

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, August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

** THE GATHERING	Iste Confessor (Confessor Saints)	John Bull
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		

The Light of Christ leads us in to Worship.

PRELUDE	Slane	Manz
CALL TO WORSHIP		

Sometimes, a sign of power and prestige is being the keeper of the keys to the doorways or treasure chests. ***Yes, having the keys gives one control to grant admission or shut out the intruder. The keys are like magical powers.*** But with the keys also come responsibility and accountability. If something goes askew, the keeper of the keys is the first to be questioned. ***Let us ask God for help with faithful keeping of the keys that God places in our hands.***

PRAYER

Gracious God, you know our abilities long before we do. Help us in every facet of our lives to learn the breadth of our abilities to serve. Grant us, also, the courage to accept the responsibilities and opportunities that you lay in our pathway. Teach us how to discern what provides an opportunity to honor you and when we need to step away from temptations. Amen.

* HYMN	O God, Our Help in Ages Past	UMH 117
* A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE KOREAN METHODIST CHURCH		UMH 884
* GLORIA PATRI	Glory Be to the Father	UMH 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Pew Bible OT 47
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A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 16:13-20	Pew Bible NT 17
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* HYMN	A Charge to Keep I Have	UMH 413
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* PSALTER LESSON	Psalms 124, with sung response	UMH 846
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EPISTLE LESSON	Romans 12:1-8	Pew Bible NT 152
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AUGUST CHOIR SELECTION	Sweet Hour of Prayer	
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SERMON	Owning the Keys	Reverend Gooch
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PRAYERS FOR THE KEY KEEPERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
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OFFERTORY	Nun Bitten Wir (Now Pray We)	Dietrich Buxtehude
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* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* DOXOLOGY	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	UMH 94
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* HYMN	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation	UMH 559
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* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHIMING THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE	Agincourt Hymn	John Dunstable
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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, Suzi Byam

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Sheila Blackwood
Ushers, John Coleman, Ted Echols,

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.

PLEASE JOIN IN! Just for the joy of singing, during each Sunday in August, anyone who would like to join in singing a song beyond our hymnal is invited to gather at 10:30 a.m. for a brief rehearsal, sit in the congregation and come before the altar at the indicated time to join in singing. The music will be provided. The remaining selections are: *Sweet Hour of Prayer* and *In the Sweet By and By*. Come join our August Choir!

MARIAM BOYD ELEMENTARY CLAP-IN: Church members and friends are invited to participate in a "Clap-In" to help cheer on Mariam Boyd Elementary School students for their first day back to school on Monday, Aug. 24, at 7:30 am. In order to participate, please register by completing the on-line form that was included in this week's WMUMC email. Don't forget to wear your new church t-shirt, if you have one!

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2026 AND UPCOMING MEETINGS: Charge Conference will be held on September 27, 2026 at First UMC, Henderson. This will be our first Charge Conference under the leadership of our new District Superintendent, The Reverend Dr. Gloria Winston. All Charge Conference reports are due September 13, so meetings of Nominations, Staff/Pastor Relations and Finance need to be scheduled before the next Administrative Council meeting, set for September 13, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. The Nominating Committee will be meeting today after Worship to begin nominations for church officers for 2027. Those of you who are currently serving as committee chairs or serving on various committees, as well as others who would like to serve, please let a committee member know your areas of preference for service before that meeting. Nominations Committee members are: Ray Gooch, Jennifer Franks, Elton Brown, Rebecca Harris, Betsy Frazier, Velvet Boyd and Kent Copley.

LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS: Loaves and Fishes is in desperate need of egg cartons. Please save and bring your empty ones to the church narthex, and they will be delivered to them. Loaves and Fishes also remains in constant need of your unwanted plastic grocery bags. They will make great use of all that we provide! There is a collection box in the back entrance by the church office. Thanks!

MUSIC NOTES: The organ voluntaries are taken from the publication *Treasury of Early Organ Music* edited by the renowned 20th century American organist E. Power Biggs (1906-1977). This collection includes organ music of the 15th to the 18th centuries from England, Italy, Germany and France.

MANY THANKS: A special thanks to all of you who so generously donated to the school supply drive for the benefits of Mariam Boyd Elementary School. Members of the school staff were most appreciative of the donations.

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, August 20, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Altar: Betsy Frazier

Greeter: Mabel Bullock

Ushers: Neblett Bullock, Lee Whitley

COMING UP

Today - S/PRC Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Nominations Committee Meeting,
following Morning Worship

August 25 - Tuesday's Table, WRFD, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

August 26 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary Study,
9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church.

August 30 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

September 13 - Administrative Council Meeting,
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

September 27 - Charge Conference, First UMC,
Henderson, 5 p.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Aycock, Harriet Banzet, Jules Banzet,
Ted Echols, Saralee Scott and Renee Teel

Friends

Glenn Mason - Hospitalized in Greenville, lives
in Morehead City, a friend of John and Elaine
Coleman

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,
Lesa Bobbitt, Jerry Bolton, Brenda Fuller,
Chip Bristow, Steve Brooks, Elke Capps,
Glenn Coleman III, Janet Coleman,

Syd Cooper, Jimmy Crenshaw, Dee Draffin,
Suzanne Fleming, Justin Fraser, Iris Frazier,

Kevin Geraghty, Rhonda Gibson,

Allen Harris, Karla Hehl, Sarah Hickman,
Donna Hunt, The Rev. and Mrs. Carson Jones,

Teresa Keirn, Luke McCullough,

Nathan Medlin, Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley,

Travis Pulley, Desiree Robertson,

Heidi Seifert, Ann Stultz and Holly Williams

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2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00

Collection Last Sunday - \$1,611.00

Attendance Last Sunday - 82
