

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Pastor Jess

Greetings friends!

What a joy it is to finally be among you as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ! He is Risen! It's been a whirlwind the last several weeks as I've engaged the on-boarding process and learned the ins and outs of congregational and college life, all while navigating the extra special joy that comes with seasonal allergies! As corgi companions River and Lewis and I continue to settle into our new place, there are several things I've observed or been privy to already as I join your community that I believe are worth celebrating. In no particular order, I've listed some of them below.

Church Administrator Andrew Tripp – Andrew has been a consistently patient and welcoming presence to me, even prior to my arrival at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. He is not only fun to chat and laugh with, he is also always up for answering my many questions, and is an excellent introduction to the values of this community. What a gift you have in Andrew!

Warren Wilson College Students – Friendly, hard working, open minded and hospitable; what other traits are more celebratory in a new relationship? I am already humbled by my experiences with our beautiful students and look forward to learning more alongside them and sharing the faith journey as we move forward together.

Rhododendrons – There is a beautiful rhododendron tree right outside of my office window that I get to look at in anticipation of its blooms every day. What greater promise of hope exists than that of such a spectacular mountain flower!

Invitation & Exploration – Moving here has led to several invitations already to get to know students, individuals, new friends, and local businesses. It's been lovely to share coffee, breakfast, potlucks, and lunches with so many of you, and I look forward to more opportunities for fellowship as we continue to get to know one another.



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A Note from Pastor Jess (cont)

I know that as the days and weeks of my ministry in this special place continue, I will find even more to celebrate, and I am excited as I anticipate all the new opportunities—both challenging and comforting—that we will get to experience together. I am grateful for the honor of coming alongside you in our spiritual walk and can't wait to see what God has in store for our Church!

With love and light,

Pastor Jess :)



A Note NOT from Pastor Jess

It didn't take long for the SPAMers and scammers to take notice of our new pastor. We are aware that a few of you received suspicious e-mails that appeared to come from Pastor Jess. Unfortunately there's nothing we can do to stop this kind of thing from happening, but you can take a couple of steps to protect yourself. First, double check any communication from the church. The "sent from" part of the e-mail might say "Pastor Jessica Rigel", but the actual e-mail address will be something unfamiliar. If it doesn't come from @warrenwilsonchurch.org or @warren-wilson.edu, then there's a good chance it didn't come from us. Please reach out directly to an e-mail address or phone number that you already know to work instead of replying to these directly.

MUSIC NOTES

Chapel Organ News - Upcoming Refurbishment by Ted Stewart, WWPC Music Director



On March 17, 2026, WWPC entered into a contract with Angerstein Organ Works, Ltd. to refurbish the organ. This refurbishment comes 60 years after the organ's original construction, a significant milestone considering the typical lifespan of the organ's extensive leather components. The instrument has started to show signs indicating the need for re-leathering and additional maintenance.

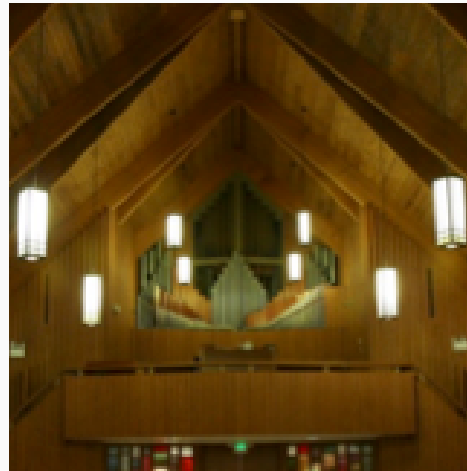


Overview of Organ Stops

The organ consists of two primary sets of stops. The Schanz Pipe Stops, installed between 1965 and 1973, totaled 24. In 2008, an additional 48 Walker Digital Stops were installed by Dan Angerstein, with oversight by Steven Williams. Altogether, the organ currently has a total of 72 stops.

Support and Project Details

A generous gift from Steven Williams (final college organist) has made it possible not only to carry out the necessary refurbishment but also to implement some additions that Steven had hoped for back in 2008. During the repair process, the wind supply to the organ has been shut off; however, the digital stops will remain operational without wind. The refurbishment is expected to be completed within three to four months.



