

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
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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, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

** THE GATHERING *Breslau, Bristol and Brockham* Noel Rawsthorne

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE *Leoni* Rawsthorne

CALL TO WORSHIP

The season of Lent brings us face to face with folks who struggled with questions about whether they were fulfilling God's claim upon their lives. Abraham and Nicodemus are two of those. *God asked them to believe and trust in big changes in their lives. God asks us to trust in big changes as well.* As God does great transforming work in our lives, may we find peace, assurance and joy in belonging to God.

PRAYER

Lord God, give us new birth through your Spirit that we may see your kingdom. Help us to believe, even in places we have not dared to believe, and celebrate your righteousness in our lives through faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN *The God of Abraham Praise* UMH 116

* A PSALM AFFIRMATION *Psalm 121, in unison* UMH 844

* GLORIA PATRI *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 70

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Genesis 12:1-4a* Pew Bible OT 9

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 4:1-5; 13-17* Pew Bible NT 145

* HYMN *Faith of Our Fathers* UMH 710

GOSPEL LESSON *John 3:1-17* Pew Bible NT 89

SERMON *Righteousness by Faith* Reverend Gooch

ANTHEM *Remember, Remember Me* Jack Schrader

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CONFESSION AND PARDON UMH 12

OFFERTORY *Picardy* Rawsthorne

* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

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. Help us to be love as you are love. 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 *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE

King of Kings, Yet Born of Mary

UMH 626

* CHIMING THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE

St. Catherine

Rawsthorne

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, Paula Pulley

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Lisa Bolton
Ushers, Michael Comstock, 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.

HOLY COMMUNION: Today we will celebrate Holy Communion. In the tradition of the United Methodist Church, all are welcome and invited to partake, as our table is an "open table." For those who need it, there is a gluten-free option, and those who wish to be served at your seat, please signal to the ushers at the conclusion of Communion.

PRAYER TREE CROSS: The additional cross in our sanctuary was constructed from the Community Prayer Tree that graced our church lawn during Advent. Attached at the center of the cross are the shredded prayer concerns from the Prayer Tree, reminding us that our prayers and concerns are held in God's heart. Throughout the season of Lent, this cross will help us focus on the gospel proclaimed by Jesus.

LENTEN STUDY: During the season of Lent, through 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. The study will be held in the Fireside Room.

GIRL SCOUTS COOKIE SALE: Once again, Girl Scout Troop #2314, which is sponsored by Wesley Memorial and meets here at the church, is selling Girl Scout Cookies, and a cookie order form is in the narthex for your convenience. Please support this important project!

LENTEN DEVOTIONS: Beginning this past week, churches in cooperation with Warren Ministries United are hosting 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 remaining schedule for devotions is: 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.

FROM THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE: The first Grounds Workday of 2026 is scheduled for March 21, weather permitting. In the case of poor weather, the workday will be March 28. This is a churchwide project - everyone's help is needed! Please arrive at 9 a.m. and bring rakes, loppers, clippers and hedge trimmers, as the focus will be on the boxwoods around the front of the church and the parsonage.

SPECIAL OFFERING: On March 15, you are invited to contribute to a special offering that will be collected for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to assist with response to natural disasters. Checks may be made out to Wesley Memorial with UMCOR on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

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, March 8, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Altar: Lisa Bolton

Greeter: Lisa Bolton

Ushers: Alan DuBose, Grady Strickland

COMING UP

March 4 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary

Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
WMU Lenten Devotions, Jerusalem Global
Methodist Church, 12 noon

Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

March 8 - Lenten Study with Ray Gooch, 9:30 a.m.,
Fireside Room

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Girl Scout Sunday
Observance

March 11 - WMU Lenten Devotions, Warrenton
Church of God, 12 noon

March 21 - Grounds Workday, 9 a.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Aycocock, Harriet Banzet, Jules Banzet,
Sheila Blackwood, Mary Lou Bond,
Anne Harris, Macey Paynter and Saralee Scott

Friends

Nancy Guthrie, mother of *Today Show* host
Savannah Guthrie, abducted on February 1 in
Tucson, Arizona

Tonya - Store clerk lifted up for prayer by
Ray Gooch as she faces heart surgery

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

Logan Barber, Lesa Bobbitt, Jerry Bolton,
Steve Brooks, Elke Capps, Glenn Coleman III,
Janet Coleman, Syd Cooper,

Abby and Josh Cordes, Suzanne Fleming,
Heath Frazier, Mishew Gardner,

Kevin Geraghty, Martine Gomory, Allen Harris,
Sarah Hickman, Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland,

Donna Hunt, Phil Hunt, Luke McCullough,
Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley,

John Paul Taylor, Harriet Tillett and

Holly Williams

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2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$10,496.00

Attendance Last Sunday - 32