

HOLY WEEK 2025 | VOLUME 32, ISSUE 3

# THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

## A Note from Laurie

AI shared at the beginning of the season of Lent that poet Ann Weems book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*, was my Lenten partner. Today, I have the book open to this very brief poem:

### To Worship

**When the people of God  
gather for worship  
the whole earth trembles  
and the angels sing.**

It has been my joy to lead worship with you these past few months and I am looking forward to the months we have in front of us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Transitional Pastor.

Speaking of transition, Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on April 27 to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee. Your session is at work creating a slate of nominees for the Warren Wilson Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), who will be presented to you. The PNC will be comprised of five active members of the congregation. Once the PNC is elected, they will be trained by the Presbytery and begin their work! Please be in prayer for them and for the person God is already preparing to serve as the next pastor of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

April 27 will be a busy and joy-filled Sunday. In addition to the congregational meeting, we have a baptism AND will begin a congregation-wide confirmation class. Yes, you heard that correctly! We are joining together with young people in our congregation and will be focusing on "Who Are We?" for the Easter season. Each week, we will consider what it means to be Christians in this day and age in our country. We hope you will join us each Sunday, as we seek to confirm our faith, as individuals and as a church, for today:

(continued on Page 2)



## This issue:

Goodbye, Olivia  
PAGE 2

Holy Week  
PAGE 3

Student Led Worship  
PAGE 4

Habitat for Humanity  
PAGE 5

SVCM  
PAGE 6

Personnel Review  
PAGE 7

WWPC Events  
PAGE 10

## A Note from Laurie continued...

April 27 We Abide in Grace and Joy (Baptism)  
May 4 We Offer Hospitality (Communion)  
May 11 We Seek Justice  
May 18 We Value Unity in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
May 25 We Show Compassion  
June 1 We Strive for Humility and Gratitude  
June 8 We Seek Out, Recognize, & Share Wisdom

On June 8, which is Pentecost, we will all confirm our faith together. Anyone (of any age) who wishes to join the church, can do so as a member or as an affiliate member. If you have been wondering about becoming a member or an affiliate member of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, please call the church office. This would be a great time to say, "God has called me to this place and to this people." I would love to meet with you about membership and the session would love to receive you as a member or affiliate member. All are welcome!

In this newsletter, you will find information about Holy Week and Easter activities and worship services. In addition, there is much about the everyday life of the church and our members. Please take a quiet moment to read through the newsletter and be in prayer for the life, work, and mission of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.



### Farewell, Thank You, and Congratulations!

On May 4 we are saying goodbye to our long-serving College Work Crew participant, Olivia Crescitelli. Olivia has been with us at Warren Wilson Presbyterian for the past 3 years!!

Olivia will be graduating on May 10th with a Bachelor's in Archaeology. Her capstone research is on an archaeological site called Boyd Cabin and focused on the children that lived in the household. Boyd Cabin is an African American heritage site about which she said, "I am honored to work on the site for the living descendants of Mr. Boyd."

After graduation, Olivia plans to earn a Master's degree in Museum Studies to pursue her passion for artifact conservation.

Come to the Ice Cream Social on May 4 and make sure to take a moment to thank Olivia and wish her well.





# HOLY WEEK

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUN APR 13	Palm Sunday	11:00am, Warren Wilson Chapel
WED APR 16	Cemetery Walk	1:00pm, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Cemetery
THU APR 17	Maundy Thursday	6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
FRI APR 18	Good Friday	12:00pm, First UMC - Black Mountain
SUN APR 20	Easter Sunday	11:00am, Warren Wilson Chapel



## CEMETERY Walk and Story Share

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 1-3pm**

Join us as Rodney Lytle guides us to learn about the history of the cemetery and the saints of Warren Wilson.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Cemetery:  
Take Warren Wilson Road to Riceville Road, then turn onto Dillingham Circle.



## Easter Brunch

On April 20th at 9:30 AM we are having our Easter Brunch! Bring a breakfast dish to share and come celebrate the season with your friends! An Easter Egg Hunt will follow after the church service. Bring your basket, additional baskets will be provided.





