

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

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost
Creation Care Month - Show You Care

Sunday, September 20, 2026

** THE GATHERING Liturgical Improvisation No. 1 George Oldroyd

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Light of Christ leads us in to Worship.

PRELUDE Liturgical Prelude I Oldroyd

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sometimes our lives are filled with an abundance — a cup overflowing — a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running overpoured into our laps. *But sometimes, we deal with a scarcity that leaves just enough for one last meal — not enough to sustain our children.* In all the times of plenty and scarcity, God is there to hear our gratitude and hold our despair. *God help us to claim your presence in all the places and times of our lives.*

PRAYER

Lord of the verdant and barren places, help us to perceive your presence when it is not so obvious to all of us. Amen.

* HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth UMH 92

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed UMH 880

* GLORIA PATRI Glory Be to the Father UMH 71

A WORD OF WITNESS OF CREATION CARE Vivian Paynter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 16: 2-15 Pew Bible OT 61

A TIME OF SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

PSALTER LESSON Psalm 105: 1-6 UMH 828

Psalm 105: 37-45 Pew Bible OT 534

* HYMN Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above UMH 96

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 20: 1-6 Pew Bible NT 20

ANTHEM God So Loved the World John Stainer

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 1: 21-30 Pew Bible NT 185

SERMON When Scarcity Tests Our Faith Reverend Gooch

PRAYERS FOR THE SCARCITY OF OUR LIVES

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY Liturgical Prelude II Oldroyd

* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

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

* HYMN To God Be the Glory UMH 98

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION God Be with You UMH 673

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* POSTLUDE Liturgical Improvisation No. 3 Oldroyd

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, Mabel Bullock

Organist/Choir Director, Chet Hunt
Altar, Vivian Paynter
Ushers, Heath Frazier, Neblett Bullock

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 You Care*. Thank you to everyone who came out yesterday morning for the trash pick-up. Warrenton looks a lot cleaner because of everyone's efforts! 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 and bulb exchange at the church. Bring plants/bulbs 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES: 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.

ANIMAL ARK COLLECTION: On October 4, we will collect donated items for the Animal Ark shelter. Items needed are: wet and dry puppy and kitty food, leashes, towels, kitty litter and newspapers.

MENS DINNER: The men are invited to dinner on September 24 at 6 p.m. Please see details and sign the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.

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 27, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

Altar: Mabel Bullock

Greeter: Cathelene Nunn

Ushers: Grady Strickland, Todd Wemyss

COMING UP

September 22 - Tuesday's Table, WRFD,
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

September 23 - Weekly Ecumenical Lectionary
Study, 9 a.m., Warrenton Baptist Church
- Choir rehearsal, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

September 27 - Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
- Plant and bulb exchange at church
- Charge Conference, First UMC,
Henderson, 5 p.m.

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

October 4 - Donation deadline for Animal Ark

October 27 - WMUMC Volunteer Day at Loaves
and Fishes

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Tom Aycok, 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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2026 Church Budget - \$129,346.95

Amt. Needed Per Sunday - \$2,488.00