

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2025



During the season of Lent, we have partnered with [A Sanctified Art](#) for our liturgy and bulletin art. The worship series, “Everything In Between,” invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will see that each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” arr. Dan R. Edwards

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Barbara Griswold

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

***HYMN 166** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

ST. FLAVIAN

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.

2 As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.

3 And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

4 Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray. Amen.

*RESPONSE TO CONFESSION

“You Are My Refuge, Faithful God” #214 stanzas 1 & 5

*You are my refuge, faithful God;
you shelter me from shame.
I put my spirit in your hands
and call upon your name.*

*And yet I trust in you, O God;
your covenant still stands.
Redeem me, in your faithful love:
my life is in your hands.*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, when we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,
God claims us as God’s own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,
God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

A TIME FOR CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth of all ages are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

ANTHEM “O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord” Christopher Tye

*O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise his holy name;
From early morn to setting sun, his might on earth proclaim.*

*His laws are just, and glad the heart; He makes his mercies known.
Ye princes come, and come ye people too, and bow before the throne.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON “everything (in)between stranger & neighbor”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

1 As those of old their firstfruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring,
the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

2 A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.

3 In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life’s way.
O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life’s work is done.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive)

Church, if God asked you, “Who is your neighbor?”
what would you say?

**We would say, every child, every person, every weeping willow,
and every morning lark.**

**Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands, every tail-
wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple. We would say, we are
connected— to one another, to all of God’s creation.**

There are no strangers in God’s house.

We are all family here.

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your strength,

with all your mind,

and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN 309** “Come, Great God of All the Ages” ABBOT’S LEIGH

1 Come, great God of all the ages;
make your earthly mission known;
speak through every deed and person;
let your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment;
give direction now, we ask;
fit us for the work of building;
dedicate us to the task.

2 Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,
sure foundation, cornerstone;
help us form the church eternal;
may your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower;
lead all people to your way;
urge us to strong faith and action
as we build the church today.

3 Come, great Spirit, in and with us,
tune our ears to hear your call;
through the moving of your presence,
let redeeming love recall
ministry in dedication,
love embodied in our deeds;
challenge us to do your bidding,
see your purpose, fill all needs.

4 Come, O come, in celebration,
household of the one true God;
in commitment and rejoicing
let us go where Christ has trod;
as we act in faith and reverence,
let us, Lord, the future see;
place us in the church triumphant,
now and for eternity.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “It is Well With My Soul” arr. Linda R. Lamb

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF

Laurie Furr-Vancini, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Special Music: The Handbell Choir – Natalie Daugherty, director
Elder of the Day: Leslie Sayyar
Liturgist: Barbara Griswold
Coffee Hour Host: Elaine Barnes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS If you are worshipping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor information card, located on the right as you enter the chapel, and place it in the offering plate.

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

We celebrate: **Bob Gambrell** for adding much needed lighting outside the education building in the back. ◦ **The Mission Study Team** for their ongoing work.

We remember in prayer: **Bob Gambrell**, had surgery to receive an artificial heart valve on March 7 ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ **Wanda Mitchell, friend of Sally Broughton**, has been referred to hospice care after a hospitalization for pneumonia. ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by recent storms. In our congregation, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, Joyce Cucinella**, and **Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **Susan Laney**, receiving therapy at home ◦ Ongoing prayers for the extended **Lytle family** ◦ **Mary Craig** ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **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**

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES The Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Alliance is having a community Lenten service every Wednesday at noon from March 5-April 16, with a Good Friday service on April 18. Each will be led by a different church (we are leading the April 2 service). All services will be hosted at Black Mountain UMC and will be followed by a free community meal provided by Open Table.

MISSION STUDY PRESENTATION Next Sunday, March 16, following worship we will have a pizza lunch and hear from the Mission Study Team as they share in questions and thoughts about WWPC's future. All members and visitors are welcome!

TOGATHER We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month through May at 1:30 PM in the chapel parlor. This is a time where all are welcome to build and strengthen relationships, spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer, learn and practice calming and relaxation skills, and share resources. This is an open group; feel free to come whenever you are able. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) for more information.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS We meet **Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Ed room**. In March are reading and discussing the book, Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. **All are welcome** at any time, even if you haven't read the book. Please contact Beth Meriwether at 828-777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com for more information.

EMPTY BOWLS Empty Bowls is a fundraiser organized by Warren Wilson's Community Engagement Crew, it will take place March 19 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All bowls are provided by current ceramics students and you get to take your bowl home with you at the end of the evening! This year's cash recipient is Blunt Pretzel, specifically their Blunt Kitchen program, which provides free hot meals in Swannanoa. Tickets for Empty Bowls are on sale outside of the Chapel for an hour both before and after service for \$25. Also on sale are raffle tickets for \$2. Cash, card, and check accepted, as well as Venmo upon request.

HABITAT MOMENT FOR MISSION On March 30 **Wayne Thomas**, a future owner of Habitat for Humanity House of Faith #4, will visit us for a Moment for Mission at the start of service. We will also take a special offering to help with materials for the house - any donation will help. Options for giving: 1) through our church website (click Give Online button - top right), 2) by check with Habitat offering written on the memo line, or 3) by Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA or check from a Donor Advised Gift Fund sent to the Church, marked Habitat Offering.

PHOTO REQUEST In preparation for the centennial celebration, we want your old pictures of the church. The older the better! Please find any photos of the church or church activities in the current chapel, Williams building, Sunderland, or before and give them to Kay Stockdale. We can scan and print them if you'd like to keep the original. Please put your name and any info you have on the back of the photo.

SVCM Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry is in need of: small mens' jeans, mens' small/medium underwear (unopened packs), childrens' 4T-5T clothing (especially girls), queen and king sheet sets, queen and king blankets, towels, hand towels, and washcloths. Deliver to SVCM at 101 N Ridgeway Ave, Black Mountain.

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed/Sanctified Art, LLC
sanctifiedart.org Bulletin Artwork: *Neighbors* by Steve Prince
Inspired by Luke 10:25-37 Ink on paper

Artist Statement: “Each individual carries generations within them, made up of billions of people who have occupied this earth before us. We have an individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards (Good Samaritans) of our bodies, neighbors, and communities, rooted in love. Every day we make a dance of life and death—celebrating the entrance and exit of life, the progression of age and maturity, and the expansion of our tent, grafting to people who share our blood and our beliefs. We are the structures, those temporal buildings that weather the storms, that creak and wither away daily, but are fortified by our relationships to each other and with the sharing of the good news planted by the Heavenly Father. This dance is an open profession of our vow to live by God’s commandments and find a way to collectively preserve the truth of our origin while moving as one communal body into an untouched future.”

Prompts for contemplation:

- Observe the figures’ posture and movement. Do you see connection, conflict, or both? How does this reflect your own relationships?
- Focus on the textures and shading. What story might these elements tell about resilience or fragility?
- Pay attention to the empty spaces around the figures. What do these spaces evoke for you?
- Imagine yourself as part of this scene. What role would you play in this dance of connection, tension, and movement?



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WarrenWilsonPC



WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



@WarrenWilsonPC

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!