We give thanks for Steven's brilliant insight and generous gift for the organ's refurbishment and ongoing maintenance!



We will once again host the **Chamber Music Society of the Carolinas** for a four Saturday concert series July 11, 18, 25, and August 1. More information, including ticket prices and packages, will be available soon.

PICTURES FROM EASTER



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS



TEN WARREN WILSON PEOPLE HELPED FINISH THE FAITH PARTNER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE OF FAITH #5

Asheville Area Habitat began construction House of Faith # 5 last fall, and asked local denominations to help fund the house, and for volunteers from area churches to help build it during a seven-week window in January and February.



In June this four-bedroom house in Habitat's New Heights neighborhood will become the new home for Serhii and Olha Bochkai and their five children.

reserved for our volunteers with one on both days in January, and two on both days in February.

The first Saturday date was cancelled due to weather, but all other dates had volunteers, and our schedule finished with a great turnout of four volunteers from our church on Feb. 27, and six more including three Warren Wilson College students on Feb. 28.

Their work included tasks such as preparing the foundation wall for stucco, framing, installing base boards, trim and doors, cutting wood for shelves, and painting. All of this helped with the Habitat objective of building new, affordable housing for the community.

Habitat's volunteer coordinator knew that college students from around the nation would be coming to volunteer during their spring break in March, and asked faith partner volunteers to help before that.

Habitat tries to have eight volunteers for each work date, so some spots on three Fridays and three Saturdays were



Ken Murchison and Andrew Daugherty at the Habitat site on Feb. 28. Ken, Andrew and Derron Daugherty each helped with the house building progress twice in February.

Habitat News (continued)

Our volunteers on Feb 27 included Ann and Jamie Dale, Bob Gambrell and Brent Roberts. Our volunteers on Feb. 28 included Derron and Andrew Daugherty, Ken Murchison, and students Eloise Hill, from the College chapel crew, and her friends Carmyn and Susana.

Earlier in the volunteer period Don Collins and Susan Daugherty had also worked at the jobsite.

Then, in March, about 90 students from seven colleges in seven other states helped continue the progress with building House of Faith # 5 and other Habitat houses in west Asheville's New Heights neighborhood.

House of Faith # 5 is scheduled to close and become home for the Bochkai family on June 5. Construction of House of Faith # 6 is expected to start next fall.



Carmyn holding up one of the rollers she and her friends used for painting at House of Faith # 5.



Warren Wilson College Students Eloise and Carmyn and their classmate Susana worked on Habitat House of Faith #5 along with three volunteers from our Church on Feb. 28.

One Great Hour of Sharing by Sally Broughton

The Presbyterian Church (USA) receives three offerings per year. During Lent we've learned about the One Great Hour of Sharing through inserts in our bulletins and a Moment for Mission from Anne Dale.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

You can participate in this worldwide effort. Donations are still accepted via our church website, and checks to the church may be designated as OGHS and placed in the offering.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS



VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ)

VRQ AND VETERANS VILLAGE UPDATES

Since 2010, small groups of our church members have prepared and served lunch on the fourth Friday of each month for as many as 80 people who are residents and staff of ABCCM's Veteran's Restoration Quarters (VRQ) on Tunnel Rd.

We were ready to do that again on Sept. 27, 2024 but could not because eight feet of Hurricane Helene flood water raged through the building's first floor destroying everything including the kitchen, serving line and dining room.

With help from the Red Cross the VRQ residents, who had to leave all their possessions behind, were soon housed again at a temporary location, the Quality Inn, also on Tunnel Rd. Because it does not have a kitchen, our role changed to only serving food that was supplied by World Central Kitchen or Mercy Chefs, but as of March 1 volunteers are once again preparing lunches on site in a food truck.

The original VRQ building will be rebuilt and work is anticipated to start soon. A construction company has been at the site making preparations and checking underground pipes and drains to make sure all are clear and ready for rebuilding.

This will take time however and last year ABCCM purchased the Quality Inn and renamed it Veteran's Village. It is gradually being converted to affordable apartments for veterans, and volunteers are helping in additional ways.

During their spring break college students helped renovate three rooms and removed jacuzzi tubs and old carpet. They also installed new floor tiles, repainted walls, and did improvements to the classroom that made it better for learning.

