# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

August 24, 2025




"The prophet is a poet. (Their) experience is one known to the poets. What the poets know as poetic inspiration, the prophets call divine revelation. . . . The inspiration of the artist is what is meant by “the hand of the Lord which rests upon the prophet.

What makes the difference between the prophet and the ordinary person is the possession of a heightened and unified awareness of certain aspects of life. Like a poet, (they are) endowed with sensibility, enthusiasm, and tenderness, and above all, with a way of thinking imaginatively. Prophecy is the product of poetic imagination."

*-Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel, The Prophets*

# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

**11th Sunday after Pentecost**
August 24, 2025 11:00 AM

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* Helmut Walcha

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7)
Barbara Griswold

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;
**Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply--**
Pray for your communities
**Keep God in the center of all that is.**
We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts
**For something happens here**
**that reminds us that we can live as God desires**
God has made a promise of faithfulness to us
**and we can trust the promise.**

***HYMN 275** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" EIN FESTE BURG

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from Jeremiah 14) (unison)

**O Hope of Israel, our Savior in times of trouble,**
**why are you like a stranger to us?**
**Why are you like a traveler passing through the land,**
**stopping only for the night?**
**You are right here among us, Lord.**
**We are known as your people.**
**Please don't abandon us now!**
**We hoped for peace, but no peace came.**
**We hoped for a time of healing, but found only terror.**
**We know that we have sinned against you.**
**For the sake of your reputation, Lord, do not abandon us.**
**Please remember us,**
**and do not break your covenant with us.**
**We will wait for you to help us.**

***RESPONSE TO CONFESSION** (from Jeremiah 10:12-13)
"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works" #21 Stanza 1

***Many and great, O God, are thy works,***
***Maker of earth and sky.***
***Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;***
***thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.***
***Lo, at thy word the waters were formed.***
***Deep seas obey thy voice.***

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**
Responsive (from Jeremiah 18 and Jeremiah 31)

**God is the Potter, we are the Clay**
**God's light shines through all the places where we have been broken; through all of our cracks and scars, so that we might be light to the world.**
**In Jesus, we are made whole,**
**We find healing and renewed life, we are mended.**
**Nothing, no one is thrown away,**
**God uses each one and offers the newness of life.**
**The Lord comes to us with a new covenant, saying:**
**"I will write my law on your hearts;**
**I will forgive your wrongdoing**
**and remember your sins no more."**
Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

***RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**
"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works" #21 Stanza 2
(from Jeremiah 10:12-13)

***Grant unto us communion with thee,***
***thou star-abiding One.***
***Come unto us and dwell with us.***
***With thee are found the gifts of life.***
***Bless us with life that has no end,***
***eternal life with thee.***

**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** Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19

**SECOND LESSON** Jeremiah 30 and 31 (selected verses)

**SERMON** "Jeremiah" Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 691** "Lord, When I Came into This Life" LAND OF REST

1 Lord, when I came into this life
you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself,
responding to your claim.

2 Within the circle of the faith,
as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints
of future, present, past.

3 In all the tensions of my life,
between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope,
sustain me, lead me out.

4 So help me in my unbelief
and let my life be true:
feet firmly planted on the earth,
my sights set high on you.

**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 726** "Will You Come and Follow Me" KELVINGROVE

1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works"
Arr. Emma Lou Diemer

*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:** Barbara Griswold
**Elder of the Day:** Sally Broughton
**Coffee Hour Host:** Joyce Cucinella

## 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.

**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 Committee: Chrisann Ohler** (chair), **Donna Eagle Joslin, Pat & Sherrie Meehan, Beverly Ohler,** and **Kay Stockdale**

**We remember in prayer: The family of Warren Wilson Professor James Darr,** following his death on August 7 ◦ **Blake Joslin,** now home following the death of **his father, Brooks Rogers Joslin,** in Connecticut ◦ **Pat Crumpler** at rehab at Highland Farms following a fall ◦ **The Lytle family,** as **Isaiah Bullerdick** recovers from knee surgery ◦ for healing and encouragement for **Jackie Cole** ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ **the extended Lytle family** ◦ **Mary Craig** ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece** (**Nancy Garrison's son**) ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell**

**WELCOME BACK STUDENTS** We welcome WWC students as they are moving into the dorms, with classes starting on August 27.

**CHOIR RESUMES** The Chapel Choir starts again on September 3. We always welcome new singers, so if you've been wanting to give it a try, this is the time! Rehearsal happens in the choir loft Wednesdays at 7:00.

**HANDBELLS** The WWPC Handbell Choir is back in action starting September 10. We are always wanting more ringers, so please consider joining us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6 in the Adult Classoom in the Fellowship Hall building. For more information, contact Natalie Daugherty (forestchick07@gmail.com or (336) 413-9071).

**PEACE GARDEN DEDICATION** The Memorial Peace Garden will be dedicated to John E. Koegel (artist, teacher, and friend of the Church and College) at the end of the service next Sunday. Coffee hour will follow immediately thereafter on the patio of the Fellowship Hall. John's sisters (Ann and Kitti) are planning to attend.

**STUDENT LED SERVICE** Twice a year we are lucky to have students from WWC lead our worship service! The next such Sunday is September 7 when much of the service will be courtesy of the students! Please make plans to be here and then plan to stay for:

**WELCOME STUDENTS POTLUCK** On September 7 we are welcoming students back to campus officially with our Potluck Lunch following worship. Please join us as we welcome our friends old and new with some much-missed home cooking! If you know what you are bringing, please sign up in the narthex.

**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 – 3:00 pm in Canon Lounge. Bone marrow registration is 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.

**HOUSE BLESSING TODAY** Following coffee hour, join us at Cindy and Dennis Riley's house at 12:40 for a House Cleansing and Blessing service. The Rileys have been re-building their home at 31 Honeycomb Circle, Swannanoa (off of Bee Tree Road) since Hurricane Helene's devastation. Come join us as we mark this important occasion with them, as they move back into their home. This will be a very brief gathering and will be over by 1:00 pm.

*Cover image: Prophet Jeremiah – Byzantine Mosaic around 540 AD At the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy*

## 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.....

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| 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 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!***