

SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Margaret

BY MARGARET LAMOTTE TORRENCE

Dear friends,

I want to let you know about two special worship opportunities during the month of September. You won't want to miss these.

September 8:

Returning WWC students will lead us in a service of worship organized by **the Office of Spiritual Life**

If you were here when the group (pictured below) led worship in March, you know what blessing is carried through their voices, hands, and hearts.



After worship we'll gather for a **potluck lunch** to welcome students back to campus. **Please bring one or two dishes to share**; the students come hungry! We also expect to have an **assembly line project to fill gift bags for neighbors** who are now using a new shower facility at SVCM in Black Mountain. Come and be sustained by good worship, good food, good friends, and good work.



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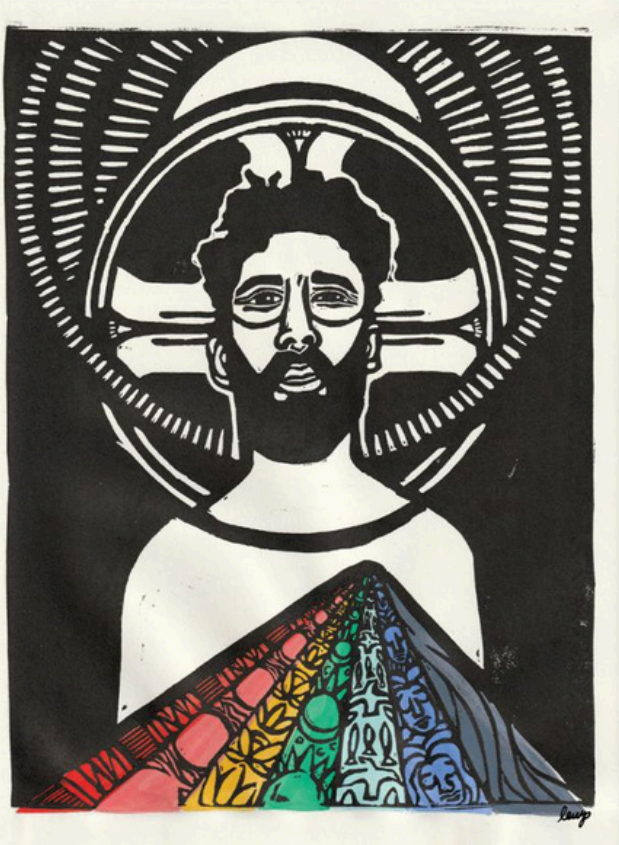
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A Note from Margaret continued...

September 22:

September 21 is Asheville's Pride Celebration. Many members of our congregation claim a spot under the LGBTQIA2S+ umbrella, and I suspect that all of us love persons who do. Moreover, the campus that is our home is populated by a student body, more than 60% of whom identify as part of the queer community. Our faith assures us that each of us shines with the image of God, but all churches have ground to cover, if we hope to embody and mirror that assurance. Those of us whose experiences and choices have more closely conformed to cultural norms, have much to learn about resilience, creativity, courage, and joy from those who have discovered God's grace beyond the margins of convention.

Rev. Dr. Shannon Spencer, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain of the College, will preach for us on the 8th. Come and marvel at the goodness of God's creation, and listen for God's call to more faithful living.



Through Him, All Things, sanctifiedart.org.
Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, who created this block print, envisions Jesus' life as a prism of God's love. Because each of us bears the image of God, our lives also have the capacity to reflect and refract that love in uniquely beautiful ways.

WATCH WWPC LIVE OR VIEW PAST SERVICES

Have you wanted to watch Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church services when you can't be here in person? It's very easy because we broadcast live and archive most of our recent services on YouTube. To access our streaming content first visit our website at warrenwilsonchurch.org. From there scroll down to a big, red button that says "Live Streaming." Clicking that will take you to our YouTube page where you should click "Live" which will then show a reverse chronological listing of our past services, including memorial services. We have services going back four years, if you'd like to relive some old favorites!



THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, September 12 in Fellowship Hall. In September we have our annual salad luncheon so bring a salad to share and come and meet our group of avid readers! At 12:30 Kathryn will lead the discussion of Blood of the Lamb by Peter de Vries. New members are always welcome--we hope you'll join us!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Our **Adult Education Class** welcomes everyone back from our summer break. Together we read books, watch videos, listen to speakers, and have lively conversations. It's a great opportunity to get to know folks better and expand our knowledge and perspectives. All are welcome. We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Education class at the end of the hall in the administrative building. Our first meeting for the fall season will be on September 8. At that time we will focus on planning for the fall. Please contact Beth Meriwether at (828) 777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information. Join us!

VOLUNTEERS IN WORSHIP

REMEMBER THESE WAYS YOU CAN SERVE

Greeters will welcome worshipers, offer bulletins and other worship resources to guests, and assist with a brief after-service cleanup of bulletins and hymnals.

Liturgists typically lead the Call to Worship, offer the Prayer for Illumination and the First Reading, and lead the Affirmation of Faith. All texts are supplied to readers.

Coffee-Hour Hosts make coffee (provided by the church), and put out snacks, juice, and water. (Hosts may choose to use snacks available at the church or bring refreshments to share.) Hosts have access to the parlor kitchen for clean up. Susan Daugherty and members of the Congregation Life Team are available to answer questions or provide assistance. Sign-up sheets are available in the entryway. We'd love to have you participate!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

ANNUAL MOMENT FOR MISSION AND BUILD START FOR HOUSE OF FAITH #4

The Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity chapter just held an organizational meeting for the next House of Faith, and there is much to report.

If the application to own this home was approved by the Habitat Board in late August, we are hopeful the person will join us for our annual Habitat Moment for Mission at the start of our Sept. 29 worship service. More about that below.

Like House of Faith #3, which several church members helped with donations and work at the job site last fall, House of Faith #4 will be built in Arden's Glenn Bridge neighborhood. It will be a single story townhome with construction starting on Oct. 8, and the closing anticipated for June 6, 2025.

Volunteers will be needed at the job site during six weeks starting on Oct. 8, and then six more weeks starting on Jan. 14. No special skills or tools are needed, only a willingness to help, and Habitat staff will always find a task that each volunteer is comfortable doing.

The coalition of 31 faith communities that helps build each House of Faith also donates money to help with the costs. Traditionally we have received a special offering for this purpose at our annual Habitat Moment for Mission (Sept. 29), but if you would like to make a donation before then, here are options for doing that:

- 1) Through our Church web site (click Give Online button - top right corner)
- 2) By check mailed to the Church Office - 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or dropped in an offering plate inside the front door of the sanctuary with Habitat offering written on the memo line.
- 3) By a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA or check from a Donor Advised Gift Fund with the designation Habitat offering included.



THE HUMPHRIES FAMILY
Proud owner of the House of Faith #3 built in partnership with local faith communities and the Rusty Pulliam Foundation. The land was sponsored by Barbara and Larry Griswold in honor of all faith volunteers.

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity House of Faith #3, completed in May and purchased by Deborah Humphries, is one of the first five houses in the Glenn Bridge neighborhood. This framed photo of it was just added to the wall in our Adult Sunday School room where there are now 20 photos of Habitat houses our congregation has supported going back to 1998.

SVCM

BY CINDY RILEY

Hi friends!

As we navigate through another year, I am filled with immense gratitude and hope. Since opening our doors in 1997, we have seen over 100 mothers and children impacted by our mission to empower single moms facing housing insecurity. We still have connection and relationship with many of these families. So far this year, we have witnessed four families move on from our program. While each mom is at a different point in her journey, all of them can attest to the positive impact of HFT. Each success story is a testament of the power of community and the incredible impact of obeying Jesus' command to love your neighbor.

