

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 18, 2026

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE	Prelude in C	Callahan
CALL TO WORSHIP		

One of the resounding principles of the Bible is that God calls people into covenant relationships, and God calls people to service. We live out those calls or claims upon our lives by the way we live and the way we interact with others. *Often, the great challenge for us is to move beyond the wonder of God's calling and live into the reality of discipleship.* Another biblical principle is that God equips those who are called. *Our hope is to move beyond our fears and hesitancy to actively serve God as we have been called. May God give us the courage to do so.*

* PRAYER

In your wisdom, Holy God, help us to hear your claim upon our lives, equip us through your Holy Spirit and persist in your encouragement. Amen.

* HYMN	Where Charity and Love Prevail	UMH 549
* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The World Methodist Social Affirmation	UMH 886
* GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Isaiah 49:1-7	Pew Bible OT 644
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A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 3:13-17	Pew Bible NT 3
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* HYMN	He Leadeth Me	UMH 128
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* PSALTER LESSON	Psalms 40:1-11	UMH 774-775
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ANTHEM	Lead Me, Lord	Samuel Sebastian Wesley
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EPISTLE LESSON	I Corinthians 1:4-9	Pew Bible NT 156
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SERMON	Chosen	Reverend Gooch
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PRAYERS FOR OUR PATHWAYS AS CHOSEN PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
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OFFERTORY	Sicilienne	Callahan
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* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 94
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* HYMN	O Jesus, I Have Promised	UMH 396
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* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE	Spirit of the Living God	UMH 393
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* CHIMING THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE	Verbum supernum (The Word of God)	Callahan
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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, Cathelene Nunn

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Ushers, John Coleman, Tommy Ross
Altar, Anna Macon Washburn

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.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: January 18-25, 2026 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the narthex is a listing of 25 churches in the Warrenton area. It is an incomplete listing, and you are welcome to add other churches. During this week you are invited to choose a different church each day and offer a prayer for that congregation. If you know a member of that congregation you might want to contact them and let them know that you are praying for their congregation. Thank you for drawing closer to other churches through prayer.

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, 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

LENTEN STUDY: During the season of Lent, February 22 - March 29, 2026 Ray Gooch will be leading a study each Sunday morning on the gospel lesson for that Sunday, 9:30 - 10:15ish. There will be a study guide in the narthex for the season. All you need is a Bible and the study guide. All are welcome to join on any and all Sundays you are available.

MUSIC NOTES: Charles Callahan (1951-2023) was a prize-winning American composer, organist, pianist and teacher. The first performance of the organ transcription for this morning's offertory, *Sicilienne*, was given by Charles Callahan at the dedication recital that he played on the newly-installed Petty-Mafadden organ at First United Methodist Church, Green Street, Wilson, North Carolina, April 27, 1989. Your organist was the page turner for Mr. Callahan for this recital. As a "Thank You" gift, at the end of the performance, Mr. Callahan presented me with his copy of the *Sicilienne* and autographed it for me, "For Chet, from his friend and colleague, Charles Callahan."

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!

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 25, 2026

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Altar: April Andrews

Greeter: Lisa Bolton

Ushers: Steve Milligan, Ben Hunter

COMING UP

January 21 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

January 25 - 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

Kirk Hazen, at home, recovering from knee
replacement surgery

Harriett Tillett, sister of Ramona DuBose, at
Duke UMC, recovering from a fall,
resulting injuries then surgery

The Family and Friends of
Yarborough Williams

Logan Barber, Lesa Bobbitt, Steve Brooks,
Elke Capps, Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman,
Syd Cooper, Abby and Josh Cordes,
John Boyd Davis, Suzanne Fleming,
Kirk Frazier, Allen Harris,
Chelsey Hehl and newborn son, Karl Hehl IV,
Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland, Donna Hunt,
Phil Hunt, Warren Knight, Doris Milligan,
Luke McCullough, Chris Pegram,
Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley, Kay Schoellhorn,
J.P. Taylor, Marcus Tunstall and Holly Williams

Wesley Memorial UMC

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The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor

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2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$1,192.00

Attendance Last Sunday - 44