

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

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, January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

** THE GATHERING	Aurelia	Charles Callahan
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE	A River Triptych	Marcia Wells
CALL TO WORSHIP		

At about thirty years of age, Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. It was a turning point in Jesus' life. He launched a ministry as a new rabbi. He gathered disciples, casting before them the vision of the kingdom of God. He deepened his journey into the role of being God's messiah, the Christ. *In Jesus' baptism, we see the life altering journey that begins with our baptism. May God help us grasp that journey and live into our commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ.*

* PRAYER

Lord Christ, in your baptism we are transformed in our understanding of the power of water and Spirit and God's affirmation that we belong to God. Empower us today, to hear what is said to us from God's Word, wherever it is spoken to us. Amen.

* HYMN	When Jesus Came to Jordan (tune: Aurelia)	UMH 252
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 3:13-17	Pew Bible NT 3
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A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Isaiah 42:1-9	Pew Bible OT 636
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* HYMN	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters	UMH 605
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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON	Acts 10:34-43	Pew Bible NT 123
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SERMON	Baptism: Water, Spirit and the Voice	Reverend Gooch
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PRAYERS FOR OUR JOURNEY AS BAPTIZED PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
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OFFERTORY	Deep River	Charles Callahan
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* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 94
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PSALTER	Psalms 29	UMH 761
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CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT		UMH 50
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*As a sign of your baptismal reaffirmation, you are invited to the baptismal font to extend your hands over the font where water will be poured over your hands and you will hear the words,
"Remember your baptism and be thankful."*

THE CHARGE OF DISCIPLESHIP

OUR THANKS

Almighty God, we give our thanks and praise to you for your faithfulness as our covenant God. As you have been faithful to us, we pledge to be faithful to you by practicing your faith in our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything You may be glorified through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

* HYMN	<i>This Is The Spirit's Entry Now</i>	UMH 608
* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING		
* CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Shall We Gather at the River</i>	UMH 723
* CHIMING THE HOLY TRINITY		
* POSTLUDE	<i>Aurelia</i>	Noel Rawsthorne
<i>The Light of Christ leads us out into the world.</i>		

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

* *All who are able may stand.*

Pastor, The Reverend Ray Gooch
 Liturgist, Jeff Harty
 Greeter, Kay Copley

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
 Altar, Claudia Wemyss
 Ushers, Kent Copley, Lee Whitley

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.

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 Sancturaries - 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 airtight container. Please pass this information along to others in the community who purchased wreaths. Thanks!

MUSIC NOTES: The prelude this morning, *A River Triptych* by contemporary American composer Marcia Wells, is a three-part piano solo on the hymn tunes for *In the Sweet By and By*, *Shall We Gather at the River* and *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*, all which reference the cleansing power of sacred water.

CONGRATULATIONS! Congratulations to the Stall family, Morgan Leigh, Alan, Whit, Lucy Rivers and Foster who welcomes New Baby Boy Stall on Thursday, January 8. We wish all the best to all of you!

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER: We offer prayers and congratulations for Karl and Chelsey Hehl following the birth of Karl Hehl IV this past week. The baby was early and arrived with some difficulty, both for him and Chelsey, but we are hopeful that all is going well now. Please keep the Hehls in your prayers.

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.

SUNDAY, January 18, 2026

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Altar: Anna Macon Washburn

Greeter: Cathelene Nunn

Ushers: John Coleman, Tommy Ross

COMING UP

January 14 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

January 18 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

February 1 - Administrative Council Luncheon Meeting, following Morning Worship Fellowship Hall

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends

The family, friends and colleagues of all who are killed or injured in senseless violence

The family and friends of those killed and injured in the New Year's Eve fire in Switzerland

Logan Barber, Lesa Bobbitt, Elke Capps,
Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman,
Syd Cooper, Abby and Josh Cordes,
John Boyd Davis, Suzanne Fleming,
Allen Harris,

Chelsey Hehl and newborn son, Karl Hehl IV,
Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland, Donna Hunt,
Phil Hunt, Warren Knight,
Diane Lynch, Doris Milligan,
Luke McCullough, Chris Pegram,
Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley, Kay Schoellhorn,
Marcus Tunstall and Holly Williams

Wesley Memorial UMC

210 N. Main St., PO Box 614

Warrenton, NC 27589, 252 257-2129, church
wesleymemorialumc.net

webmaster@wesleymemorialumc.net

The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor

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

2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$1,819.23

Attendance Last Sunday - 33