Join us at our **Hope for Tomorrow Back-to-School Open House on Monday, September 9th from 4:30-9:30**. There you will have an opportunity to see what life on campus is like, hear stories from current and past HFT families, and learn about our vision and hopes for the upcoming year. Parking for the Open House is limited so a shuttle will run from the Montreat gate starting at 4:30 PM. RSVP is not required but helpful for planning. Contact Cindy Riley to RSVP: cindysvcm@gmail.com (828) 571-0915

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry Walk for Your Neighbor

The money raised through the walk goes to all the good neighboring that SVCM does alongside our friends in the Swannanoa Valley. This ranges from providing the essentials like clothing and food to giving financial relief toward living expenses like rent, electricity, and water. SVCM works to meet the medical needs of our community through gas vouchers, contributing to medical and dental bills, and covering the cost of eye exams, glasses, and prescriptions. The 2023 Walk for Your Neighbor raised a record-breaking \$100,267!

The walk is on **Sunday, October 13**. Registration begins at 1:00. Walk begins at 2:00 from First Baptist at 130 Montreat Rd in Black Mountain



HOMELESSNESS LEARNING SERIES

September/October 2024

WWPC is hosting this 3-part learning series in conjunction with the Homeless Strategy Division of Asheville Community & Economic Development.


Please join us for an upcoming 3-part community education series on understanding homelessness - presented by Debbie Alford, Homeless Strategy Specialist - Training and Development staff with the Homeless Strategy Division. These three, in-person sessions are offered as a series with information building from one session to the next.

Pre-registration is encouraged here: <https://publicinput.com/M38650>

If you have questions, email dalford2@ashevillenc.gov or call (828) 203-0892.

All September/October sessions will be held at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.





HOMELESSNESS LEARNING SERIES

3-part community education series:

Session 1: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

- Understanding Homelessness - causes and local landscape

Session 2*: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

- Understanding Solutions to Homelessness - community response, present and future

Session 3*: Tuesday, October 8, 2024

- Personal Response to Homelessness - how to partner with local agencies and take action


Location

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
101 Chapel Ln, Swannanoa NC 28778

Time

All 3 sessions are from 5-6pm


Scan here to register:



Presented by:

Debbie Alford


Homeless Strategy Specialist
- Training and Development
Homeless Strategy Division
City of Asheville



For more information:

Email
dalford2@ashevillenc.gov

Or call
828-203-0892



*Sessions 2 and 3 are offered as a follow-up to Session 1. Please register for all 3!

OTHER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024 SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Your gifts to the PCUSA Pentecost Offering help the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Thanks to your generosity, WWPC received a total of \$1206 from the 2024 Pentecost offering. Subsequently, \$723.60 - (60%) was sent to Presbytery on 6/30. Since the Black Mountain Home for Children was the organization selected by our youth to receive the local portion, \$482.40 (40%) was sent to BMHC on 8/8. Thank you so very much for your generosity!

Upcoming special offerings will be for our local Habitat for Humanity followed by the Peace and Global Witness offering of the PCUSA.

You can read elsewhere in this September newsletter about our partnership with Habitat. Work will begin in October for House of Faith #4.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering for peacemaking efforts that align with their passion. Mid-councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



Ministry of Hope's
ANNUAL FALL MONTREAT
LUNCHEON 2024:
Thursday, September 19th



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PCUSA General Assembly Proposes Amendments to Book of Order

Amending the Book of Order, the guiding constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is a two-step process. First, the General Assembly of the denomination must approve an overture proposing the amendment. Second, a majority of the presbyteries in the denomination must ratify the proposal.

At its 2024 meeting, the General Assembly adopted two overtures designed to make the PCUSA more welcoming to LGBTQ+ individuals. The first proposes to extend the prohibition against discrimination and guarantee of participation to church members regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. The second recommends a change in the provisions on examination of candidates for ordination to require consideration of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill the principles of participation and representation as guaranteed in the Book of Order.

More specifically, the first overture will alter one of the statements to add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of differences among people that God unites in Christ by the power of the Spirit. Later sentences in that section also prohibit discrimination against any person and guarantee all persons and groups full participation and representation in the life of the church. In essence, the proposed amendment equates gender and sexual orientation to race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, and theological conviction.

