

# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

## A Note from Margaret

Some of you will know immediately where this picture was taken:



Some of you helped to paint the mural that once covered this wall in our youth room from floor to ceiling. And then came Hurricane Helene. Storm water pooled on the floor and seeped into the drywall. The lower portion of the walls had to be taken down to the studs.

But the workers who replaced the drywall and re-painted the room preserved as much of the mural as they could. They didn't do that at our request—we didn't think to ask! They did it instinctively. And now, the room that was, just a few weeks ago, dark and dank and filled with soggy furniture, is now bright and clean—almost ready to be used again (new flooring has arrived, but is not yet installed!)

There's something about an empty space. It may elicit sadness, when we remember ways we once filled it. But an empty space also holds a sense of possibility. It invites us to imagine what good purpose it might now meet. Whose needs might be answered by an offer of hospitality? With whom will we discover friendship here?

We worship a God who asks us to remember the past, to let it bless us, but not to cling too tightly to it. This God says to us: "Behold, I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?" Years ago, I heard someone describe this perspective as "living with open hands." Such hands are ready to receive the gifts that each day brings, but also to let those gifts freely pass to the next person who might need them. Living with open hands is a posture of trust.

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A Note from Margaret continued...

I love that the workers preserved what was still useful and beautiful about this space—but I also appreciate that they helped us to clear the space of what needed to go. It has been a privilege to share the last eleven months with you, and I look forward to the holy days that yet remain to us this year. I also look forward to seeing how God will move in your midst as Laurie comes to share her good gifts with you, as she helps to prepare you for the next season of your ministry. For now the invitation is to keep clearing spaces in our hearts for God to dwell—for this is the work of Advent. With deep and abiding hope,  
Margaret



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship season is underway. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, additional copies are available in the narthex that include the form to indicate your commitment. There are also copies of the budget and a box to receive your completed forms. Or you can scan the QR code to the right. We are grateful for all the ways you show your support and love in this place.





# SUPPORT HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS

Many folks have expressed interest in helping those severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. That support can address a variety of needs: **1) emergency assistance, 2) initial remediation and restoration, and 3) long-term rebuilding.** Fortunately, Warren Wilson is part of a connectional church that offers trustworthy options to support all three stages of the relief effort.

1) The **session** at WWPC has established the **Buncombe County Hurricane Helene Emergency Relief Fund**. Contributions to this fund will enable the pastor to respond immediately to **emergency needs of members and friends of the congregation, the college community, and the Buncombe County community at large.** Distributions larger than \$200 will require session approval. You may support this fund by giving online through the church website, or by giving cash or checks clearly marked for the Hurricane Helene Emergency Relief Fund. You can place checks in the offering plate or mail them to the church.

2) The **Presbytery of Western North Carolina** is also preparing to **aid rebuilding in the immediate future.** The General Council approved using reserve funds to hire a relief coordinator for the next two years to coordinate relief efforts within the presbytery. The presbytery has also established the **PWNC Hurricane Relief Fund**, which will provide assistance to individuals within the boundaries of the presbytery, as well as to support work groups that come to the presbytery. Contributions to the fund will also purchase supplies to be used at worksites. All contributions will go directly to relief efforts; the presbytery will use other funds to cover the cost of the relief coordinator position and any administrative costs. You may contribute directly to the presbytery fund by using the link on the presbytery website ([presbyterywnc.org](http://presbyterywnc.org)) or by mailing checks to Presbytery of Western North Carolina Treasurer, 114 Silver Creek Rd, Morganton, NC 28655. Alternatively, you can make your gifts to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and clearly mark them for the PWNC Hurricane Relief Fund. As with other gifts, the treasurer will transmit 100% of your contributions to the presbytery.

3) **Presbytery Disaster Assistance (PDA)** is the disaster response and refugee program of the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**. PDA has already sent an assessment team to western North Carolina, and a senior leadership team will meet with pastors and other leaders on October 30. However, the **primary focus of PDA efforts is long-term rebuilding and restoration.** PDA remains on the scene until the relief effort is complete. You may give directly by using the link on its website ([pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org)) or by mailing checks to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. If you want your gift to be used in western North Carolina to respond to damage from Hurricane Helene, you should designate it for Project DR000169. Alternatively, you can make your clearly marked gift to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, and the church will forward them to PDA. Here also, our treasurer will transmit 100% of your contributions to PDA.