In order to maintain

capacity to house veterans in need, renovations will continue on a few rooms at a time and property improvements are on-going too.

For example, picnic tables and Adirondack chairs were donated by Home Depot Foundation for the men to enjoy in the upcoming warm weather.



VETERANS RESTORATION QUARTERS
ABCCM

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



COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

From WWC BearWise

Hi everyone!

Spring is finally here, the sun is out, the daffodils are blooming, and the weather is warming up! But that also means that our dear friends, the bears, are waking up and they are hungry!

When bears wake up from their winter snooze (winter lethargy), they are hungry, especially the momma bears who spent most of the winter caring for their new cubs. Because of this, don't be surprised if we start seeing more bears around campus looking for a snack.

Please do the BearWise team and the bears a massive favor and keep campus BearWise! This means disposing of food waste in proper waste receptacles (NOT recycling bins!), giving bears distance when on campus, and being mindful of your surroundings.

If you see a bear, please let the BearWise team know through the bear reporting form, which can be found at warrenwilsoncollege.formstack.com/forms/bear_reporting.

Happy Spring, and thank you for staying BearWise,
WWC BearWise Coordinators



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:

- **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****

PRESBYTERY

The next meeting of the Presbytery of WNC will be held at the Montreat Conference Center on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Session has designated elder Leslie Syyar as our commissioner for this second meeting of the year. As such, she votes on behalf of the church. Other non-voting congregants are welcome to attend, and since this is so close by, it's a wonderful opportunity.



Please also mark your calendars for Saturday, July 25, 2026. The Presbytery of WNC will begin a new practice in 2026 of holding Neighborhood in-person meetings in each of the four areas of our Presbytery. Our western neighborhood will meet at Mills River. Jim Storey will be the WWPC commissioner for that gathering, but additional church members are particularly encouraged to come for this more neighborly gathering.

**COFFEE
WITH THE CLERK**



This is an open invitation to any pastor, elder, or congregational member who would like to meet me and/or sit and chat about whatever is on your mind (PCUSA constitutional issues or anything else!). I will be at these various locations, all around the presbytery, while I am in town. Stop on in during the stated window of time and let's visit.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 The Fox and Fig 615 Oak Street, Spruce Pine 2:30-4:30	FRIDAY, APRIL 24 First Presbyterian Church 26 Church Street Franklin 10:00-2:00
SATURDAY, APRIL 25 Round Eart Roasters 518 Hendersonville RD, Asheville 10:00-12:00	MONDAY, APRIL 27 Panera Bread 2625 E. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia 10:00-12:00 Mills River Presbyterian 10 Presbyterian Church RD, Mills River 2:00-4:00

IRON SHARPENING IRON

IRON SHARPENING IRON EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



To Whom It May Concern,

We hope you will join us in celebrating Reverend Jessica Rigel as she joins Iron Sharpening Iron's signature executive leadership program.

Hosted at Princeton Theological Seminary, Iron Sharpening Iron draws on best practices and subject matter expertise from leaders in public service, the private sector, the church, and the academy, to promote capable women to thrive in God's calling in a way that has theological integrity as well as sophisticated philosophy and practice. This distinctive 12-month program is highly selective. This year, we had 87 written applications, 60 semi-finalists in the video interview round, with just 24 women admitted. Rev. Rigel is part of the program's seventh cohort, beginning in May 2026.

Being the pastor of a congregation is a joyful, complex vocation. It requires spiritual depth as well as the leadership capacity to build and grow a thriving organization in a rapidly changing landscape. Pastors are simultaneously spiritual care providers, preachers, community leaders, and executives of non-profit organizations. This program equips pastors for the breadth and depth of their leadership role.

The leadership of women clergy has been linked to higher levels of trust and engagement in congregations, but it also has a powerful influence beyond the church. A recent study of women's ordination in America by Cammie Bolin and Benjamin Knoll, published by Oxford University Press, found that having an influential female religious leader in one's youth has lasting impact on levels of self-esteem, self-efficacy, and education, which in turn are linked to levels of employment, income, and leadership in adulthood.¹ They found that women who reported being influenced by a woman religious leader in their youth are, as today's adults, productively employed at rates equal to men. The evidence of this research suggests that "gender equality in religious congregational leadership is a necessary precondition for gender equality in American society at large."²

We hope you will see this investment in Rev. Rigel as an investment in your own flourishing and the vitality of your community. For more information on Iron Sharpening Iron, go to isi.ptsem.edu. If you or members of your congregation have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Thais Carter, Associate Director of Iron Sharpening Iron, at thais.carter@ptsem.edu.

