

LENT 2026 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Laurie



We are calling this our Lenten Season newsletter. It is a bit of a “catch-all” as well. You will find information specifically for Lent, but you will also find information about your new pastor, Jessica Rigel. You will also find some information about how you might be involved in the life of the church and a couple of facilities updates.

Lent marks the time in the Bible that Jesus and his disciples made their way toward Jerusalem. Lent culminates with what we have called Holy Week, which begins with their arrival in the city (Palm Sunday) and ends (with the new life and new beginning) with

Easter. Lent is a season of both introspection and involvement. An inner seeking for God at work with us, even as we seek to be more outwardly concerned and active in God’s world.

Ash Wednesday marks (literally) the beginning of Lent for us. We will worship together in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm in a simple, contemplative way with readings, communion, piano music and the imposition of ashes. Whether an Ash Wednesday service has been a part of your Lenten journey or if this would be the first time, you will find the service to be a time to center yourself with others for this important season of the church year.

During the first four Sundays in Lent (my last four Sundays at Warren Wilson), worship will center around what I am thinking of as First Things Last! By that I mean, some of the very basics of our world which shape it and us and how we live and move and have our being.

February 22 - Stones

March 1 - Table

March 8 - Water

March 15 - Dirt

Pretty basic, right? Just as I am. Just as we are. We come. We gather. We play. We grieve. We pray. We worship. We connect. We nurture. We worship. I will say it again, but it has been a blessing, privilege, and joy to serve alongside you here at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

Peace, Laurie

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OUR NEW PASTOR - REV. JESSICA RIGEL

In her own words



I was raised a child of Pennington Presbyterian Church, a historic, vibrant congregation near the Delaware River in New Jersey. I came to the church through grief; when I was five, my older brother Josh was killed by a drunk driver. Our parents had been church-hopping at the time and were not members of any congregation, but when my brother died the local Presbyterian Church overwhelmed my family with much needed practical support, and thus, I became a Presbyterian. I grew up attending weekly services and participating in youth group, confirmation, and mission trips, but I only became comfortable calling myself a Christian in college. It was

there that I realized there were a variety of interpretations of Christian belief, many of which differed vastly from my own. I became a religion major to more deeply explore this reality, yet found myself drawn to other traditions, particularly Buddhism, which prompted me to study for a semester in Northern India. My experiences there forever changed my relationship with God. In India, I began to study and practice meditation as a form of contemplative prayer, which opened my heart to a deeper awareness of Divine love and peace. I returned to the U.S. with a stronger commitment to Christ than I'd ever had before, which eventually led me to the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program, where I served as a land steward in southern Arizona and as a community gardener in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each of my YAV years significantly impacted the way I interact with God's good creation and the way I understand Jesus, justice, and Christian community. It was during my time as a YAV in New Orleans that I was encouraged to pursue Seminary, and though I was hesitant, I trusted the movement of the Spirit and was accepted at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2014.



Entering with no intention of becoming a pulpit pastor, I was shocked when my studies led me to fall in love with coursework in Hebrew Bible, Practical Theology, and Preaching. Through field education, I was blessed to practice ministry as both a college chaplain and a pastor for young adults, and through CPE I was able to serve in both traditional hospital and behavioral healthcare settings. It was these experiences that guided me to accept my call to parish ministry. Upon graduating from seminary, I was ordained and installed as the Discipleship Pastor of Alamance Presbyterian Church, a mid-sized PC(USA) congregation in Greensboro, North Carolina. At Alamance, in addition to mission work, preaching, teaching and pastoral care, I focused primarily on programming opportunities for children and youth. Through this focus I particularly grew in my understanding of how youth & children process grief, as well as my awareness and response to body image and disordered eating issues. I loved my time at Alamance, and am excited to follow my call to Western North Carolina, where I hope to continue to grow in relationship with Christ and lead others to Christ through serving His people.



More information about Pastor Jessica:

<https://warrenwilsonchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Welcome-Jessica-Rigel.pdf>



LENT 2026

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday each year and is the period of time leading up to Easter. WWPC has some wonderful Lenten traditions including:

- **Tuesday, February 17 6:00 PM** – in the Fellowship Hall - King Cake will be provided.



