

# 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 Word and Table

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Epiphany Sunday

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\*\* THE GATHERING Greensleeves Gerre Hancock

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE What Is This Lovely Fragrance? Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus is illuminated by a heavenly light that both perplexed people and empowered them. *The light of the Gospel often perplexes us because we do not fully understand the message or comprehend the gift being shared.* Let us embrace this holy season and pray for God's revealing light in our lives.

\* PRAYER

*Holy God, grant that we may search your Word to grasp your truths and set our feet in a path of righteousness. Amen.*

\* HYMN The First Noel UMH 245

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Affirmation from I Timothy UMH 889

\* GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father UMH 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible OT 654

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

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

\* HYMN What Child Is This UMH 219

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 3:1-12 Pew Bible NT 181

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Pew Bible OT 513

SERMON Your Light Has Come Reverend Gooch

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CONFESSION AND PARDON UMH 12

OFFERTORY Greensleeves Manz

\* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

\* DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 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. May it seal the covenant between us. 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 God of Grace and God of Glory UMH 577

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING Dresden Amen UMH 897

\* CHIMING THE HOLY TRINITY

\* POSTLUDE The First Nowell 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  
Altar, Claudia Wemyss  
Ushers, Elton Brown, Grady Strickland

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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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**NEW BABY:** The rose on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth of Grayson Joseph Cox, born on December 28, 2025. He is the son of Christin King and Charlie Cox in Elk Point, South Dakota, the grandson of Katherine Harris and Cody Young, and the great-grandson of Anne Harris.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!** Our congratulations to Jeff Harty who, just this past week, has retired following a distinguished career of dedicated work as Lead Field Engineer with Underwriters Laboratory Solutions. We wish for you all the best as you enter this new passage!

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**A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS:** Thanks to all of you who have so generously *given* during this season of Advent and Christmas. From wreath making (and purchasing) and the launching of the Community Prayer Tree, to decorating, giving of poinsettias, providing of and delivering Angel Tree gifts, to participating in services, special music and special celebrations, and for the many acts of kindness that only you know about - many thanks to each and every one of you for making this holiday season special at Wesley Memorial.

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**BASKET COLLECTION:** Basket funds are used to provide relief to those of our community who are in need. In 2025, the amount raised was \$2,561.00. Thanks to all who contribute throughout the year.

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**CONFERENCE TRAINING SESSIONS:** Our annual conference is offering committee training by zoom meetings. Listed below are the meeting schedules. Mary Hunter is working on plans for zoom meetings at the church, if needed, but they can also be done from home. You will need to register for the zoom meetings and the conference will send the links for the meetings. If you cannot make the meetings on that date, in early February they will send us the recordings that we can watch, but would not be able to interact with our questions. Contact Ray Gooch if you have questions.

*Safer Sanctuaries* - Saturday, January 10 or Saturday, February 7

*Cultivating Leaders: A Year-Long Nominations Pathway* with Trish Archer

Sunday, January 25, 2-3pm

*Lay Leader* with John Hall – Sunday, January 25, 3:15-4:15 pm

*Trustees* with Kim Lamb – Sunday, January 25, 4:30-5:30pm

*S/PPRC* with Jessie Larkins and Beth Hood – Tuesday, January 27, 12-1pm

*Church Council* with Donna Banks – Wednesday, January 28, 12-1pm

*Finance* with Christine Dodson – Thursday, January 29, 12-1pm

**OUT WITH THE OLD:** As you remove and pack up your Christmas decorations, please do not discard wreath forms! If you have no other use for them, you may return them to the church, to Mary Hunter or to Elaine Coleman, either as they are or “undressed,” and we will recycle them next year. We can reuse the pins too, if you dry them and place them in an air tight container. Please pass this information along to others in the community who purchased wreaths. Thanks!

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**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** This year, the Christmas Eve offering was designated for Wesley Memorial’s Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, and is to be used to help those in need in the community. A total of \$2283.00 was given that evening. As always, thank you for your generosity and for supporting this important local mission.

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**SUNDAY, January 11, 2026**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 3:12-17

**Altar:** Claudia Wemyss

**Greeter:** Kay Copley

**Ushers:** Kent Copley, Lee Whitley

**COMING UP**

**January 7** - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary  
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church

**January 11** - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

**January 14** - Choir Rehearsal Resumes, 5:30 p.m.  
Fireside Room

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**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Cynthia Jenkins - At home, recovering from  
knee replacement surgery

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

**Friends**

The Family and Friends of  
Suzan Monk Stafford

The Family and Friends of Bob Traylor

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

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, Warren Knight,

Diane Lynch, Doris Milligan,

Luke McCullough, Chris Pegram,

Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley, Kay Schoellhorn and  
Holly Williams

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**Wesley Memorial UMC**

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**2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95**

**Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00**

*Collection Last Sunday - \$2,142.00*

*Attendance Last Sunday - 34*