Please give as you are able and as you are led. You may trust that gifts to any of these funds will provide the support described.



# WWC PRESENTS:



## *“How do we mark the flood?”*

*November 23rd, 2024  
1–6pm*

*a one day happening on the historic grounds of Warren Wilson College  
Swannanoa, NC*



*—three pig high water marker*

*Join us for a day of collective healing and a celebration of community resilience.  
live music, multimedia land arts installations, odd dancing, mutual aid raffles, plein air painting,  
the Farm's annual meat sale, Garden Crew goods, grief workshop, sketchbook club, puppets,  
portraits by AVL Darkroom and a sunset surprise in Bryson Gymnasium at 5:18 PM!*

*Bring your own binoculars, easels, watercolors, sketchbooks, and cameras!*

*Please contact [artdepartment@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:artdepartment@warren-wilson.edu) for accessibility needs.*

*Presented in conjunction with The Farm at Black Mountain College and **DEER FREAKS** ...and decoys  
on view September 23rd, 2024– January 11th, 2025 at BMCM+AC.*

*with love, SWANNANOPIA &*

Black Mountain College  
MUSEUM  
ARTS CENTER



lamplight avl



Warren  
Wilson  
COLLEGE



ART &  
CRAFT  
DEPARTMENT





# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HELPING CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSES - After a delay caused by Hurricane Helene, building new Habitat for Humanity houses, including House of Faith #4 in Arden's Glenn Bridge neighborhood, has started again. On November 2, five of our church members (including from the left: Derron and Andrew Daugherty, Ken Murchison, and Emily and Andrew Pulsifer) were among the first volunteers to return to work at the job site. The current volunteer period runs through December 14 and Don Collins, Anne Dale, Jamie Dale, Bob Gambrell, and Jim Storey have also signed up to help during that time. After the new year starts another work period for volunteers is scheduled for February 4 - March 22.



HELPING HANDS - Among the first volunteers to help build Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity House of Faith #4 was a group of clergy including Margaret, shown here carrying a sill plate about to be installed on the building foundation. The LaMottes have a family history of involvement with Habitat for Humanity. Margaret's mother founded the Roanoke, VA chapter where a new home is now being built in her honor. The Asheville chapter House of Faith is being built by a coalition of area faith communities and should be completed next summer.



# VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ) UPDATE



On Friday, Sept. 27, as we have on the fourth Friday each month since 2010, a group of volunteers from our church was ready to prepare and serve lunch to 80-100 residents and staff at the VRQ on Tunnel Rd. near the Swannanoa River.

The VRQ is an arm of Asheville Buncombe Christian Community Ministry that provides shelter, education and skills training for up to 160 veterans during their transition to permanent housing. When nighttime temperatures fall below freezing it also provides emergency shelter for up to 40 men.



It is located in a former motel and had a commercial kitchen where lunch volunteers like ours spent the morning cooking meals, preparing items for the salad bar, making salad dressings and sandwiches and assembling sack lunches for residents who were away from the building at meal time.

Then, at noon, the residents and staff came through a cafeteria line where we served the food before they sat down to eat in the dining room. They have always been very appreciative for our help.

Because of the steady rain starting on Sept. 25 and continuing until the extreme rain and winds of Hurricane Helene arrived early on Sept. 27, our volunteers for that day were asked to stay away. Before the day was over everyone there had to be evacuated before 8 feet of water swept through the building, destroying the ground floor including the kitchen and dining room.

The good news is that in less than two weeks temporary lodging for the VRQ residents was setup across Tunnel Rd at the Quality Inn. Because it does not have a commercial kitchen or food storage space however, feeding everyone presented a huge challenge.

Thankfully two of the many disaster relief organizations that have come to provide badly needed help in Western North Carolina, Mercy Chefs and World Central Kitchen, began providing meals that are prepared elsewhere and delivered to the site.

