

# 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  
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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 the Word

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

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\*\* THE GATHERING      *Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen'*      Johannes Brahms  
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE      *Prelude on 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'*      Charles Callahan  
CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Advent leads us along a pathway that consistently calls us to a way of holiness. *We hear God's call, and we strive to apply justice to our decisions and actions.* God understands the challenges to faithfulness, but God also continues to give oversight of our journeys. *Thanks be to God for mercy and grace that rescue us and instill in us hope and peace and joy.*

PRAYER

*Glorious Lord, bless us this day with your peace that in your Word we will find redemption and compassion that fill us with joy and hope. Amen.*

\* HYMN      *Come, Thou Almighty King*      UMH 61

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING      *Isaiah 35:1-10*      Mable and Neblett Bullock

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

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

PRAYER

*God of great mercy, fill our hearts with the joy that enlightens us, calls us to action and rejoices in the shared salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON      *Matthew 11:2-11*      Pew Bible NT 10

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM      *Come, Emmanuel*      Mary MacDonald

EPISTLE LESSON      *James 5:7-11*      Pew Bible NT 215

\* HYMN      *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*      UMH 216

\* THE CANTICLE OF MARY      UMH 199, in unison

SERMON      *Advent Mercy*      Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S MERCY

THE LORD'S PRAYER      UMH 895

OFFERTORY      *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*      Paul Manz

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

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

\* HYMN      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*      UMH 213

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

\* CHORAL RESPONSE      *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*      UMH 204

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* POSTLUDE      *Improvisation on 'Veni, Veni Emmanuel'*      Gerre Hancock

*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, Betsy Frazier

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt  
Ushers, Elton Brown, Ben Hunter  
Altar, Stephanie Harty

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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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**COMMUNITY PRAYER TREE:** Our Community Prayer Tree is full of "ornaments" with prayer requests! The second of two Community Prayer Tree services is scheduled for tomorrow night, from 7 - 8 p.m., on the front lawn by the tree. Wrap up and join the group - bring friends!

**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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**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 final devotion in the series is scheduled for Dec. 17, Coley Springs Missionary Baptist Church, 224 Park Town Rd., Warrenton.

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**CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP:** On December 22, 5 p.m. there will be a contemplative worship, *Waiting in Darkness*, at Solitude Farm and Retreat Center (182 Stagecoach Road, Warrenton, NC. Please bring a flashlight and arrive no later than 4:55 pm. Thank you to the Wethingtons for hosting this, and to The Reverend Candy White for leading this service.

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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** At 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wesley Memorial will host *A Service of Lessons and Carols, Communion and Candlelight*. Please come as you are and bring your guests to this special service. The offering at this service is earmarked for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to assist people in our community.

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**MUSIC NOTES:** The hymn tune *Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen* (*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*) is a German Advent carol that uses the image of a blooming rose as a symbol for the coming of the Christ Child. The hymn tune for *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* (*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*) comes from a fifteenth century processional of the Franciscan nuns.

**WREATH PROJECT 2025:** As reported last week, we received orders for 129 small wreaths and 20 large ones. When all collections are in, our profit will be approximately \$6000. It was decided that 10% of this profit will be presented to our local food pantry, Loaves and Fishes, where workers there are addressing food insecurity in our county.

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**MUSIC AT CHERRY HILL:** This afternoon at 3 p.m., Raleigh's Oakwood Waits will present *Christmas Joy* at Cherry Hill Plantation in Inez. For 15 years, this a capella group in Victorian dress has helped ring in the holiday season for this community. Please join others across the area for this special concert. Admission is free. All donations are gratefully received.

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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.

**SUNDAY, December 21, 2025**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**Altar:** Anne Harris

**Greeter:** Suzi Byam

**Ushers:** Steve Milligan, Tommy Ross

**COMING UP**

**Today** - *Christmas Joy* concert by the Oakwood Waits at Cherry Hill, 3 p.m., NC Hwy 58, Inez

**December 17** - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church  
Advent Devotion, Coley Springs Missionary Baptist Church, 224 Park Town Rd. Warrenton.

Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room  
**December 15** - Community Prayer Tree Service  
7 - 8 p.m., Wesley Memorial Front Lawn

**December 21** - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

**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, at home, recovering from  
surgery last week

Mike Aycock, Logan Barber, Lesa Bobbitt,  
Elke Capps, Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman,  
Syd Cooper, Abby and Josh Cordes,  
John Boyd Davis, Suzanne Fleming,  
Allen Harris, Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland,  
Donna Hunt, Phil Hunt, Scott Lang,  
Diane Lynch, 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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**The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor**

**3590 NC 56, Creedmoor, NC 27522**

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

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

*Collection Last Sunday - \$3,324.00*

*Attendance Last Sunday - 48*