# STUDENT LED WORSHIP

On April 6, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church was blessed to have WWC students lead us in morning worship! Young people ministered through music, reading, prayer, children's time, and even preaching!! Thanks to Rev. Dr. Shannon Spencer, the college chaplain, and a team of students that included: Mae Craig, Alex Curcio, Stella Heon, Mac Ware, and Luke Wheelen





# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our worship service on Sunday March 30 began with a Habitat for Humanity Moment for Mission, with Wayne Thomas (center), who, with his partner, Regenia Major, will soon become the owner of House of Faith #4 in Arden.

Next to Wayne is Asheville Area Habitat Senior Development Officer Beth Coakley. Habitat volunteers Jamie Dale and Don Collins are on the right, and Transitional Pastor Laurie Furr-Vancini and Larry Griswold are on the left. Habitat volunteers Derron Daugherty and Jim Storey also joined the group for this.

Wayne told us about the electrical and plumbing work that he has been doing on his future house and will do on other houses in the neighborhood, and expressed his appreciation for our congregation's support.



On March 7, while working at the Habitat for Humanity job site in Arden, Larry Griswold noticed that across the street are four different Habitat houses, each in a different stage of construction. The house on the left is finished and now occupied by the owner. The house on the right is finished on the outside. Work is in progress on the outside of the house behind it, and, in the background behind a black pickup truck, a new house is just getting started with wall framing. In February and March 8 volunteers from our church helped with 55 hours of work at the site.

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry has been a fixture in our community for a long time. Most of you have heard of them, worked with them, been served by them, or prayed for them. During what has been a period of unbelievable trauma for so much of this area, they have stepped up. Please take time to visit their website, [www.svcmblackmountain.org](http://www.svcmblackmountain.org), and click on the link to read their latest newsletter. There is far too much valuable information than we can fit on this page. Instead we will share part of what Assistant Director Savanna Craig had to say:

“Talking about “the flood” feels like speaking a four-letter word at this point, or in this case, a five-letter word, but it’s impossible to reflect on the past year of the life of Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry without mentioning Hurricane Helene.

“We all have a Helene story. The day after my own home flooded, I remember thinking “I have to get to SVCM.” It was an urgent and pressing need in my soul. I knew that there was both work for me to do and care for me to receive there and that somehow, I would find solace in existing in that in-between space. So much about those days felt like living in a flux between two realities.

“Time felt like it moved simultaneously so fast and so slow. Memories of those days are hazy and jumbled with moments of intense clarity too. For those of us working at SVCM, or with other relief efforts, we are still living in the reality of our own traumatic personal experiences while also stepping outside of ourselves to do the work that is required of us in our community. Categories and boxes for the way we have understood the world suddenly don’t fit anymore.

“Scripture tells us that “the Spirit intercedes for us in our wordless groans” (Romans 8:26). I have to believe that also means the Spirit is present to our curses, our deep sighs, our screams, our cries, and our empty silence. When our expressions of grief are bigger and more complicated than we can understand and our own meaning-making and self-interpretation fails, the Spirit makes sense of it all in ways we cannot.

“In times of a community crisis, we come to the end of individuality. Our only choice for moving forward to healing is togetherness. In those moments, there is no more separation between us and them. There is only we. With the help of the Spirit, we make meaning by patching our stories together with the stories of the people around us.

“I have always been pleased by the empathy and love that SVCM pours into our community, but now, our staff and volunteers are able to identify with and understand the clients of SVCM on a level that we would never have access to had we not experienced the hardship of Helene together. I pray every day that we never forget and that our experience will stay deep in our bones as long as we exist.

“In the meantime, we yell, weep, sigh, and work hand-in-hand with our neighbors all held in the arms of the Spirit who just knows.”