In addition, Team Rubicon, a volunteer organization of veterans specializing in disaster response, has finished cleaning up the mess at the VRQ so that it can be rebuilt, and Veterans Bridge Home is providing volunteer labor, donations and some meals. Many other organizations and companies are also helping with funding for the rebuild which may take a full year.

Until then our church will continue to provide a small number of volunteers at 11:45 a.m. on the 4th Friday of the month to distribute lunches at the VRQ temporary location at 1430 Tunnel Rd. Our next two dates will be Dec. 27 and Jan. 24. If you would like to know more and help with that, please talk to Larry Griswold or contact him at [larrygris@gmail.com](mailto:larrygris@gmail.com)



# SVCM

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry Walk for Your Neighbor - Coming in January!

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 has been rescheduled for January (date TBD).

## Deck the Trees

You will discover beautifully decorated Christmas trees in stores and businesses throughout Black Mountain and the Swannanoa Valley area. Each tree will be created by businesses, organizations, or individuals to help raise funds for the **Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry Fuel Fund** - which keeps our neighbors warm during the winter and raised over \$78,000 in 2023. Let's beat that this year by donating in support of your favorite tree.



### The MONTE VISTA HOTEL

*Black Mountain, NC*  
(308 West State St.)

Action COACH  
Beradu  
Black Mountain Beautification  
Black Mountain Blooms  
Black Mountain Elementary  
Black Mountain Fire Department  
Black Mountain Pickleball  
Black Mountain Presbyterian School  
Black Mountain Swannanoa Chamber  
Bramblewood  
Buckeye Kennels  
Donald S. Collins Early Learning Center  
Girl Scout Troop 02498  
Carolyn Johnson  
Judi Melton Real Estate Consultant  
Kilwin's Black Mountain  
Kiwanis Club of BMT & Swannanoa  
McDevitt Sisters  
Mountain Fairy Hair  
My Carolina Mountain Life  
Noble & Company Realty  
Olive's Woodworks  
Swannanoa Valley Arts League  
The Gem Drop Shop  
The Monte Vista Hotel  
The Tatted Tree  
YMCA of Black Mountain

## Where to Find the Trees

FRIDAY DEC 6, - MONDAY JAN 6, 2025

Community Business Locations

**Broadway Street**  
109 - Tyson Furniture  
119 - Seven Sisters Gallery  
137 - Cariku

**Cherry Street**  
125 - Europa  
132 - Chifferobe  
139 - Sassafra on Sutton

**Jane Jacobs Road**  
15 - Wise Eye Care

**E Market St**  
2 - Beradu

**Midland Avenue**  
160 - Town of Black Mountain

**Montreat Road**  
105 - White Horse Black Mountain  
128 - Fifth Third Bank

**Ridgeway Ave**  
101 - Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry

**Ross Drive**  
15 - Green Tee Grille, Black Mountain  
Golf Course



### Community Business Locations

**East State Street**  
200 - Black Mountain Savings Bank  
206 - Sunshine Pharmacy

**West State Street**  
110 - Krista Anne's Boutique  
116 - Kilwin's Black Mountain  
203 - The Enchanted Oak  
223 - Swannanoa Valley Museum  
406 - Peri Social House  
411 - Black Mountain Family Eye Care

**Sutton Avenue**  
207 - The Old Depot Gallery  
208 - The Mulberry Tree

**US Highway 70**  
2580 - Laps & Naps, Swannanoa Valley  
Animal Hospital

look for the logo



## Update on Our Bags Project

Since our last newsletter many of you, along with some WWC students and faculty, put together bags to be used for SVCM's new shower facility. 100 bags were filled and delivered!! We can also report that these bags were so gratefully received by those affected by the recent storms.



# HOLIDAY NEWS

**POINSETTIAS** Order a Poinsettia in honor or in memory of your loved ones. These will be displayed in the front of the chapel to help celebrate the Christmas season, and can be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Each poinsettia costs \$12 and orders can be sent to Andrew in the office, or turned in on Sunday mornings by looking for the order forms and envelope in the narthex. Deadline is **December 3**.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING** We will be decorating for Christmas in the Chapel on December 6, starting at 11:00 AM. Pizza and beverages will be provided along with background music. Please let us know if you are planning to help decorate by contacting either Rachel Sparling (248) 762-0858 or Vicki Collins (828) 712-0251

**PIANO CONCERT** Come hear our new instrument played by local Piano Forum members on **December 7** from **11 AM - noon**. See Page 9 for more information.

