

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 25, 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

** THE GATHERING	Aria	Charles Callahan
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THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE	Prelude in C	Callahan
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CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus and Paul were all proclaimers of the kingdom of God. *We have heard from them the good news that our burdens have been lifted; we, too, can belong to the kingdom; the kingdom is near, our salvation is through the power of God.* Our worship intersects with the proclamation and our discipleship in Jesus Christ. Let us then enter into holy worship – listening, hearing and responding.

* PRAYER

Gracious God, give us the ears to hear your proclamations, and the courage to follow you closely and to love you wholly. Amen.

* HYMN	The Church's One Foundation	UMH 545
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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	The Nicene Creed	UMH 880
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* GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 71
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Isaiah 9:1-4	Pew Bible OT 606
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A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 4:12-23	Pew Bible NT 3
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ANTHEM	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	Gilbert Martin
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EPISTLE LESSON	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Pew Bible NT 156
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* HYMN	Jesus Calls Us	UMH 398
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SERMON	Chosen	Reverend Gooch
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PSALTER LESSON	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	UMH 758-759
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PRAYERS FOR OUR JOURNEY TO THE KINGDOM

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	Lift High the Cross	UMH 159
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* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE	Beneath the Cross of Jesus	UMH 297
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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, Lisa Bolton

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, April Andrews
Ushers, Ben Hunter, Steve Milligan

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING: On Sunday, February 1, the Administrative Council will have its first meeting of the year, following Morning Worship, in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome to attend the meeting, but church officers and committee chairs are especially needed at the meeting, as we plan for the year.

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-Mafdden 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, February 1, 2026

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;

I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Altar: Margaret Echols

Greeter: Sheila Blackwood

Ushers: Heath Frazier, Richard Hunter

COMING UP

January 28 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

February 1 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
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

Logan Barber, Lesa Bobbitt, Steve Brooks,
Elke Capps, Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman,
Syd Cooper, Abby and Josh Cordes,
John Boyd Davis, Suzanne Fleming,
Allen Harris, Kirk Hazen,
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,
John Paul Taylor, Harriet Tillett,
Marcus Tunstall and Holly Williams

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2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95
Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$1,245.00
Attendance Last Sunday - 28