The second proposed amendment alters the section on examination of ordination for deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of word and sacrament. It requires that the examination include examination of the ability and commitment of the candidate for ordination to fulfill the denomination's historic principles of church order and the principles of participation and representation that are guaranteed in the section of the foundations of Presbyterian polity.

The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the first amendment by a vote of 389 to 24. The vote suggests a broad consensus in favor of encouraging participation regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The vote on the second amendment was 297 to 130. A major concern was that requiring an examination on support for gender and sexual orientation would exclude persons with doubts about the church's position on those issues from serving as ordained officers. The compromise adopted by the General Assembly was to require examination on the Historic Principles of Church Order. Among those principles are recognition of God as Lord of the conscience of individuals, mutual forbearance rooted in common unity despite differences of opinions, and affirmation of the right of the people to elect their leaders. In addition, the section that was amended continues to provide that "Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates." Supporters of the amendments believed that these provisions give sessions and presbyteries adequate discretion to apply the new standards to candidates.

These provisions will become part of the Book of Order on July 4, 2025 if a majority of presbyteries concur with the decisions of the General Assembly. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be voting on the proposed amendments before the July 2025 deadline.



HOMEcoming PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Frederick will be our guest minister for Homecoming Sunday on Oct. 6

You might enjoy reading a bit about his ministry before retirement in March 2021, as he served a Presbyterian congregation just down the mountain from us with the nation's largest concentration of Waldensian descendants:

"I had served as a career associate pastor for 22 years prior to my arrival in Valdese in Nov. 2007. When I began learning about Waldensian Presbyterian Church, my long-held interest in church history was fully engaged. I realized that the Waldensian story, as a small component of the Presbyterian Church (USA), was uniquely focused on this congregation as the largest concentration of Waldensian descendants in the United States. I was also attracted to its compassionate nature, its unparalleled faith witness, and its vibrant sense of identity.

"There were several things that stood out for me: the Waldensian story is 850 years in the making, and yet within Church history that witness of faith is often acknowledged with little more than a footnote in Reformed history. The Waldensian movement, which started in the 1170s, is the oldest Protestant church witness in the world. From early on in their history the Waldensians were targeted as heretics by the Roman Catholic Church and were heavily persecuted. A decade ago, a local church historian, John Bleynat, identified 33 separate Waldensian persecutions which occurred from the 12th century to the 19th century. I would add one more persecution: During World War II, the Nazis sought to burn and destroy several Waldensian communities in the Italian Alps. These communities were part of the resistance movement against fascism and Nazism.

"As I explored their history, I kept uncovering famous historical names who impacted them like Louis XIV, Oliver Cromwell, John Milton, Napoleon, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Benito Mussolini and a host of other individuals who played a role in the Waldensian history. Even the formal apology of Pope Francis, in 2015, was a major historical event since it was the first time in 850 years when the Roman Catholic Church acknowledged its role in seeking to destroy a legitimate branch of the Universal Church of Jesus Christ. The Pope humbly asked the Waldensian Moderator for forgiveness. The Waldensian history remains a thrill to explore, even though 90% of the books about it are in Italian or French.

"While pastor in Valdese we were able to articulate an integrated understanding of what it means to be Waldensian and Presbyterian, as well as integrate the Waldensian faith story with the Waldensian history. There are two ways to be Waldensian. The first is genetic, to be born of Waldensian descent. The second is for non-Waldensians to claim the Waldensian heritage by faith. The second approach requires a recognition of the core principles of the Waldensian faith. I have taught the beliefs of Waldensians both before and after joining the Reformation. These beliefs, blended with the fierce loyalty, determination, and persistence of generations of Waldensians through many violent pogroms and horrific forms of persecution, developed a rock-solid loyalty to, and discipleship in, Jesus Christ. "Although nearly persecuted to extinction on more than one occasion, Waldensians most often did not compromise their faith in Christ. Over centuries, many thousands went to their graves rather than renounce their unique Christian practices and beliefs. I wrote the book, *With Their Backs Against the Mountains: 850 years of Waldensian Witness*, in 2018 to serve as a source of understanding of Waldensian faith and history for years to come."