**WASSAIL** Come enjoy Wassail on **December 8** and meet Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini, our new Transitional Pastor! Bring finger foods (hors d'oeuvres) to share, Congregational Life will be serving the Wassail punch. All are welcome!

**COOKIES AND CAROLS** On **December 15 at 4:00** we will celebrate a festive holiday tradition: Cookies and Carols! Enjoy delicious Christmas treats and join in singing some favorite Christmas songs with the Warren Wilson Community.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** Relish this holy night as we share carols, candlelight and communion on **December 24 at 7:00 PM**.

**EPIPHANY** We will conclude our celebration of Christmas with Epiphany, which we will celebrate this year on **January 5 at 11AM**. Come, receive the gift of a star to follow in the year ahead, and welcome our new transitional pastor, Laurie Furr-Vancini!



**MISSING OUR FRIENDS**  
We have been missing many of our members and friends who left the area due to challenges presented by the storm. We received this wonderful photo of Ernst Laursen, making a new friend at his son Mark's house in Indiana. If you are still away, we'd love to have a photo of you, too, to share with the congregation!



# “NOTE”WORTHY NEWS

by Ted Stewart

## A New Piano for WWPC!

WWPC is now the new owner of a new piano. It arrived November 26 in time to begin its stay on the first Sunday of the Church Year—Advent I. Last Spring we learned from our piano tuners/technicians that our 1888 Beckstein piano could no longer be repaired or regulated. 1888 parts are no longer made to fit its piano action. Thus began the search for a new piano.

A Piano Committee was formed, and study and search began. We settled on two brands of pianos in the 7 foot range. When a Yamaha C7 piano popped up on consignment at The Piano Emporium, it was right on target with all of our checkmarks for our desired specifications. We called it a miracle!

Following the recommendation of our Administration Ministry Team, the session approved the purchase on November 19, 2024. The generous bequest of Steven Williams, supplemented with gifts from members and friends of the church, made possible the addition of this wonderful piano to the chapel. Steve was the beloved organist and choir director at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church for more than 30 years.

We look forward to many years of making beautiful music and worship starting in this new year. Soli Deo Gloria!

## You're invited To Welcome a New Piano to Town

Seasonal and Classic Music

Presented by: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and Members of the Asheville Area Piano Forum.

Celebrating: the first program of the church's new piano: a Yamaha C7, 7' 6" Piano.

Featuring: Piano Forum Members Wayne Smith, Karen Boyd, Will Baunach, Eunice Stackhouse, Eric Fricke,

Date: Saturday, December 7th at 11:00 a.m. (1 hour)

At: Warren Wilson College Chapel, 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778

All are welcome to this free piano program. Come and bring a friend to enjoy beautiful music on a beautiful piano.

Information/Questions: Ted Stewart, Church Music Director: (816) 305-1038  
[stewart.smith@att.net](mailto:stewart.smith@att.net)



## An Invitation to Singers

Singers are invited to sing with the WWPC Chapel Choir during Advent and Christmas Season. A good opportunity to give choir a try and strengthen your voice in praise to God this holiday. No auditions. Just show up at choir rehearsals on Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:20 p.m. in the Choir Loft. (Sunday Morning Warm-up is 10:15-10:45 a.m.)

If you have questions or need a nudge, call Director Ted Stewart, (816) 305-1038, [stewart.smith@att.net](mailto:stewart.smith@att.net) If you know someone who should be singing, give me a call or text and I will respond. A welcome place to be! Give it some thought.



# A NOTE FROM SESSION (in case you missed this)

Dear friends,

Over the summer Margaret informed the session that she would not be able to renew her contract at the end of 2024, due to increasing needs within her family. On Sunday, November 3, Margaret shared that news in worship. While we will miss Margaret, we understand and support the decision she has made.

