

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
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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 the Word

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

** THE GATHERING *St. Agnes, St. Catherine and St. Margaret* Noel Rawsthorne

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE *St. Michael* Rawsthorne

CALL TO WORSHIP

One of the quandaries of our lives comes when we face devastation. We either view that moment as defeat, judgment and hopelessness, or we can claim the possibility of new life, new beginnings and hope. *That is our greatest challenge. We need God's help to choose the hope and new life.* Let us then ask God for a new vision.

PRAYER

In a valley of dry bones, O God, you showed Ezekiel a hopeful life for the Hebrew people. Jesus claimed a moment to show your glory when Lazarus fell ill and died. Paul taught that when we allow you to control our minds through the Holy Spirit, we find new life. Help us to choose that new life, even when life seems overwhelming. Amen.

* HYMN *Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us* UMH 331

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From the Korean Methodist Church* UMH 884

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Ezekiel 37:1-14* Pew Bible OT 764

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 8:6-11* Pew Bible NT 848

* HYMN *Spirit of the Living God* UMH 393

* PSALTER LESSON *Psalm 130 (with sung response)* UMH 848

GOSPEL LESSON *John 11:1-45* Pew Bible NT 199

ANTHEM *Thou Knowest, Lord* Henry Purcell

SERMON *Are We Satisfied With Death or Life?* Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR OUR LIFE CHOICES

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY *Love Unknown* Rawsthorne

* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

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

* HYMN *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH 600

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name* UMH 663

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE *Ellers* 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, Vivian Paynter

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Velvet Boyd
Ushers, Heath Frazier, 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.

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 **Sunday, March 29**, by signing up in the narthex, by calling Jennifer Franks at 252 257-0633 or by emailing her at jhfranks13@gmail.com. There is a limited number of lilies available, so early orders are encouraged.

COAT AND SWEATER COLLECTION: On Palm Sunday, the Gospel tells of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, where people laid down their cloaks and palm branches before him. In celebration of Palm Sunday you are invited to bring gently used or new coats, sweaters or sweatshirts to our worship and afterwards to be donated to the Warren Ministries United Clothing Closet. There is a bin in the entrance way for you to deposit those articles before March 29.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Coming up during Holy Week are two special services, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, April 2 and 3. Both services, *A Thursday with Jesus* and *And Then It Was Friday*, will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us.

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.

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 25, Warrenton Missionary Baptist; April 1, Cooks Chapel Baptist.

FROM THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

Many thanks to all who helped with yesterday's work on the church grounds. Many improvements were made, and the committee is grateful for everyone's participation and outstanding effort.

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 29, 2026

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Altar: Jennifer Franks

Greeter: Martha Hicks

Ushers: Kent Copley, Richard Hunter

COMING UP

March 25 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
WMU Lenten Devotions, Warrenton
Missionary Baptist, 12 noon

Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room
March 29 - Lenten Study with Ray Gooch, 9:30 a.m.,
Fireside Room
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
Deadline for Easter Lily Orders

April 1 - WMU Lenten Devotions, Cooks Chapel Baptist, 12 noon

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service, 6 p.m., Wesley Memorial Sanctuary

April 3 - Good Friday Service, 6 p.m., Wesley Memorial Sanctuary

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Aycock, Harriet Banzet, Jules Banzet,
Anne Harris and Saralee Scott

Friends

The family, friends and colleagues of
Mishew Gardner

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

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,
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,
and Holly Williams

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

Collection Last Sunday - \$2958.00
Attendance Last Sunday - 40