This information is excerpted from an article available at PresbyterianMission.org. by American Waldensian Society | Special to Presbyterian News Service



JOYS AND CONCERNS

We celebrate: the **birth of Theodore Mouzinho Torrence** (to be known as Theo), who arrived 6 weeks early and will need a few weeks in the NICU, but is making good progress. First-time grandparents, Lee and Margaret, are thrilled ◦ our **Congregational Life Team: Janice Collins, Vicki Collins, Mary Craig, Donna Eagle Joslin, Sarah Anne Eller, Pat Levi, Sharon Lytle, and their fearless leader, Susan Daugherty**, for their continued excellent work: most recently the memorial reception on August 17 ◦ **Andrew Tripp's** move to permanent status as our **Church Administrator**, effective September 1 ◦ **new carpet** in the administrator's office ◦ abundant volunteers to form a **Circle of Welcome** for a refugee family ◦ abundant **tote bags** to use in our SVCN project in early September! (no more are needed!) ◦ **Jim Storey**, with help from **Janice Collins** and **Andrew Tripp**, for putting up the pride flag and the welcome banner, as seen here:



We remember in prayer: **Amanda Branscombe**, now discharged from the hospital, and recovering from spinal fusion surgery ◦ **Bill Christy**, as he continues to heal following a heart transplant ◦ **Susan Laney**, receiving therapy at home ◦ **Bubba Lytle, Rodney and Sharon's son**, making excellent progress recovering from a serious motorcycle accident ◦ **Thurman Slone, Joyce Cucinella's brother**, now under Hospice care ◦ **Carol Lee Joslin, Blake Joslin's mother**, suffering from Alzheimer's ◦ **Beth Newman**, who is back at work but continuing to recover her strength following a bone marrow transplant ◦ **Elda Pineda's mother, Karmen Iraeta** ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Vernon Daugherty, Sr. (Derron's father)** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother)** ◦ **Erika Lytle** ◦ **Salyna Morgan** ◦ **Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs** ◦ **Jon Hettrick and his family** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison's son)** ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell.**

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Proctor	September 3	Natalie Daugherty	September 15
Carla Greenfield	September 20	John Laney	September 23
Michael Montgomery	September 24	Elizabeth Cook	September 27



“NOTE” WORTHY EVENTS

CHOIR RESUMES

The choir invites folks who can carry a tune to give Chapel Choir a try. 7:00 Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 & 11. Service singing begins Sunday, September 15. Give Director Ted Stewart a call, (816) 305-1038, or just show up at rehearsal. We encourage you to share our joy.

HANDBELLS

The handbell choir is resuming rehearsals after Labor Day this year with plans to enrich worship through a larger part of the liturgical year in celebration of the refurbishments completed last year. If you have interest in joining, or questions, please contact Natalie Daugherty (336) 413-9071.



Annual Welcome Potluck

On September 8th, from 12:00-2:00 PM (following the WWC Student-Led service), we invite you to bring a favorite dish or two and join us for our Annual Welcome Students Potluck. We will welcome new and returning students, as well as community members, to enjoy food and friends in our Fellowship Hall and on the patio. All are welcome! So bring a friend!

Homecoming Potluck

October 6th is the annual Homecoming Potluck. It is always a great event to see our old and new friends! Please bring a dish or two to share! Drinks will be provided by Congregational Life Ministry Team.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office: 828-298-9092

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence, mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu

Interim Dir. of Music: Ted Stewart

Church Administrator: Andrew Tripp, (828) 298-9092, andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu

Treasurer: Leslie Sayyar, (828) 333-8867, treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Treasurer: Brent Roberts, (919) 844-6311, brentbroberts@icloud.com

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

