

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, April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

** THE GATHERING Aria Charles Callahan

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE Prelude on 'Resignation' Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Throughout human history, as recorded in the scripture, God repeatedly gives humans the opportunity to step out of the confinement of sin and into a new life where blessings abound and there is the freedom to choose an abundant life. *It would seem that the new life is so wonderful that we would always choose the new life.* Yes, it does, but the reality is often that the choice seems to be too daunting for us to make that choice. *We would like to hear that invitation again – another opportunity.* May our worship open God's Word to us and perhaps we will hear it differently!

PRAYER

Lord of many invitations, may we ask to hear you inviting us again into your new life in Jesus Christ? Give us the courage to step out of confining patterns and into freeing and renewing living. Amen.

* HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Modern Affirmation UMH 885

* GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father UMH 71

A MISSION MOMENT REGARDING CLERGY LEADERSHIP IN EUROPE,
AFRICA AND THE PHILIPPINES

VIDEO WITNESS

PRAYER

Lord God, in your vision for your church, you challenge us to love boldly by loving you with all that we are and our neighbor as we love ourselves, wherever those neighbors live, even if we never see their faces or meet them in person. Help us to consider bold living as we pray for wisdom in knowing how to empower our sisters and brothers in ministry. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:1-10 Pew Bible NT 98

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 2:42-47 Pew Bible NT 114

* HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Binds UMH 557

EPISTLE LESSON I Peter 2:19-25 Pew Bible NT 217

ANTHEM Brother James's Air Gordon Jacob

SERMON Living for Righteousness Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR STEPPING THROUGH THE GATEWAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY	<i>Interlude on 'Bunessan'</i>	Callahan
* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS		
* DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH 94
* HYMN	<i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</i>	UMH 396
* BENEDICTION		
* CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Go Forth For God, Go to the World in Joy</i>	UMH 670
* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY		
* POSTLUDE	<i>Voluntary on 'St. Anne'</i> <i>The Light of Christ leads us out into the world.</i>	Callahan

** Please enter in preparation for Christian Worship.

* All who are able may stand.

Pastor, The Reverend Ray Gooch
Liturgist, Jeff Harty
Greeter, Margaret Echols

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Kay Copley
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.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: This year's National Day of Prayer observance will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 12 noon on Warren County's Courthouse Square, and again at 6 p.m. at the Warren County Armory Civic Center. This year's theme is *The Lord is My Light and Salvation, Psalm 27:1*. Plan to bring your own lawn chair and be a part of this community-wide effort.

MOTHER'S DAY OBSERVANCE: Mother's Day is May 10, a day that our focus is on love. In observance of that special day, we invite you to bring to church an item that symbolizes love or a message of love, such as a plaque, a figurine, a picture etc., to display in a window of the church. Please include a small tag with a short explanation of the significance of your display.

MIRACLE SUNDAY CAMPAIGN: Last Sunday, we began participating in a capital campaign that seeks to establish an endowment for theological education in Africa, the Philippines and Europe. The campaign, *How Did Jesus Call Disciples?*, is a worldwide effort sponsored by the United Methodist Church that will inform people about the urgent need for the local church to assist with theological education for clergy, internationally. Our participation in this campaign will culminate on Sunday, May 17, *Miracle Sunday*, when you will have the opportunity to contribute to the capital campaign/endowment.

A STUDY ON DISCIPLESHIP: Ray Gooch is facilitating a six-week study, *Discipleship*, that meets each Sunday morning through May 17 at 9:30 a.m. Study guides for the class are available in the narthex. The class is meeting in the front of the sanctuary, and all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Our next Fellowship Luncheon will be held on May 17, *Miracle Sunday*, following morning worship. Please plan to bring a favorite dish or dessert and stay for lunch. Consider bringing guests!

PROJECT AGAPE PRESENTATION: On Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m., Nara Melkonyan, who works with Project Agape, will be at Wesley Memorial UMC to share news about the project that was started in Armenia in 1989 to provide relief to those impacted by a disastrous earthquake. You are invited to this informational and conversational meeting with Nara that will be held in the sanctuary. A reception will follow the gathering. Please invite others to join us.

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, May 3, 2026

Scripture: Acts 7:5-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Altar: Kay Copley

Greeter: Velvet Boyd

Ushers: John Coleman, Michael Comstock

COMING UP

April 29 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church

May 3 - Discipleship Study with Ray Gooch, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

May 7 - National Day of Prayer, 12 noon, Warren County Courthouse Square and 6 p.m. Warren County Armory Civic Center

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 17 - Miracle Sunday; Fellowship Luncheon, following Morning Worship, Fellowship Hall

May 26 - Project Agape Presentation, 7 p.m., WMUMC Sanctuary

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Ayccock, Harriet Banzet, Jules Banzet, Anne Harris 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

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

The Family and Friends of Jackie Glover Newell

The Family and Friends of Patrick Pegram

Logan Barber, John Blalock, Lesa Bobbitt, Jerry Bolton, Chip Bristow, Steve Brooks, Elke Capps, Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman, Syd Cooper, Jimmy Crenshaw,

Desiree Robertson, Suzanne Fleming, Kevin Geraghty, Martine Gomory, Allen Harris, Sarah Hickman, Ronnie Hight, Candy Holland,

Luke McCullough, Judy Joyner Morgan, Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley, and Holly Williams

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 - \$1,339.00

Attendance Last Sunday - 26