

A Note from Laurie

A fall newsletter, put together in August, pushes us to move into fall, while still clinging (a bit) to summer. And yet, I can already imagine driving up Warren Wilson Road with fall colors on either side and students spilling into the road on their way to classes. I think I am going to like that fall commute!

Fall of 2025 at Warren Wilson
Presbyterian Church will be one to
remember! We are moving toward our
100th anniversary celebration. The Pastor
Nominating Committee is hard at work.
There are engaging programs coming up.
We will continue serving community
partners and be in relation with vulnerable



populations. We will continue standing against injustice in word, deed and prayer. We will mark the anniversary of Hurricane Helene and celebrate milestones of post-storm renewal.

Your session and staff commend this newsletter to you as an introduction and guide to the fall. As we join together in living with Love Above All, take a moment to pray for our community: our members and guests, your session, your PNC, and the ministry teams of the church, the staff, the students, and staff of the college. It is certainly not too early to be praying for the new pastor God is already preparing to join together in ministry with Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

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Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

This special offering of the PCUSA supports the work for peace and reconciliation: 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community, 25% of this offering goes to our Synod to join with other congregations to support peacemaking in our region, 50% of this offering supports the work of justice and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.



We will receive this offering on World Communion Sunday (which for us is also Warren Wilson College Homecoming Weekend). Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity.

Ways you can give to the Peace and Global Witness Offering:

- · Through Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church (make sure to clearly mark Peace and Global Witness in the memo line if you are writing a check)
- · Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444
- · pcusa.org/peace-global

Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC has been very active this past month! We've rounded out our initial review of candidates and are pleased to share some information with you to help give some context to the past month. We've reviewed a total of 66 candidates, and at this time have invited 40 of those to enter the next step in the discernment process. Of those 40, 13 candidates replied. This represents about 20% of our total candidates, which aligns with an expected course so far. More data can be found on our church website along with this update.

We continue to welcome your prayers as we learn more about the remaining candidates and discern the path forward.



CHURCH/COLLEGE EVENTS

Stem Cell Donor Drive

SPONSORED BY Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Thursday, September 11 11a to 3p

Location: Canon Lounge

*For questions email dcollins@warren-wilson.edu

WHO CAN JOIN THE REGISTRY?

If you are 18 to 35 and in good health, you could be someone's lifesaving blood stem cell or marrow donor. A transplant can cure nearly 100 conditions including blood cancer, sickle cell disease and inherited immune system disorders.





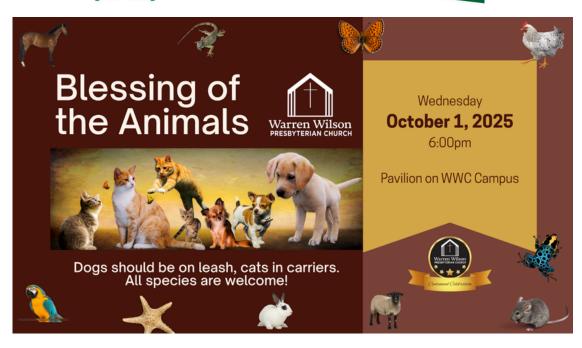
giftoflife.org



We are looking for volunteers to help with the registration drive. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office.







Billy Edd Wheeler Memorial

The memorial service for Billy Edd Wheeler was postponed last year because of the storm. It will now be held on October 3 at 2:00 in the WWPC Chapel. The service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



CHURCH/COLLEGE EVENTS





A Weekend of Listening, Learning, and Leading: How Do We Lead People? with Katy Schafer

Friday, October 24 - "Beyond Pink and Blue: Widening the Welcome" Canon Lounge - Warren Wilson College 6:30 Meal, 7:00 Fireside Chat/Q&A Saturday, October 25 - "How Do We Care for People: Safe Space, Brave Space" WWPC Fellowship Hall - 9:30 Continental Breakfast, 10:00 Program, 11:00 Questions/Discussion Sunday, October 26 - "Getting Off the Sidelines"



Katy Schafer is a native Floridian, Flagler College graduate, and obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. She has four young adult children, the oldest of which is transgender and began transitioning as a 9th grader in 2015. She has spent the last 7 years as Director of Children and Family Ministries at First Presbyterian Church Raleigh, in North Carolina. She and her husband Mac, a Presbyterian minister, have spoken at conferences and have walked alongside friends and strangers who have reached out for how to care for a transgender child. Their family was part of the lawsuit against North Carolina's HB2 (Bathroom Bill). As of this February she and her husband now reside in Doylestown, PA.



