love, above all.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Pentecost
June 8, 2025

Love Above All
Sermon Series

- In Love, We Abide in Grace & Joy
- In Love, We Offer Hospitality
- In Love, We Seek Justice
- In Love, We Call for Unity
- In Love, We Show Compassion
- In Love, We Strive for Humility & Gratitude
- In Love, We Seek Out, Recognize, & Share Wisdom

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

June 8, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Prelude, Op. 43, No. 1" R. Glière

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Evva Hamilton

Come, Holy Spirit,
The Wind of God, the Breath of Life.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Our Advocate, our Counselor.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Granter of Forgiveness, Giver of Peace.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Sharer of Love Above All.
May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place. Amen.

***HYMN 291** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" SPIRIT

Refrain:
Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings." (Refrain)

2 You swept through the desert;
you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land.
When they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. (Refrain)

3 You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still.
And down in the city,
you called once again
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)

4 You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions;
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We long for wisdom, O Lord, but prefer that it be our own. We turn away from the ideas of others and ignore the possibility and promise that come from life together with you. Most of all, we drown out your gift of Wisdom as she seeks to get our attention, for we believe that we know better or would prefer to decide where we make her welcome.
Forgive us, loving God.
Through the power of your Spirit, bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you, and awaken us anew to the Wisdom that comes only from you.
Show us how to walk in your ways and listen to your promise each and every day of our life. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

***RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS**
"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me" #582
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE
May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

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

"Spirit of the Living God" #288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Proverbs 1:1-7,20-23

SECOND LESSON Philippians 1:3-11

SERMON "In Love, We Seek Out, Recognize, & Share Wisdom"
Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH
& WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

***LOVE ABOVE ALL Statement of Faith (unison)**

I believe in the love of Jesus Christ, in Love Above All:
In Love, We Abide in Grace and Joy
In Love, We Offer Hospitality
In Love, We Seek Justice
In Love, We Live In To Unity in Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion
In Love, We Show Compassion
In Love, We Strive for Humility and Gratitude
In Love, We Seek Out, Recognize & Share Wisdom

***Question to the Congregation** Sharon Lytle

Presentation and Introductions

Questions to New Members

Question to the Parents, Mentors, and Congregation

Prayer

***HYMN 693** "Though I May Speak" GIFT OF LOVE

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
& CELTIC VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people.
This day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

***HYMN 298** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"
ABBOT'S LEIGH

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This, my body; this, my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" arr. O. Young

*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

Liturgist: Evva Hamilton
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle
Coffee Hour Host: Congregational Life

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS If you are worshiping 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.

OFFERING Plates are available just inside the doors to the chapel as you enter and exit. Our gifts take many forms: open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we share with neighbors, and our willingness to live in a world as allies and advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The monies we bring symbolize the offering of our lives in all circumstances. A separate labeled basket is available each week to receive Our Daily Change offerings, formerly known as Five Cents a Meal hunger offering.

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

We celebrate: The Peace Garden outside the chapel and the beautiful peace pole are such joyous additions to our campus ◦ The members of our congregation that give their time and expertise to AARP helping file taxes: **Ken, Barbara E, Tom, Sarah Anne, and Janice** ◦ **Our new members joining today: Cadence, Evva, Hythe, Steven, and Izzy**; **Paulette Heck, Kathy Jacobs, Jackie Wintle**

We remember in prayer: the family of William "Bill" Heck following his death on May 27 ◦ **the family of Olivia LaMotte** following her death on May 22 ◦ **Brooks Joslin, Blake's father,** in the ICU with a blood infection ◦ **Beth Newman** in the hospital due to an infection ◦ **Eloise and Ken Murchison's daughter, Kathryn,** recovering from surgery ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by Hurricane Helene. In our congregation, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle,** 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** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece** (**Nancy Garrison's son**) ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell**

NAMETAGS As we seek to be a community of welcome, you are encouraged to wear your nametag. If you are in need of one, please write your name on the list in the narthex or contact the church office.

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY Warren Wilson College is hosting the **Chamber Music Society of the Carolinas** concert series on Saturday evenings, July 12-August 2 at 7:30 PM in the WWPC Chapel. Tickets are $35 for individual concerts, or $120 for all four concerts. Tickets available at www.cms-carolinas.org or at the door.

BOOK GROUP The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet in Fellowship Hall at noon on Thursday, June 12. We enjoy lunch and fellowship from 12-12:30. At 12:30 Chris will lead our discussion of ***The Salt Path*** by Raynor Winn. The book group does not hold a meeting in July.

GUEST MUSICIAN We are delighted to welcome back Dr. Eunice Wonderly Stackhouse to help lead worship. Dr.Stackhouse has piano degrees from Grace College, Indiana University, and U of Kansas. She retired from 23 years at Montreat College, and is now a private piano instructor in Black Mountain. She has performed many classical recitals as well as countless services and ceremonies in numerous states.

This morning's Prayers of the People modified from Rev. Gord Waldie, re-worship.blogspot.com

OLIVIA LAMOTTE MEMORIAL A celebration of life for Olivia LaMotte will be today, with a service at 2:00 in the Chapel. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall after. The family requests that you save the parking spaces immediately surrounding the Chapel for those who have limited mobility. All are encouraged to carpool, and they hope that able-bodied friends will park elsewhere on campus and make the short walk to the chapel.

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BILL HECK MEMORIAL Bill passed on May 27th. There will be a service for him at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church in Swannanoa, NC, on June 21st at 10:00 AM. Reception to follow. Please do not send flowers. A donation may be made to the Presbyterian Church USA's One Great Hour of Sharing. pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing

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!