

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, September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Creation Care Month - Show You Care

** THE GATHERING	<i>Adagio for Strings</i>	Samuel Barber
THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		

The Light of Christ leads us in to Worship.

PRELUDE	<i>Largo, from New World Symphony</i>	Antonin Dvorák
CALL TO WORSHIP		

When the Lord God made the earth and the world in which we dwell, there were many things of great magnitude and majesty: the seas and rivers, mountains, deserts, swamps, valleys and icebergs. *Each of them inspire us, but also frighten us because of the possible danger and disaster that we can encounter.* God called all the creation “good” and celebrated the gift. *Often we see both the good and the not-so-good things, and we are not sure whether to celebrate or to plan some escape.* Let us ask God to open our eyes and hearts to God’s presence in all things.

PRAYER

God of all creation, bless us with the vision of your presence in every place and every moment of our lives. Amen.

* HYMN	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King (VS. 1-4, 7)</i>	UMH 145
* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	<i>The Apostles’ Creed</i>	UMH 881
* GLORIA PATRI	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	UMH 71
A WORD OF WITNESS OF CREATION CARE		Ramona DuBose

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON	<i>Romans 14:1-12</i>	Pew Bible NT 153
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A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

GOSPEL LESSON	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	Pew Bible NT 19
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ANTHEM	<i>How Can I Keep from Singing</i>	arr. by Andy Beck
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OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	<i>Exodus 14:10-31</i>	Pew Bible OT 59
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* CANTICLE OF MOSES AND MIRIAM		UMH 135
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* HYMN	<i>If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee</i>	UMH 142
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SERMON	<i>Turn Around – Don’t Drown</i>	Reverend Gooch
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PRAYERS FOR OUR DANGER PLACES

THE LORD’S PRAYER		UMH 895
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OFFERTORY	<i>Nimrod, from Enigma Variations</i>	Edward Elgar
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* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

* THE DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH 94
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* HYMN	<i>Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name</i>	UMH 663
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* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>Danish Amen</i>	UMH 398
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* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE	<i>Ein feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress)</i>	Noel Rawsthorne
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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, Kay Copley

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Vivian Paynter
Ushers, Elton Brown, Kent Copley

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.

SEPTEMBER - CREATION CARE MONTH: Our theme is *Creation Care - Show Your Care*. **On Saturday, September 19, 8 a.m.,** we will have an organized trash pick-up along the roadsides of Warrenton. Supplies will be in the parking lot of the church. Let's show the community that we care about how our community looks! Each Sunday of September there will be an open spot in worship for a word of witness about why we care about our created world. Consider sharing a time or experience that caused you to treasure something in this world more dearly. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. **On Sunday, September 27** we will sponsor a plant exchange at the church. Bring plants to exchange with others to take home or to give to someone for fall planting.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2026: 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 today, September 13.

CHANCEL CHOIR TO RESUME: Attention all choir members - and potential choir members! Wednesday evening choir rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please plan to get back in the groove to prepare for making music again! All are welcome and encouraged to join in.

GLOBAL CARING MONTH: Lisa Bolton, WMUMC Missions Committee member and also Finance Director at Capital Ford in Raleigh, announced that September is "Global Caring Month," led by Ford Philanthropy and the Ford Volunteer Corps (Ford Motor Company). Capital Ford will be collecting shelf stable food donations, as well as monetary donations, and has chosen Warren County's Loaves and Fishes as the recipient of its collection efforts. Lisa is encouraging the Wesley Memorial congregation to make donations toward the effort as well as to help publicize Capital Ford's project throughout the community. Food donations may be left in the narthex of the church, and with "Loaves and Fishes" on the memo line, checks should be made out to Wesley Memorial. The donation deadline is September 25. Thank you for your support and for helping make Capital Ford's initiative a huge success for our community.

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.

MUSIC NOTES: The organ voluntaries this morning are played in tribute to the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, which was observed this past Friday.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP: Please consider volunteering in Warren County Schools. Sign-up forms are in the narthex. Contact Elizabeth Comstock, a member of the Education Committee, at 252 468-8272 or 252 468-8273 for more information. The volunteer program is a joint venture between Wesley Memorial's Missions and Education Committees.

LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS: A recent delivery at Loaves and Fishes was sparse and left the pantry in dire need of canned goods, rice, noodles and other non-perishables. Please consider making donations directly to Loaves and Fishes or drop off goods at Wesley Memorial. Other needs continue to include your empty egg cartons and 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.

SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Altar: Vivian Paynter

Greeter: Mabel Bullock

Ushers: Heath Frazier, Neblett Bullock

COMING UP

Today - Administrative Council Meeting,
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

September 15 - Tuesday's Table, WRFD,
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

September 16 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church.

September 19 - Trash Pickup Day, 8 a.m.
Meet in church parking lot

September 20 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

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

October 2 - Warren County High School football
team supper; details TBA

October 27 - WMUMC Volunteer Day at Loaves
and Fishes

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends

All who are impacted by catastrophic flooding
and other natural disasters, across the globe
Members of the US military and those abroad,
engaged in and affected by warfare
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, Sarah Hickman, Donna Hunt,
The Rev. and Mrs. Carson Jones, Teresa Keirn,
Joey Lamanna, Glenn Mason,
Luke McCullough, Nathan Medlin,
Chris Pegram, Judy Pulley, Travis Pulley,
Desiree Robertson, Heidi Seifert, Ann Stultz
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 - \$1,735.00
Attendance Last Sunday - 33