Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"In baptism one returns to the state of creation ...
when all humanity was unified."
L. Michael White

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

Leader: A voice of wonder and mystery beckons us,
calling us to worship in spirit and in truth.
People: We are amazed that God knows us and calls us.
By God's breath and spirit, we receive life.

Leader: Through the waters of baptism, God claims us.
In covenant with God, we extend love
and welcome to all people.
People: Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed.
Justice and peace are made real on earth.

Leader: Worship with joy and give thanks to God;
Listen for the new thing God declares.
All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 475** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
NETTLETON

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and infinite God, like the psalmist of old, we would come into your presence with praise, except sometimes the words won't come. We confess that sometimes we're too anxious to praise you, or too angry, too hurt, too sorrowful. We ask not to be forgiven but restored. Have mercy on us, O God, and renew a right spirit within us that, as your faithful people, we might indeed declare your praise! Through Christ we pray. . .

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One voice: Please know this in your heart.
Many voices: We are accepted, we are welcomed.
We are forgiven, we are set free.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are loved forever!

All: Thanks be to God!

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

THE PSALM SUNG 805 (while seated, Psalm 30)
"Come Sing to God"
ELLACOMBE

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT
Acts 8:26-39

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"Plot Twist"

***HYMN 754** "Help Us Accept Each Other"
BARONITA

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

We believe that the horizons of hope are never fixed.
They always move beyond our understanding,
in the creativity of God.
We believe that the powers of evil cannot kill God.
God walks on freely and leaps ahead of us,
in the risen Christ of faith.
We believe that the Spirit can never be confined.
She dances throughout the world,
and is found in surprising places.
And so we affirm that even when darkness gathers,
We will live in hope. We will keep the faith!
Even when justice seems far off and peace feels like a dream,
We will live in hope. We will keep the faith!
Until God's reign is realized on earth as it is in heaven,
We will live in hope. We will keep the faith!

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 372** "O for a World"
AZMON

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Frank W. Boles, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist:
Coffee Hour Host: Natalie Daugherty
Elder of the Day: Beth Meriwether

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WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day!

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Steve White, friend of Beth Meriwether; Derron Daugherty and family, on his accident; Dolores Coulter, Derron's sister: Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Lee Dugger and family; Betty Smith; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; Jackie Wintle's sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering during our service however, there are offering plates as you enter, or you may mail your offering to: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church 101 chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or make donations directly and securely on our website by going to www.warrenwilsonchurch.org.

WELCOME BACK POTLUCK Join us in welcoming back the college students and celebrating the beginning of our programmatic church school year, August 27, from 12:00-2:00 pm. in Fellowship Hall following our service. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All are welcome!

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF MAUI As it always does when catastrophe strikes, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has already begun responding to the needs of the survivors of the wildfires in Hawai'i. (Fires are also burning on the island of Hawai'i—the Big Island — just a little southeast of Maui). Initial needs during the emergency response phase of the recovery effort include: food, clean water, shelter, and sanitation and hygiene products. You may write your check to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, just note "Maui fire relief" on the memo line and 100% of your donation will go to PDA. You may also give directly to PDA, which you can access through the PC(USA) website at pcusa.org.

HANDBELLS Seeking new handbell choir members! Do you enjoy hearing the bells and want to come try your hand at playing? Have you played before and want to rejoin? This year, I'd like to do some more short term, small, handbell groupings and accompany the choir or other instruments. These would be a month or less and meet to practice once a week. If you'd like to join the larger and more consistent bell choir, we'd love to have you as well! Email Natalie Daugherty at forestchick07@gmail.com or text/call.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Looking for Youth Sunday School helpers and teachers! While we work on hiring an Associate, who typically teaches our children's Sunday School, we are looking for volunteers to teach one or more Sundays this Fall. Helpers, who may not want to teach, but enjoy spending time with the children, are also needed for Sunday School. A lesson and Activity/craft suggestions and materials are provided. Helpers assist with crafts and activities as well as help fulfill a very important part of our Child Protection Policy. Let Natalie Daugherty know by phone or email if you are interested in helping out!

CREATIVE ARTS TEAM (A new branch of The Liturgical Arts Team) Are you someone who would like to see more color in our Sanctuary? Perhaps new banners, or other creative expressions for our services on Sunday? Do you sew, or have an image you love that would be inspiring to others? Extra fabric/supplies to donate? Join us with your creative ideas for our inaugural meeting in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 on Wednesday August 30. Soup and bread will be provided. At 6:00, we'll move into the Chapel and exchange our initial ideas. ALL ARE WELCOME! Contact Donna Eagle Joslin with any questions.

CELEBRATING GINA MARVIN Gina's family invites you to join them for a celebration of her life on September 2, at 1:00 pm in the Chapel at Givens Estates on Sweeten Creek Road. A picnic will follow at a local park.

COVER IMAGE From public Domain.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



August 20, 2023

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!