We are therefore pleased to announce the arrival of **Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini** to serve as our Transitional Pastor in 2025. Laurie has many years of experience in ministry, and comes to us ready to serve. Laurie said, "I feel particularly called to serve Warren Wilson for this season in the life of the church. You are on the cusp of your 100th birthday, between a tragic storm and restoration, navigating a difficult landscape in a time of pastoral transition. Warren Wilson Presbyterian is truly at the threshold between known and unknown and I look forward to walking with you through this turbulent, yet deeply sacred time."

Laurie will begin her work at Warren Wilson on January 2. She looks forward to getting to know each of us and leading us in vibrant worship. As the church moves into its active search for a new called and installed pastor, Laurie will continue to seek out ways to connect the church, the college, and the larger Swannanoa valley community through the relief and restoration efforts.

Here's a bit of background about Laurie:

After a first degree and career in College Student Affairs, she attended Columbia Theological Seminary and was ordained in the PC(USA). Upon graduation, she moved to Jacksonville, FL with husband Jeff and two young sons to serve a church in the Presbytery of St. Augustine. Soon after the move, they adopted their daughter. They remained in Jacksonville and Laurie served three different congregations over a span of 22 years.

When their third child began college, Laurie and Jeff began planning their move to the mountains of NC, building a home in Black Mountain. They have been in Black Mountain for three years. During that time, Laurie served as the Transitional Pastor for Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church and is working part time as the Guest Services Manager at Montreat. They have been attending Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, where Jeff is a member.

Laurie enjoys exploring the mountains, the communities, and the arts. She is a reader, YMCA fitness class attender, and daily walker of her dog. She believes in life-long education and is interested and curious about many things. Laurie and Jeff are the parents of 3 adulting children: Charlie and his new wife, Chanterelle who live in New York City. Sam who lives in State College, PA. And Abbie, who lives in Arlington, VA.

While Laurie will not begin her official duties until January, she will serve as a **guest preacher on December 8**. Please come and worship with us and stay to share wassail at the conclusion of the service!

In gratitude and hope,

Beth Meriwether, Don Collins, Jim Storey, Sharon Lytle, Kay Stockdale, Natalie Daugherty, Sally Broughton (Clerk), and Margaret LaMotte Torrence (Moderator)

**The session of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church**





# DIRECTORY UPDATES

## Update Your Information

We are working on **updating our online directory**, and we need your help. Please review your information on Breeze (the online directory) via the website, the app, or by checking the paper printout in the narthex to see that your contact information is current. You can also email your information along with a current photo to Andrew ([andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu)).

If you 'd like to get setup with Breeze please see the steps below:

## Setting up with Breeze

This is a guide to help you sign up with Breeze and have access to our wonderful online directory.

1. Go to [wwpc.breezechms.com](http://wwpc.breezechms.com)
2. If you already have an account skip to step 6
3. Create an account by clicking "Create Account" below the Sign In button
4. Enter your first and last name along with your e-mail address. If you are already in our database, then the system will send you an e-mail with instructions on how to complete your account creation.
5. If your name and e-mail address are not already in our database, please contact the church office to be added. Then go back to step 1 to complete your account creation.
6. Enter your username and password to access Breeze
7. Click on "People". Here you can look up members by name to see pictures and contact information.
8. To view a directory click "Filters" and a bar will pop in from the right side of your screen.
9. Under "Jump to a Saved Filter" select "WWPC Directory"
10. Close the Filters sidebar by clicking the X or by clicking anywhere in the main screen.
11. You can now see all of the profiles that are part of our Directory. Clicking on any one of them will take you to their profile where you can see pictures and contact information.
12. Click the box at the top of the list that says, "Select All People"
13. Click the Button to the right that says, "Export"
14. Select "Directory" from the pull down menu.
15. Click if you would like to "Include pictures" and/or "Group as a family"
16. Click the "Download" button on the right
17. An up-to-the-minute directory will appear, which you can print if you'd like using your browser's print function.



## THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet in the Church parlor on Thursday, December 12 at noon. Sandy will lead our discussion of *A Month in the Country* by J.L. Carr. Bring your lunch and whatever you choose to drink and share some fellowship over lunch from 12-12:30. Our discussion begins at 12:30. New members are always welcome!

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

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 administration building. Please contact Beth Meriwether at (828) 777-2867 or [bethmeriwether@gmail.com](mailto:bethmeriwether@gmail.com) if you have questions or need more information. Join us!

