocal embellishment on "Sanctus" from the Latin mass.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** Today we will celebrate Holy Communion. In the tradition of the United Methodist Church, all are welcome and invited to partake, as our table is an “open table.” For those who need it, there is a gluten-free option.

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**WREATH PROJECT 2025:** Thanks to the hard work of many dedicated individuals, another wreath project is completed! From bow makers, room set-up people and boxwood pickers, to wreath makers and bow attachers, to refreshment providers and floor cleaners, to deliverers and money collectors - you know who you are, and we are grateful to you for another successful Wreath Project. And - a special thanks to all of you who purchased wreaths! Orders for 129 small wreaths and 20 large ones were filled, and collections are still coming in. A final tally should be available next week.

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**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.

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**SUNDAY, December 14, 2025**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55;  
James 5:7-10; Mathew 11:2-11

**Altar:** Stephie Harty

**Greeter:** Betsy Frazier

**Ushers:** Elton Brown, Ben Hunter

#### **COMING UP**

**December 10** - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary  
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church  
Advent Devotion, Jerusalem Global  
Methodist Church, 850 Paschall Station Rd.  
Warrenton, 12 noon  
Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room  
**December 14** - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.  
**December 15** - Community Prayer Tree Service  
7 - 8 p.m., Wesley Memorial Front Lawn  
**December 24** - Christmas Eve Service, 5 p.m.

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### **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  
Warren Knight, infant son of Anna Britt and  
MacGregor Knight, to have surgery tomorrow,  
December 8

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

*Collection Last Sunday - \$4,778.00*  
*Attendance Last Sunday - 47*