## 2025 Personnel Review Team

Submitted by Jim Storey

As those of you who have been around WWPC for several (or more) years will be aware, each year the church completes a review of its entire staff — Laurie, Andrew, and Ted for this year. The purpose of the review process is to assess the health of the church and to focus on how we can all better work together to strengthen the ministry of the church. As was the case last year, some of our staff are currently transitional or interim. Nevertheless, the review team believes that it is valuable to engage all staff members in this process. Several years ago, the Session voted to conduct the review in the spring at the end of our normal program year. This year, the Administration Ministry Team named Brent Roberts, Barbara Griswold, and Jim Storey as the action team to prepare the annual review for the church staff. To complete its work, the team needs input from the entire congregation.

Please share with the team your words of praise for the work our staff members have done in the past year and your suggestions as to how we can improve our ministry in the future.

The following questions may help individuals prepare their responses, but please do not feel limited by them:

1. What staff members' work have you noted over the last year?
2. For each staff member you identify:
  - In what ways has the staff member assisted our ministry?
  - What strengths did he or she display in their work?
  - Can you suggest any ways in which the individual's support for our ministry might be enhanced?

The team would like everyone's insights regarding what the staff has done well and how the church can improve. The team will also appreciate your general observations about our church – what is going well, what concerns do you have.

Please address written responses to Jim Storey at the church office (101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa 28778) or place it in the AMT mailbox in the office. Alternatively, you may email your response to [jstorey57@gmail.com](mailto:jstorey57@gmail.com). The team will keep your observations in confidence, but it does ask you to sign your comments. Anonymous comments are very difficult to evaluate.

If possible, please submit your responses to the team before the end of May so it can complete its report for the Session in a timely manner. The team appreciates your assistance in this most important process.



# 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: **Donna Eagle Joslin and Elizabeth Cook** for the flowers in the big planters in front of the Chapel ◦ much work and progress towards restoring **Andrew Tripp's** home, with gratitude for all the volunteers and professionals who are working to make that happen ◦ all those who contributed to the **Mission Study Plan** and its completion ◦ our inclusion on the Swannanoa churches sign at the Whitson/70 Intersection (see Laurie at the sign's dedication)



We remember in prayer: **Joanne Lincoln** with hospiceat Highland Farms Healthcare Center ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ 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**

# BIRTHDAYS

Angie McDonald	April 14	Claudia Nix	April 21
Ken Murchison	April 24	Margaret LaMotte-Torrence	April 25
Sarah Grace Montgomery	May 4	Sandee Butterworth	May 7
Pat Wilson	May 11	Rick Garrison	May 30





# THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 10 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Join us for lunch and fellowship from 12-12:30. At 12:30 Judi will lead our book discussion of All the Beauty in the World by Patrick Bringley. New readers are always welcome!

The May meeting of the Warren Wilson Book Group takes place at noon on Thursday, May 8. Janice will be leading our discussion of This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger. The discussion follows a bring-your-own-lunch and fellowship time from 12-12:30. Please join us!

# ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Ed room. All are welcome! Please contact Beth Meriwether at 828-777-2867 or [bethmeriwether@gmail.com](mailto:bethmeriwether@gmail.com) for more information.

# “TOGATHER” GROUP

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.

# VOLUNTEERS IN WORSHIP

**Sound/Video** We have a team of folks who have just been trained to run the soundboard and live stream for our Sunday morning services. If you would like to be a part of that team, please contact the church: [info@warrenwilsonchurch.org](mailto:info@warrenwilsonchurch.org)

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

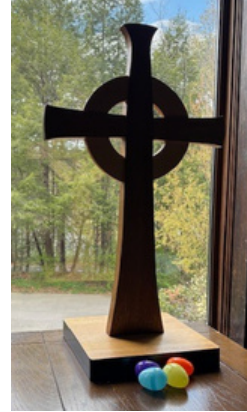
**Liturgists** typically lead the Call to Worship, offer the Prayer for Illumination and the First Reading, and lead the Affirmation of Faith. All texts are supplied to readers.

**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!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



We're also having the Egg Hunt after worship. Bring your friends!



## CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini, [laurie-furrvancini@Warren-Wilson.edu](mailto:laurie-furrvancini@Warren-Wilson.edu)

Interim Dir. of Music: Ted Stewart

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

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

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

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, [bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com](mailto:bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com)