CHURCH/COLLEGE

CHAPEL WORK CREW

This year we are so excited to welcome two new members to the Chapel Work Crew! They began their training on August 25 and will be with us at least through the end of this semester. Here they are:

Eloise Hill (right) is from Chapin, SC, and she is a freshman at WWC. She is studying fiddle music and creative writing.







"Hello! My name is Isabella Love and I am thrilled to be on the Chapel Crew at WWC this year. I am originally from Cary, NC, and I am excited to spend the next four years in the beautiful mountains. I am majoring in Social Work with the goal of pursuing a career in crisis intervention. Over the past few years, my faith journey has grown and deepened, and I look forward to carrying that passion into my work both on and off campus." (left)

Student Led Service

On September 7 we will once again have the great pleasure of having WWC students lead our morning worship service. Students will be responsible for most of the service, including the sermon and much of the music. Plan to be here for this very special worship and stay for the Welcome Student Potluck lunch following the service in the Fellowship Hall.





MUSIC NOTES

Fall Invitation to Sing in the Chapel Choir at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

"Sing to the Lord, a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful." Psalm 149:1, gives us an imperative. There are more than 400 references to singing in the Scriptures... And about 50 of them are direct commands." How's that quote for considering singing in the Chapel Choir at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church? As Choir Director, I'm going to strike out the words "command" and "imperative" in exchange for the words "Welcome Invitation."

So, here's your "invitation" to sing in the Chapel Choir, both to last season singers and to other folks who might give singing a try.

Details:

<u>Begin:</u> First rehearsal: Wednesday, September 3, 7:00-8:20 pm in the choir loft. First Service: Sunday, September 14, Warm-up at 10:15 am in the choir loft.

Requirements: Ability to match pitch and sing a tune—No Audition.

Role: Congregational Cheer Leaders for Singing in Worship.

Perks: Find your "True Singing Voice" (vocal coaching in rehearsals).

Tips for Music Reading

Mental/Physical Health Boost

Uplifting spiritual experiences

Joy

Great Team Friends

Parties

How to start: Just show up for first rehearsal (or a later one).

Need a Nudge? Call/Email Director Ted Stewart or another choir member:

stewart.smith@att.net / (816) 305-1038, or catch me at church.

Got a singing friend to recommend?

Invite them yourself, or send me contact information, and I will make a contact.

A great opportunity for new life and self-discovery! Hoping you'll accept the invitation!

Blessings and peace to all,

Ted Stewart, Chapel Choir Director

Soli Deo Gloria!

Handbell Choir

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).



MUSIC EVENTS

Asheville Area Piano Forum

WWPC is proud to partner with the Asheville Area Piano Forum to have a benefit concert on October 19 at 3:30 in the Chapel. The AAPF is a collective of piano teachers who will showcase their talents while raising money for their Student Assistance Rewards - scholarships for music lessons for young pianists.





Tickets are \$25, but church members may request complimentary admission by contacting Ted Stewart (<u>stewart.smith@att.net</u> or (816) 522-5317) in advance. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Blue Ridge Orchestra

Post-Helene: Remembering, Rebuilding, Reimagining

Through music, we reflect on the impact of Hurricane Helene, one year later. This program features: the world premiere of Sinfonietta Helene by Asheville-based composer Jay Sanders; Iman Habibi's Jeder Baum spricht, which is inspired by the beauty of nature and the impact of climate change; and local composer Phillip Rhodes's Concerto for Bluegrass, a nod to the resilience of WNC. Help us celebrate the region's inspiring, resilient culture this fall.

Saturday, September 27th, 2025 - Warren Wilson Presbyterian Chapel

We return two seasons after BRO Revels! 2023 (pictured) The BRO is proud to perform once again in this beautiful space. Carpooling encouraged.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

Wayne Thomas and Regenia Major Are Now at Home in House of Faith # 4 In early June, just over two months after Wayne Thomas visited our church for a Habitat for Humanity Moment for Mission at the start of our Sunday worship service, he and his partner became the

owners of a new, affordable and accessible house.

