

# 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  
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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 the Word

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent  
Girl Scout Sunday

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** THE GATHERING	<i>Caithness, Chartres and Christchurch</i>	Noel Rawsthorne
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
<i>The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.</i>		
PRELUDE	<i>Cwm Rhondda</i>	Rawsthorne
CALL TO WORSHIP		
Our worship is holy when we worship in Spirit and in Truth. Let us rise to worship God in the words of the Psalmist.		
* PSALTER	<i>Psalm 95 (responsively)</i>	UMH 814-815
* PRAYER	<i>Holy God, like the woman at the well, help us to find water that quenches our deepest thirst laying aside our past failures and seeking out a new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.</i>	
* HYMN	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	UMH 127
* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	<i>Affirmation from Romans</i>	UMH 887
* GLORIA PATRI	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	UMH 70
CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF GIRL SCOUTS		
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	<i>Exodus 17:1-7</i>	Pew Bible OT 62
A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN		
GOSPEL LESSON	<i>John 4:5-42</i>	Pew Bible NT 90
ANTHEM	<i>Bless the Lord, O My Soul</i>	Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov
EPISTLE LESSON	<i>Romans 5:1-11</i>	Pew Bible NT 146
* HYMN	<i>Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart</i>	UMH 500
SERMON	<i>How Many Times Does God Have to Show Us Grace?</i>	Reverend Gooch
PRAYERS FOR THE STRANGE ENCOUNTERS IN OUR LIVES		
THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
OFFERTORY	<i>Morecambe</i>	Rawsthorne
* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS		
* DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH 95
* HYMN	<i>Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me</i>	UMH 361
* BENEDICTION		

When you meet anger, *speak with love.*

When you meet fear, *speak with hope.*

When you meet pain, *speak with gentleness.*

But no matter what, speak this good news. *For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.*

It is joy that surprises, *and nonviolence that transforms.*

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, *so go forth speaking.*

For if you won't, *then who will?*

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Go Forth for God*

UMH 670

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* POSTLUDE

*Christe sanctorum (Christ the Holy of Holies)*

Rawsthorne

***The Light of Christ leads us out into the world.***

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

*\* All who are able may stand.*

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Pastor, The Reverend Ray Gooch  
Liturgist, Jeff Harty  
Greeter, Lisa Bolton

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt  
Altar, Lisa Bolton  
Ushers, Alan DuBose, Grady Strickland

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**WELCOME GIRL SCOUTS!** Today we celebrate the gift of scouting with Girl Scout Troop #2314, honoring them and Troop Leader Jennifer Pierce. Wesley Memorial is a sponsor of the troop, and it meets regularly here at the church. Thank you for being an outreach of our congregation and for assisting in worship leadership today.

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**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.

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**EASTER LILIES:** As in years past, you may order Easter lilies to be placed on the altar on Easter Sunday to honor loved ones. Lilies are \$16 each. Please place orders, no later than Wednesday, March 25, by signing up in the narthex, by calling Jennifer Franks at 252 257-0633 or by emailing her at [jhfranks13@gmail.com](mailto:jhfranks13@gmail.com). There is a limited number of lilies available, so early orders are encouraged.

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**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.

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**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!

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**LENTEN DEVOTIONS:** 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 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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**SUNDAY, March 15, 2026**

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-4

**Altar:** Velvet Boyd

**Greeter:** Ramona DuBose

**Ushers:** John Coleman, Richard Hunter

### **COMING UP**

**Today** - Warren Ministries United Meeting, 3 p.m.,  
Wesley Memorial UMC

**March 11** - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary  
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church  
WMU Lenten Devotions, Warrenton Church of  
God, 12 noon

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

**March 15** - Lenten Study with Ray Gooch, 9:30 a.m.,  
Fireside Room

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

**March 18** - WMU Lenten Devotions, Oak Chapel  
AME, 12 noon

**March 21** - Grounds Workday, 9 a.m.

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## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

### **Members**

Tom Aycock, Harriet Banzet, Jules Banzet,  
Mary Lou Bond, Anne Harris, Macey Paynter  
and Saralee Scott

### **Friends**

Members of the US military and those abroad,  
engaged in and affected by warfare

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, Suzanne Fleming,  
Mishew Gardner, Kevin Geraghty,  
Martine Gomory, Allen Harris, Sarah Hickman,  
Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland,  
Luke McCullough, Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley,  
Travis Pulley, John Paul Taylor, Harriet Tillett,  
Bobby Tippett and Holly Williams

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### **Wesley Memorial UMC**

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

webmaster@wesleymemorialumc.net

**The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor**

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raygooch1950@gmail.com, 919 548-4295

**2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95**

**Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00**

*Collection Last Sunday - \$2,177.00*

*Attendance Last Sunday - 34*