

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, May 17, 2026

Ascension Sunday/Miracle Sunday

** THE GATHERING *Largo from Xerxes* George Frederick Handel

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to worship.

PRELUDE *Llanfair* Noel Rawsthorne

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Ascension Sunday we recall that forty days after Jesus' resurrection, he ascended into heaven into the presence of God. The ancient psalms anticipated this event and lead us in celebration.

* PSALTER LESSON *Psalm 47, with sung response* UMH 781

* PRAYER

Lord God, bless us with new visions of how bold love, joyful service and courageous leadership can strengthen the witness of the Church in this age. Amen.

* HYMN *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* UMH 312

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Affirmation from 1 Timothy* UMH 889

* GLORIA PATRI *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE ASCENSION STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE *Luke 24:44-53* Pew Bible NT 86

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

THE ASCENSION STORY FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS *Acts 1:1-14* Pew Bible NT 112

* HYMN *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* UMH 154

EPISTLE LESSON *Ephesians 1:15-23* Pew Bible NT 181

SERMON *He Ascended Into Heaven!* Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR THE DISCIPLES OF THE ASCENDED LORD

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

MIRACLE SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Gifts for an Endowment for Theological Education for Europe, Africa and the Philippines

PRAYER

Lord God, you tell us to be prepared in all seasons to give a reason for our hope in Jesus Christ. We pray that our gifts, multiplied by 30,000 congregations, will help to provide theological education for 500 theological students each year in Europe, Africa and the Philippines. Strengthen our church with well-equipped leaders so that disciples of Jesus Christ can transform the world. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Diademata* Rawsthorne

* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

* HYMN *Crown Him with Many Crowns* UMH 327

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE

Ode to Joy

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

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt

Greeter, Vivian Paynter

Altar, Ramona DuBose

Ushers, Kent Copley, Todd Wemyss

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.

CONGRATULATIONS! The rose on the altar is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth of Ozzy, son of Will Lynch and Brittany Livengood, born on Wednesday, May 13, in Asheville. Ozzy is the grandson of Jennifer and John Franks and the great-grandson of Anne Harris. Congratulations to the entire family!

MIRACLE SUNDAY CAMPAIGN: Today, we culminate our participation 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 concludes today, *Miracle Sunday*, presenting you with the opportunity to contribute to the capital campaign/endowment. Checks should be made out to Wesley Memorial UMC and marked "Miracle Sunday" on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Following today's worship service, there will be a Fellowship Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to stay for lunch!

PROJECT AGAPE PRESENTATION: Following a disastrous earthquake in Armenia in 1988, church leaders were approached by Armenian businessmen in America asking for help in recovery for folks in their home country. A delegation from the United Methodist Church made a trip to Armenia and came home to seek ways for us to support the Armenian people. In 1989, a joint effort of the NC and Western NC Conferences initiated Project Agape. Rev. Charles Davis, a pastor then in the Sanford District, was at that initial meeting and heard God calling him to go to Armenia to facilitate Project Agape. Charles was a native of Warrenton and a member of Wesley Memorial UMC.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Next Sunday, May 24, is Pentecost Sunday, and the liturgical color is red. In celebration of Pentecost, you are invited to wear something red for that Sunday.

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 24, 2026

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
I Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Altar: Rebecca Harris

Greeter: Suzi Byam

Ushers: Neblett Bullock, Ben Hunter

COMING UP

Today - Miracle Sunday; Fellowship Luncheon,

Following Morning Worship, Fellowship Hall

May 20 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary

Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church

May 24 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Aycok, 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

Logan, Stacie and River Barber and family, as
Baby River faces serious heart surgery

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, Donna Hunt,
The Rev. and Mrs. Carson Jones,
Luke McCullough, Judy Joyner Morgan,
Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley, and
Holly Williams

Wesley Memorial UMC

210 N. Main St., PO Box 614

Warrenton, NC 27589, 252 257-2129, church

wesley Memorialumc.net

webmaster@wesley Memorialumc.net

The Reverend Ray Gooch, Pastor

3590 NC 56, Creedmoor, NC 27522

raygooch1950@gmail.com, 919 548-4295

2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$1,949.00

Attendance Last Sunday - 41