

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

October 26, 2025



" Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers, for
by doing that some have
entertained angels without
knowing it."

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev Dr Laurie Furr-Vancini

PRELUDE

“Nettleton”

Gerre Hancock

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Mary Kay Scott

Do not be afraid.

We come seeking God's presence.

The Lord calls us out into the night to count the stars,
to imagine possibilities beyond our understanding.

We come to learn from the God of Abraham and Sarah.

By faith, our ancestors set out not knowing where they were going,
trusting in promises they would not live to see fulfilled.

We come to listen for God's voice calling us forward.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

We come to be led by the One who goes before us.

Come, let us worship the God who teaches us, speaks to us,
and guides us into the future.

We come with open hearts, ready to learn, listen, and lead.

***HYMN 475** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;

tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,

call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;

hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger,

interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you promise to be with us and guide us, yet we confess we often prefer our own understanding to your wisdom. We resist the learning you offer, thinking we already know enough. We tune out your voice, distracted by louder, more convenient messages.

Like Abraham, we want guarantees before we move. Like Sarah, we laugh at promises that seem impossible. We struggle to believe in things we cannot see, to hope for what we cannot yet hold. Forgive us for certainty that blocks out wonder. Teach us again to listen. Lead us again into trust. Make us students of your grace, disciples of your way, and faithful witnesses to your love. Amen.

Lord, hear now the confessions that silence draws from our hearts.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE**

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand” 832

*Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.*

*There's no other place I can hide til the storm that rages subsides.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days, Jesus Christ will be my heart's
praise.*

*Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Alex Collins

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6

ANTHEM OF PRAISE

“Lauda anima”

Mark Andrews

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

SERMON

Katy Schafer

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune
God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the
poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the
brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and
calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to
life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice
that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN 250** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” PROMISE

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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

*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 692**

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. (Refrain)

2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (Refrain)

3 May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. (Refrain)

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Handbell Choir

“For All The Saints”

Arr. John A Behnke

*Please rise in body and/or spirit

CHURCH STAFF

Laurie Furr-Vancini, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Elder of the Day: Sally Broughton
Fellowship Time: Vicki Collins

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 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.

STEWARDSHIP It is now Stewardship Season at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. You will be hearing from our Stewardship Team in a variety of ways through November 16 as we consider the offering of gifts of our time, talent, and treasure that makes Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church's work vibrant and future oriented.

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

We remember in prayer: Tommy Eller now home after a hospital stay

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Next Sunday, November 2, we will recognize WWPC members and those associated with members who have died in the past year by reading their names and lighting candles for them in worship. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year you would like to be included, please contact the church office by Tuesday.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE The Newsletter deadline is tomorrow.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NEXT SUNDAY, 11/ 2
Don't forget to set your clock before you go to bed Saturday night!

GUEST PREACHERS **Katy Schafer** is a native Floridian, Flagler College graduate, and obtained a Master of Divinity 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. 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). She and her husband now reside in Doylestown, PA.

Rev Mary Kay Scott has been an ordained PCUSA pastor for 30 years and has been serving in the Presbytery of the James in Richmond, VA for the past 19 years, currently serving at the Gayton Kirk as their interim pastor. She is Katy Schafer's college roommate and dear friend. And most importantly – Alex Collins' mom!

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING There will be a called congregational meeting immediately following worship on November 9. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect 2 elders for the class of 2028 and 2 members of the Congregational Nominating Committee. In prayer and discernment and following the instruction of the Book of Order of the PC(USA), the current Congregational Nominating Committee (made up of Rodney Lytle, Natalie Daugherty, Elaine Barnes, Barbara Griswold, and Kay Stockdale) places the following in nomination:

For the office of Ruling Elder:

Natalie Daugherty (to serve a second term)

Jack Allison

Cadence Cowal (one year youth elder, ex-officio term)

For the Congregational Nominating Committee

Donna Eagle Joslin

Jack Allison (who will serve as session liaison on the Congregational Nominating Committee)

COMMUNITY YOGA We are hosting the Riceville Community Yoga, which is open to anyone and meets Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 AM in the downstairs youth room of the Education Building

TAI CHI/QIGONG PRACTICE CLASS Improve your balance, bone & muscle strength, flexibility, posture, range of motion, breathing fitness, concentration, and stress level using gentle, fluid, easy-to-follow stretching and exercise. Mondays, 2:30 PM, in the WWPC Lower Fellowship Hall, Starting November 10, lead by Paulette Heck, pheck812@gmail.com (828)335-4631. Paulette began taking classes and practicing Tai Chi/Qigong 15 years ago and began teaching 5 years ago.

TRUNK OR TREAT It's that time of year again! On November 2nd from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, we'll host our annual Truck or Treat. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for Trunks as well as space to help with refreshments and crafts! We look forward to the return Trunk or Treat!

SVCM COLLECTION Community Engagement of WWPC is collecting toilet paper, laundry soap, paper towels, shampoo, and other general personal care items. Items will be collected in our Narthex and delivered to SVCM at the end of November.

TOGATHER Together is not meeting this week. They will resume on November 11.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION The Asheville Farm School Presbyterian Church was founded on November 22, 1925 and became Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. We celebrate its centennial on Sunday, November 23, the same day as the Thanksgiving display. The celebration includes these events:

- **Sunday, November 9, 3:30 – Tribute of Thanks Concert by Friends of Steve Williams** by his friends, Dewitt Tipton, Rebecca Hettrick, and Benjamin Blozan

- **Thursday, November 13, 5:30 – “History Behind the Architects and Engineers of Six Associates”** Heath Towson of the Preservation Society will speak about Charles Sappenfield, who was the main architect of the Chapel and other buildings on campus

- **Sunday, November 23, 12:00 – The Thanksgiving Farm Display and Centennial Celebration.** Past ministers and associate ministers have been invited for the occasion. Everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to place at the foot of the display. This food will be shared with the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry. Following worship the birthday celebration will continue in the Ransom Fellowship Hall with a reception and a program called “The First 100 Years”.

Cover by Alex Collins



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org



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!*