- **Wednesday, February 18 6:00 PM** – in the Fellowship Hall



- **Sunday, April 5 9:30 AM** – in the Fellowship Hall join us for our annual Easter Brunch. Bring a breakfast dish to share and celebrate this wondrous time!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR CHURCH ARE HELPING BUILD HOUSE OF FAITH #5

Construction of Habitat for Humanity House of Faith # 5, a one-story, four-bedroom, single family house in West Asheville's New Heights neighborhood, started last fall, and should be complete in June thanks to help from faith partner volunteers including several from our congregation.

The annual window for faith partner volunteers is generally seven to eight weeks and can be anytime from the long days of summer to the short days of winter. This year it is in January and February with our volunteers scheduled to help on three Fridays and three Saturdays, with Habitat's assurance that work would be in heated spaces or outdoors if weather permitted. In January Susan and Derron Daugherty were our first volunteers and Susan installed door knobs. Don Collins was scheduled for the following day but it was cancelled by wintry weather.

Earlier this month Derron, Don and Ken Murchison installed bedroom floors, and Andrew Daugherty helped finish assembling walls. Later this month, before the volunteer window ends, Anne and Jamie Dale, Bob Gambrell and Brent Roberts will all help the progress continue.

When they applied to become Habitat homeowners, Serhii and Olha Bochkai, wrote in their application "We hope that our dream will soon become a reality." They emigrated here with

their children from Ukraine several years ago, and thanks to the help of many volunteers including those from our Church, their dream should come true in June.



On Feb. 7 Andrew Daugherty helped finish wall assembly at an Asheville Habitat house and Derron Daugherty helped install floors at House of Faith # 5.



On Feb. 6 Ken Murchison and Don Collins helped install floors at Habitat's House of Faith # 5.



VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ)

Lunch Servers Who Became Lunch Saviours

Last November 28 was the day after Thanksgiving, a day often called "Black Friday." It could have turned in to a dark lunch hour for the residents and staff of ABCCM's temporary Veteran's Restoration Quarters (VRQ) on Tunnel Rd. since there is no kitchen and the food expected from Mercy Chefs did not arrive.

The fourth Friday of each month is when volunteers from our congregation have served lunch at the VRQ for a very long time. Up until Sept. 27, 2024 when Hurricane Helene sent eight feet of water through the ground floor of the VRQ destroying the kitchen and dining room, we prepared each lunch before we served it.

We did everything from dicing vegetables for the salad bar and making salad dressings five gallons at a time to packing sack lunches and cooking things like fish and chips and grilled sandwiches before serving them to as many as 80 people.

Because last November 28 was a day off from work, some younger members of our congregation volunteered to serve lunch that day, but when they arrived there was no food to serve. The VRQ staff had not gotten the word that food supplier Mercy Chefs was closed that day.

So Andrew Daugherty, his sister Natalie, and Natalie's friend Jeff Ferrer, a very experienced chef at an area restaurant, took charge of the situation, obtaining bread, ham and cheese. Then



Andrew Daugherty, Natalie Daugherty, and her friend Jeff Ferrer, not only served lunch at the Veterans Restoration Quarters on Nov. 28 when the expected delivery of food did not happen, they made lunch for everyone too.

they made and served sandwiches to everyone, saving as well as serving lunch that day. The VRQ was most appreciative. Their Volunteer Coordinator wrote that our volunteers "did a great job scrambling at the last minute and we were super pleased with their help and how it all turned out in the end. They were awesome!"





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lunch Cook Team

Arrive onsite at 11:30am
Help serve the supplied meal cafeteria
line style at 12 Noon.

1430 Tunnel Road, Asheville 28805

Fourth Friday
Every Month



MUSIC NOTES

A Welcome Invitation to Sing in the Church Choir

You're invited to sing with the Church Choir in this Lenten Season. There are five weeks left in our journey to Easter Sunday--A wonderful time to experience the joys of singing and leading with hymns and liturgy.

If you are able to sing a tune, you are welcome—no audition. Take a step to lift your worship experience. Other perks: finding your true singing voice, grow your music reading, comradery with great friends, and great ministry to our congregation

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00—8:20 p.m. and Sunday Morning Warm—ups at 10:15, both in the choir loft.

Just show up for rehearsal or

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

stewart.smith@att.net / (816) 305-1038

Got a singing friend to recommend? Share their contact info and I'll make a contact.

A great opportunity for new life and self-discovery! We'll have your Music Folder Ready!