## “TOGATHER” GROUP

“Come, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,” Matthew 11:28 - Jesus invites us to come to him and to come together to share our burdens and find rest. You are invited to join Beth Meriwether for a new group, *Togather*, meeting Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30, in the Chapel Parlor, for a time of sharing, contemplation, and prayer. If interested, contact Beth at (828) 777-2867 or [bethmeriwether@gmail.com](mailto:bethmeriwether@gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEERS IN WORSHIP

**A/V TRAINING** We are hoping to build a team of folks who are available to run the soundboard and live stream for our Sunday morning services. If you're curious to know whether that might be a fit for you, training will be offered for 30-45 minutes after worship on **December 15**.

### REMEMBER THESE OTHER 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!





# JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

We celebrate: **Sharon Lytle and her team of willing companions** who offered a lovely soup luncheon after church on November 10 • **Sarah Anne Eller** for updating photos for our online church directory • the **session** and **Congregational Life Team** for helping us to stay connected following the storm • the **wedding of Kara Nash and Katherine Harrod** on September 22 • the **wedding of Janice Collins and Jim Storey's son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Kristen**, on September 21 • **Elizabeth Cook** for the beautiful flowers outside the chapel



We remember in prayer: The family of **Vernon Daugherty, Derron's father**, following his death on November 17 • the family of **Terry Torrence, Lee's mother**, following her death on October 2 • all who continue to be affected by damage and loss caused by recent storms. In our congregation, we are aware that the homes of **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, and Jackie Wintle** sustained catastrophic damage, as did **Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** • **Donna Eagle Joslin**, who broke her wrist on Oct. 6 and had a metal plate inserted on Oct. 18. • **Amanda Branscombe**, as she continues to recover 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 • **Jackie Ligon Cole** • **Pat Crumpler** • **Martha Dugger** • **Rick Garrison** • **Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother)** • **Erika Lytle** • **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**

# BIRTHDAYS

Virginia McKinley	Nov 21	Beverly Ohler	Nov 22
Ernst Laursen	Nov 24	Sharon Lytle	Nov 25
Sally Broughton	Nov 26	Kathy Rouse	Nov 27
Paul McDonald	Nov 28	Martha Dugger	Dec 4
Doug Orr	Dec 9	Jon Hettrick	Dec 12
Emily Pulsifer	Dec 15	Tacci Presnell-Smith	Dec 22
Jack Cole	Dec 26	Joanne Lincoln	Dec 30
Sandy Brauer	Dec 31	Derron Daugherty	Dec 31



## CIRCLE OF WELCOME - SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

by Vicki Collins

Under the auspices of Lutheran Services, our church again formed a circle of welcome to help new Afghan refugees. The Azizi family arrived in September. The father, Miraqa, had served in the Afghan army with American forces, and the Taliban seized all his resources, attacked his family and threatened him. The family was evacuated in the summer of 2024 and has been fully vetted and awarded Special Immigrant status, which is a direct path to a green card. They arrived in Asheville in September.

The family is truly delightful; Miraqa, Tamana the mother, daughter Bebehanya (11) and the boys Maidan (8) and Mudasa (3). Lutheran Services found them a house in Swannanoa, and they weathered the hurricane in amazingly good shape. They quickly made friends and the children are enrolled in local schools.

Our role is to help them adjust to life in America, by driving them to various appointments, helping them with shopping and just finding their way around. Right now, our efforts have been focused on helping them learn English. We are enjoying activities with them and providing a circle of new friends.

The experience has been truly gratifying for our team. We have found wonderful new friends, including several amazing Swannanoa neighbors. We have learned so much: about Afghan culture and food, about the difficulties of navigating life here without money or a car, and how to use imagination in communicating with inadequate translation apps. We would really welcome new team members! Just ask Jamie Dale, Chrisann Ohler, or Vicki Collins about how to participate. We see this work as a true expression of our commitment to serve Christ in this world right now. You can also help by sending a check to the church with "refugee fund" in the memo line. And of course, please pray for the us and the Azizi family.

## 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](http://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!

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Church Office: 828-298-9092**

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence, [mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:mltorrence@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Interim Dir. of Music: Ted Stewart

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