To celebrate the special occasion, Habitat held a two-house key-passing ceremony at the nearby Avery's Creek Community Center that began with the Asheville Choral Society singing the spiritual I'm Building Me a Home. After a key passing for Legacy Builder's Society house # 7, the Choral Society sang a hymn, The Road Home, and Wayne and Regenia received the key to their new home. Wayne then expressed his appreciation to all the individuals and congregations who helped build the house through contributions and volunteer labor, and stated how helpful it will be for Regenia, who is confined to a wheelchair, to have more space to move around in.



Pastor Sean Barrett of Nativity Lutheran Church presented a ceremonial key for Habitat House of Faith #4, which our church helped build, to Wayne Thomas and Regenia Major when they purchased their new house in June.

In spite of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene including to Habitat's offices and ReStore donation and resale shop in Biltmore Village, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity is on track to have its most productive year since it started in 1983.



The plan includes closing on 21 new family homes, repairing Helene damage at 60 homes, and doing repairs at an additional 35 homes. That means that Habitat will help 116 local families secure stable and healthy homes during the year.

Wayne used his building, electrical and plumbing skills to help build House of Faith #4 and proudly held the front door keys after closing on the home.



OFFERINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PRESBYTERY



Anniversary event to focus on action

If you're looking for a way to mark the anniversary of Hurricane Helene, please register to join a climate change and social justice symposium with three guest speakers at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

The event is 3 p.m., Saturday, **Sept. 27**. The event is free and includes BBQ. For tickets and more information you may send an email to **earthcare@bmpcnc.org**.



Have any tools to spare?

Volunteers helping out with recovery from Hurricane Helene don't always bring with them all the tools needed for the job.

So, if you would like to enter a tool or two that you'd be willing to donate to our very own tool trailer, you can now do so. (You could also bring them to the church office).

And if you'd rather donate a Lowes gift card, there is also now a column for that too. Thank you to all have expressed willingness to donate to this effort -- it really will help our hundreds of volunteers do the needed work on our neighbors' home.

More information at:

https://www.pwnc-recovery.org/trailer





NEW MEMBERS

Munashe Matumbi (in his words)



"I am sorry, Mr. Munashe, but boarding is closed, and no additional passengers will be allowed on the flight." The weight of those words gave me a cold realization; it finally sank in—I had missed my flight to the U.S.. I was soon to discover that I would not be refunded, even though I had experienced a medical emergency earlier that day, which was the cause of my delay. Never mind the fact that I had been preparing for this journey for the past eight months and had put in a lot of resources to make it all possible. As I stood by the ticket counter, I was worried that the start of my education at Warren Wilson College had just been thrown down the drain.

With the help of Amai Mano, my USAP mother, I was able to get on the next flight to North Carolina, and that is how my adventures began. For the first time in my life, I felt important as I whizzed past people in a bid to find my seat on the lucrative B767-300ER operated by Ethiopian Airlines. A couple of hours into the flight, I was

disappointed when I ordered a lot of tomato juice only to end up getting sick. Upon arrival in Atlanta, Georgia —my first port of entry—I was in awe of the size of the airport and all it had to offer. I was finally in the U.S., a dream that took me three years to achieve.

My first days on campus were among the best days of my life. On some days, I would get up early to go on morning hikes, enjoy mid-day swims in the Swannanoa River that runs past our campus, or have late-night talks with my roommate, Shiva. At some point, we both tried out the campus gym for the first time, but headed out after multiple failed attempts at operating the machines. In other words, I was in that honeymoon phase, and everything was great. Playing the Uno reverse card game with my peers allowed me to reflect on how much I missed my mother's cooking and how we would have had longer conversations back in Zimbabwe, compared to the quick "hello" I exchange with people here in college, as everyone swiftly moves between classes. What caught my eye was how the America I had seen in movies was different from the one I was now in, which presented an opportunity to create new experiences I had never imagined.

