

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, February 8, 2026

Fifth 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

When people asked God how they should live, God laid down laws and commandments to guide the people in their living. God also sent leaders, guides, mentors, prophets and even his Son to model faithful, righteous living. But, people often devised their own set of standards. Outwardly it might have appeared they were following God's leadership, but in reality their actions were only a shadow of God's expectations. *It is often difficult for us to follow God's instructions, because we get caught up in hearing the wisdom of the world, which is not always the same as God's wisdom.* In our worship, let us seek to hear God's word above all other words being proclaimed to us.

* PRAYER

Holy God, by the power of your Holy Spirit make us wise in your ways, that our daily living will proclaim your glory so fully, that others will come to praise you as well. Amen.

* HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

UMH 885

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

UMH 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

I Corinthians 2:1-16

Pew Bible NT 1567

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:13-20

Pew Bible NT 4

* HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

* PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 112 (with sung response)

UMH 833

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing?

arr. by Andy Beck

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Pew Bible OT 652

SERMON

Living as though We Are Moral

Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR OUR DAILY ACTIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

OFFERTORY

Sicilienne

Callahan

* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

* HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be

UMH 399

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Where He Leads Me

UMH 338

* CHIMING THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE

Verbum supernum (The Word of God)

Callahan

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, Kay Copley

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Margaret Echols
Ushers, Ted Echols, Ben Hunter

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: Following today's service, the Administrative Council will have its first meeting of the year in the Fireside Room. 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.

COMING UP: Dr. Lester Ruth, Professor of Christian Worship at Duke Divinity School is presenting a program at the Louisburg College Performing Arts Center on Thursday, February 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program: *Is America a Christian Nation? Wrestling with history, theology and the Bible* is sponsored by Louisburg College and the NC Annual Conference and is open to all interested persons.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: February 15, 2026 is Methodist Home for Children's Sunday. A special offering will be received to support the ministry of this very vital ministry for children, youth and their families. If you are writing a check, make it payable to Wesley Memorial with "Methodist Home for Children" on the memo line, place your contribution in a church envelope and mark that "Methodist Home for Children." You may also mail your contribution to Wesley Memorial, PO Box 614, Warrenton, NC. 27589.

ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVANCE: An Ash Wednesday service of the Imposition of Ashes will be held at Wesley Memorial UMC on Wednesday, February 18. The opening service will be at 11:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary and will be followed by a Drive-By Ash Wednesday opportunity, 12 noon-2 p.m.

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. Study guides are in the narthex. Please pick up your copy to use along with your favorite Bible translation for our study and discussion. All are welcome to join on any and all Sundays you are available.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS: Beginning Wednesday, February 18, churches in cooperation with Warren Ministries United will host Lenten Devotions each Wednesday at 12 noon. You are invited to attend, and if you like, bring a bag lunch. The host church will provide beverages and dessert. The schedule for devotions is: Feb. 18, Solitude Retreat Center; Feb. 25, Wesley Memorial UMC; March 4, Jerusalem Global Methodist; March 11, Warrenton Church of God; March 18, Oak Chapel AME; March 25, Warrenton Missionary Baptist; April 1, Cooks Chapel Baptist.

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.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Richard Hunter - scheduled for hip replacement surgery, tomorrow, February 9

Friends

The Family, Friends and Colleagues of John Boyd Davis III

The Family, Friends and Colleagues of Marcus Tunstall

The Family, Friends and Colleagues of Tim Boone

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, Suzanne Fleming, Allen Harris, Kirk Hazen, 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, and Holly Williams

SUNDAY, February 15, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18; II Peter 1:16-21; Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9

Altar: Suzi Byam

Greeter: Mabel Bullock

Ushers: Kent Copley, Tommy Ross

COMING UP

Today - Administrative Council Luncheon Meeting, following Morning Worship, Fellowship Hall

February 11 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

February 8 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

February 12 - Louisburg College Program, 6:30 p.m.

February 15 - Morning Worship; MHC Sunday Fellowship Covered Dish Luncheon

February 18 - WMUMC Ash Wednesday Service, 11:30 a.m., followed by curbside imposition of ashes

WMU Lenten Devotions, 12 noon, Solitude Retreat Center

February 25 - Lenten Devotions, 12 noon, WMUMC

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 - (Church Cancelled)

Attendance Last Sunday - (Church Cancelled)