

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

August 10, 2025



"Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die,
and there I will be buried.

(Ruth 1:16b-17a)

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Prelude on *St. Catherine*” Arr. Paul Calloway

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

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

for all are welcome in God’s house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

for God dwells in each of us. Come, let us worship in unity and love.

***HYMN 35** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;

join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again;

gladly for aye we adore him.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Giver of Grace and Life:
hear our prayer.

There are chasms in our lives, mountains and valleys
that separate us from one another and from you.

We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,
for fear of admitting our part in the separation;
for fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,
to a wholeness with each other and with You.

Through your steadfast love, mend us, and make us new
creations

through the power and love of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

“Great Are You, Lord” #614

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;

by your power we trust in your love.

Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;

by your mercy you prove you are love.

Great are you Lord, and worthy of glory!

Great are you Lord, and worthy of praise!

Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:

Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison) (Romans 8:35; 37-39)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 1:1-6

SECOND LESSON

Ruth (selected verses)

SERMON

“Ruth”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 324**

“For All the Faithful Women”

NYLAND

1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,

to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.

They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.

To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

2 We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly

while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;

for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,

who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.

3 We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

4 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 301**

"Let Us Build a House"

TWO OAKS

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Prelude on *Lobet den Herren*" Paul Manz

*Please rise in body and/or spirit

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: Larry Griswold
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle
Sound/Video: Derron Daugherty

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: All in our Congregation that are out and about this summer and we pray for safe travel

We remember in prayer: For healing and encouragement for Jackie Cole ◦ Brooks Joslin, Blake's father, on Hospice care ◦ Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by Hurricane Helene. In our congregation, we remember Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, and Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff ◦ the extended Lytle family ◦ Mary Craig ◦ Jackie Ligon Cole ◦ Pat Crumpler ◦ Martha Dugger ◦ Rick Garrison ◦ Marjorie Hettrick ◦ Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison's son) ◦ Pat Wilson's son, Kell

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME We have several items in the office area which are going to be donated unless anyone in the congregation has need of them:

- 1 dark wood coffee table
- 1 CD rack
- 1 small TV table and TV (currently in the Fellowship Hall)

FRIENDS MEETING WORKSHOPS The Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, that meets weekly in our Fellowship Hall, is hosting a series of three workshops designed to prepare all participants to build a strong, sensitive, and healing allyship with our Native American neighbors. They are happening on August 17 at 3:30, August 19 at 5:30, and September 21 at 3:30. All will be in the Fellowship Hall and all are free (though you're encouraged to register for the one on 8/17). More information is available on flyers in the narthex.

NEWSLETTER Our next Newsletter will come out as Summer winds down and the Fall schedule takes shape. To be ready, the deadline for submissions and suggestions is Friday, August 22. Please send those to Andrew in the church office.

GUEST PREACHER NEXT WEEK Dr. April Love-Fordham spent two decades in the corporate world—serving as a tech advisor to both the George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations and leading award-winning engineering teams—before leaving it all to follow a deeper call. Now an itinerant pastor, author, and joyful troublemaker for love and justice, she writes the Disorderly Parable Bible Studies and lives in the Asheville mountains with her husband Steve and their blue Great Dane, Molli-Pop. She formerly served on the Faith Relations Board at Warren Wilson College, where her son, Kit Fordham, is a proud graduate.

STUDENTS RETURNING Students come back to school in just over a week. As usual we are hosting Convocation and some events during New Student Orientation. Soon after we will have the **Student-led Service and Welcome Potluck on September 7**. We will also welcome two new members of the student work crew – who we'll introduce soon.

PEACE GARDEN DEDICATION We will be dedicating our beautiful, new peace garden after worship on August 31.

BONE MARROW REGISTRATION DRIVE The Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church-College Relations Team has scheduled a Bone Marrow Registration Drive for September 11, 2025, 11 am – 4:30 pm in Canon Lounge. Bone marrow registration is very simple: in addition to filling out the registration form, each individual will be asked to take 4 cheek swabs. About one in 1000 potential donors will be called to donate their blood cells to help save a life. To increase the chance of patients receiving the life-saving treatment, many registrants are needed. Registrants will be eligible to become donors until the age of 61. We will need volunteers to handle and collect the materials and cheek swabs from the potential donors. More information may be found at projectlifemovement.org.

Cover image “The Story of Ruth” by Thomas Rooke

Summer Stories from the Old Testament

This summer, we will be looking at some stories from the Old Testament. It will just be a sampler of the many, many Old Testament stories and people. These are stories for the early Hebrews/Israelites and they are our stories. We will bounce around a bit, as we consider:

- * what rings true still today
- * what is rooted in ancient context,
- * what we have yet to learn as we remind ourselves of our rootedness,
- * what these stories teach us about God,
- * where these stories point forward to Jesus,
- * and how the Spirit can be seen swirling around.....

July 13	Abraham (and Sarah)
July 20	Esau
July 27	Joseph
August 3	Shiphrah and Puah
August 10	Ruth
August 17	Song of Solomon
August 24	Jeremiah
August 31	Elijah



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WarrenWilsonPC



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*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!*