During that time, I developed severe nosebleeds, had Eczema, and even became allergic to grass. In the highs, I also hit a rough patch as I settled into the new environment. I remember calling my friend Francis and crying as soon as he answered the call. I would go on to share with him about the new experiences I was having. It took some great courage to share more of these feelings with the people around me. I hold Rachel & Nan, who work in the Global Engagement Office, Mo, my supervisor in the admissions office, and the Engage program, in high regard. More flames to Professor Jack Igleman, who has shown me where my academic interests lie, and for giving me a fifty trillion Zimbabwean dollar note he has kept since his last visit to Zimbabwe in 2008. These people showed up and helped me acclimate to American life in more ways than I can imagine. I also hold in light the whole Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church congregation; I will have a day where I show my gratefulness to y'all. Halfway through my college journey, I find myself with numerous grandparents, and I have the church to thank for that.

Nowadays, I find joy in going on hiking trips on weekends, traveling the U.S. to see as many states as I can, calling Dean, my longtime friend in South Carolina, giving admission tours to prospective students, tending to my houseplants, and cycling on the numerous trails we have on campus. I have found my place here at Warren Wilson and look forward to seeing how the liberal arts core will steer my direction. To the fourteen-year-old version of myself, I'd say, "spoiler alert: you will not be a pediatrician in the future; you won't even be anywhere near the medical field."

NEW MEMBERS

Munashe Matumbi (cont.)

About my plant: On the 13th of July, I took it upon myself to give my life to Christ. I was privileged to have Pastor Laurie lead the baptism. The plant that I had with me was a Calathea orbifolia, it is commonly known as the prayer plant and falls in the Marantaceae family. Itself is native to the Santa Cruz region of Eastern Bolivia - it thrives as an understory plant in the tropical rainforest. The plant, alongside the other epithets in the Calathea genus, has this special feature. At night, they curl up their leaves to an extent where they resemble hands in prayer. This is a biological process that is known as nyctinasty. The plant is also a good air purifier within the house, and from the research that I've done, it is safe around pets.



I will say that I come from a matriarchal family of powerful women who have broken many societal norms: my paternal grandmother was known for having a variety of plants at her home, and my maternal grandmother, who is 84 years of age this year, single-handedly manages an 18-acre tobacco farm in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. So it would be expected that I would also know my way around plants - but with the Calathea, I own it is the complete opposite. Never in my life have I seen a plant so stubborn. You just have to have the right humidity, potting soil mix, temperatures at an optimum level, and the right amount of water. Any mistake, and Luna - as I call my Calathea, will give up on you. At some point I used to cry in my dorm room when her new leaves would turn yellow and die off. Perhaps the fact that she is so demanding of attention is the exact reason I find myself caring for her. I guess I love a good challenge in life.



On June 8 we confirmed five new church members. We also welcomed three adults who joined on that beautiful Pentecost day!



At the new member reception: Jackie Wintle, Kathy Jacobs, Hythe, Evva, Steven, Cadence, Izzy, and Paulette Heck

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: Our new members: confirmands Cadence, Evva, Hythe, Steven, and Izzy; Paulette Heck, Kathy Jacobs, Munashe Matumbi, and Jackie Wintle



• The John Koegel Memorial Peace Garden outside the chapel - thank you especially to the Peace Garden Committee: Chrisann Ohler (chair), Donna Eagle Joslin, Pat & Sherrie Meehan, Beverly Ohler, and Kay Stockdale • That our building was used for such beautiful music this summer through the Decoda Music Festival, Swannanoa Gathering concerts, and the Chamber Music Society of the Carolinas • The return home of Cindy & Dennis Riley and Andrew Tripp & family following the devastation of Hurricane Helene (see next page).

We remember in prayer: The family of Brooks Rogers Joslin, Blake's dad, following his death on August 8 ° The family of Warren Wilson College professor James Darr, following his death on August 7 ° The Daugherty family, on the death of Naomi Daugherty July 5 ° The family of Heath Rada and his wife, Peggy, on the death of their daughter, Margaret Rada, June 30. Heath is a former GA Moderator. ° Pat Crumpler at rehab at Highland Farms following a fall ° The Lytle family, as Isaiah Bullerdick recovers from knee surgery

New Prayer Request Guidelines

With intentionality and caring for our church members, family and friends, we have developed these guidelines to use for the Celebrations and Concerns Prayer list:

To add a recipient's name to the prayer list, please contact the church office (info@warrenwilsonchurch.org/(828) 298-9092) or the Pastor with the concern. The recipient's name can be kept on the list for three weeks. You can request an additional 2-3 weeks if you would like to keep the recipient's name on the list.

BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Daugherty	September 15	Carla Greenfield	September 20
John Laney	September 23	Elizabeth Cook	September 27
Rebecca Hettrick	October 4	Donna Eagle Joslin	October 6
Adeeb Sayyar	October 7	Winn Legerton	October 16
Carolyn Cole	October 21	Salyna Morgan	October 22
Toby Ives	October 25	Susan Laney	October 25
Barbara Griswold	October 27		





WELCOME HOME!



Cindy and Dennis Riley

On Sunday, August 24 we celebrated Dennis and Cindy Riley's return home with a House Clensing and Blessing service.





Andrew Tripp and Family

Hello everyone! Most of you know of me at least, and probably know that it's been a tough year in my househould. On September 7, 2024 our home was flooded and we lost almost everything we owned. But after ten months of hard work with support from friends, family, neighbors, strangers, and this generous congregation we are back home! Christine and I, along with the smaller humans and surviving pets are beyond grateful for all that went into this long (and continuing) rebuild.

- Andrew



(above) Our house and cars about an hour after we escaped our home.

(right) Our house now.







THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet at noon on Thursday, September 11 and at noon on Thursday, October 9 in Fellowship Hall. In September our discussion of The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier will be led by Marian. Our October discussion will be led by Corise and the October book is Lady Susan by Jane Austen. September's meeting is a special one on our group's calendar-it's our salad lunch when we each bring a salad to share. In October we'll be back to bring your own lunch. Enjoy meeting our group of readers from 12-12:30. Our book discussions begin at 12:30 and usually last about an hour. New readers are always welcome!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Education Class will resume meeting on September 7. Together we read books, watch videos, listen to speakers, and have lively conversations. It's a great opportunity to get to know folks better and expand our knowledge and perspectives. All are welcome. We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Education class at the end of the hall in the administration building. Please contact Beth Meriwether at 828-777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information. Join us!

TOGATHER

"Come, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28 - Jesus invites us to come to him and to come together to share our burdens and find rest. You are invited to join the Togather Group, meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 in the church parlor for a time of sharing, contemplation, and prayer. Contact Beth Meriwether at (828) 777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com for more information.

VOLUNTEERS IN WORSHIP

Sound/Video We have a team of folks who have been trained to run the soundboard and live stream for our Sunday morning services (and other occasions). If you would like to be a part of that team, please contact the church: 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







The Center for Conscious Living and Dying presents: Hurricane Helene WNC Community Remembrance

How Have We Been Shaped? - Public Ceremony~ Friday, Sept 26, 2025 · 6:45 PM

Community Dinner - 5:30-6:30 PM

Doors Open & Music - 6:30 PM

6:45–9 PM – Remembrance Ceremony: One year post-Helene: Gathering for Healing and Renewal and a Tending of Our Shared Journey

Where: Warren Wilson Chapel & Fellowship Hall

Who: Free and open to the public — the greater WNC community is warmly invited

This RSVP is free and open to the public. The evening includes grounding with the elements, community reflections, grief rites, music, and a closing movement/listening wave. Families welcome; please help little ones keep voices soft in the Chapel.

Your RSVP helps us plan seating, food, and materials—thank you!

More information at:

https://www.ccld.community/events-1/hurricane-helene-wnc-community-remembrance

UPCOMING EVENTS





Centennial Celebration

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 100th Anniversary later this year! There will be several events honoring the momentous occassion, including:

- The Centennial Celebration Concert featuring a tribute to Steve Williams on November 9 at 3:00 in the Chapel
- A presentation by the Preservation Society of Asheville in which Heath Towson will be in our chapel on November 13 at 4:00 discussing the work of Six Associates Architects that built many buildings in the area, including our very own chapel.
- The Anniversary Celebration and Reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship on November 23.

More information available soon!

CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office: 828-298-9092

<u>Transitional Pastor</u>: Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini, laurie-furrvancini@Warren-Wilson.edu Director of Music: Ted Stewart

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

<u>Treasurer</u>: Leslie Sayyar, (828) 333-8867, treasurerwwpc@outlook.com <u>Treasurer</u>: Brent Roberts, (919) 844-6311, brentbroberts@icloud.com

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com