Blessings and peace,

Ted Stewart, Music Director

COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Just like last summer, our Chapel has been called into service for a lot of events while Kittredge is under renovation. What was supposed to be a few months has turned into almost a year where parts of our building has been used for costume storage, choir rehearsal space, and a center for performance. Here are a few upcoming dates:

- **Saturday, March 28 7:30 PM** – Bob Strain - Faculty Recital
- **Mondy, April 20 7:30 PM** – WWC Choir Concert
- **Tuesday, April 28 7:30 PM** – WWC Student Recital
- **Thursday, April 30 7:30 PM** – Willow Solomon - Senior Recital
- **Thursday, May 7 7:30 PM** – Joseph Castello - Senior Recital

**** Note - if the repairs to Kittredge are complete, then these will move back there****

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

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.

Fellowship Time 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!



THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson will meet on **Thursday, March 12** in the large classroom. Anne will lead our discussion of “Educated” by Tara Westover. Our April meeting will be on **April 8** in Fellowship Hall when Cate will lead our discussion of “Orbital” by Samantha Harvey. Bring a lunch and share some fellowship from 12-12:30 when our book discussion begins. New readers are always welcome!



Intergenerational Sunday School



SUNDAYS
MARCH 1 - 29, 2026
9:30AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**Both Adult and Youth classes are
invited to meet together**

TOGETHER

“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.

WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

TAI CHI/QIGONG MONDAYS



Improve balance, strength, flexibility, posture and range of motion.

All skill levels are welcome!

**2:30pm-4:40pm every
Monday in the WWPC
Lower Fellowship Hall.**



Lead by Paulette Heck, pheck812@gmail.com; 828-335-4631 (cell)

Riceville Community Yoga

Wednesdays & Fridays
9am - 10:30am in the
WWPC Lower Youth
Room



Open to all!!

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: The PNC's great work leading us to our new pastor, **Rev Jessica Rigel** ◦ **All the students** that helped lead another wonderful **Student Led Service** on February 8 (see pics below) ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin and Sherrie Meehan** for planting daffodil bulbs in the Peace Garden which will be a joy to us this Spring ◦ **Sharon Lytle** for her term on Session ◦ And of course - **Laurie Furr-Vancini** for sheperding us the last year plus as Transitional Pastor



We remember in prayer: The **Lytle Family** following the death of **Dennis, Rodney's brother** on January 19 ◦ **Ron Vinson** at Mountain Ridge Healthcare, recovering following a fall ◦ **Betty Siviter** healing following cataract surgery ◦ **Blake Joslin** still recovering at the Laurels

BIRTHDAYS

Brownie Newman	February 16	Wendy Meyer	March 18
Joyce Cucinella	February 18	Harriet Cowal	March 22
Burnace Roberts	February 24	Dennis Stockdale	March 24
Betty Siviter	March 2	Laurie Furr-Vancini	March 25
Kathy Jacobs	March 3	Jonathan Crumpler	March 26
Catherine Showalter	March 7	Andrew Pulsifer	March 27
Patrick Sanderson	March 10	Ted Stewart	March 27
Bill Sanderson	March 15	John Bishop	March 29



WWPC Events at a Glance

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6:00 (UFH)	2/17
Ash Wednesday Service	6:00 (UFH)	2/18
Pastor Laurie's Last Sunday	11:00 (Chapel)	3/15
Pastor Jessica's First Sunday	11:00 (Chapel)	3/29
Easter Brunch	9:30 (UFH)	4/5
Easter Service	11:00 (Chapel)	4/5
Tai Chi/Qigong	2:30 (LFH)	Mondays
Togather	1:30 (Parlor)	2/24,3/10,3/24
Community Yoga	9:00 (Youth)	Wed & Fri
Handbells	6:00 (AdEd)	Wednesdays
Choir	7:00 (Chapel)	Wednesdays
Adult Education Class	9:30 (AdEd)	2/22
Intergenerational Sunday School	9:30 (UFH)	March Sundays

UFH - Upper Fellowship Hall

AdEd - Adult Classroom in the Education Building

LFH - Lower Fellowship Hall

Parlor - Chapel Parlor

Youth - Lower Classroom in the Education Building



CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office: 828-298-9092

Transitional Pastor: 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

Treasurer: Leslie Sayyar, (828) 333-8867, treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Treasurer: Brent Roberts, (919) 844-6311, brentbroberts@icloud.com

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