Blessings on your ministry,

Rev. Dr. Anne Stewart
Program Director, Iron Sharpening Iron
Executive Vice President, Princeton Theological Seminary

¹ See Benjamin R. Knoll and Cammie Jo Bolin, *She Preached the Word: Women's Ordination in Modern America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

² *Ibid.*, 204.

PERSONNEL REVIEW TEAM

by Jim Storey

As those of you who have been around WWPC for several (or more) years will be aware, each year the church completes a review of its entire staff. The purpose of the review process is to assess the health of the church and to focus on how we can all better work together to strengthen the ministry of the church. Several years ago, the Session voted to conduct the review in the spring at the end of our normal program year. This year, since Pastor Jess joined our staff only recently, our process will be slightly different. This year the review process will mainly concern our Church Administrator Andrew and Music Director Ted although comments on all aspects of the church (including pastors past and present) are welcome.

The Administration Ministry Team is forming an action team to prepare the annual review for the church staff. To complete its work, the team needs input from the entire congregation. Please share with the team your words of praise for the work our staff members have done in the past year and your suggestions as to how we can improve our ministry in the future.

The following questions may help individuals prepare their responses, but please do not feel limited by them:

1. What staff members' work have you noted over the last year?
2. For each staff member you identify:
 - In what ways has the staff member assisted our ministry?
 - What strengths did he or she display in their work?
 - Can you suggest any ways in which the individual's support for our ministry might be enhanced?

The team would like everyone's insights regarding what the staff has done well and how the church can improve. The team will also appreciate your general observations about our church – what is going well, what concerns do you have.

Please address written responses to Jim Storey at the church office (101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa 28778) or place it in the AMT mailbox in the office. Alternatively, you may email your response to jstorey57@gmail.com. The team will keep your observations in confidence, but it does ask you to sign your comments. Anonymous comments are very difficult to evaluate.

If possible, please submit your responses to the team before the end of May so it can complete its report for the Session in a timely manner. The team appreciates your assistance in this most important process.



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Let's celebrate the beginning of summer and the end of the programmatic school year! Please bring your favorite ice cream topping to share! Ice cream, lemonade, and cookies are provided by the Congregational Life Team.



THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet on **Thursday, May 14** at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and get to know your fellow readers from 12-12:30. At 12:30 Judi will lead the discussion of *Spell Freedom* by Elaine Weiss. We'll follow the same schedule for our meeting on **June 11** when Janice will lead our discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. We're always happy to welcome new members--come read with us!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The Adult Education Class is changing their meeting time - now meeting Sundays at 9:15 until 10:15 in the Adult Classroom of the Education Building.

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 Together Group, meeting at 1:30 on April 14, April 28, May 12, and May 26 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

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!

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.

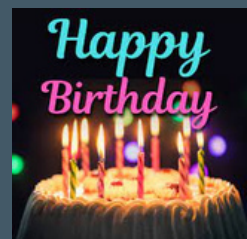
We celebrate: Rev. Jessica Rigel and The PNC's great work leading us to her! ◦ Donna Eagle Joslin, Elizabeth Cook, and Munashe Matumbi for their good work with the new planters in front of the Chapel ◦ Ted Stewart, Eunice Stackhouse, the Handbell choir, and the Chapel Choir for the outstanding music throughout Lent and on Easter morning ◦ And of course - Laurie Furr-Vancini for sheperding us the last year plus as Transitional Pastor (see below)



We remember in prayer: The family of Ernst Laursen who passed away on April 10 ◦ The family of Dean Kahl, retired WWC Professor, who passed away on February 14 ◦ Natalie Daugherty and her family as she is in rehab following surgery ◦ Jackie Wintle, who is recovering from cancer, as well as her niece, Jessica, who is caring for her during her recovery ◦ Cindy Riley and her sister, Angie, resolving palliative care need for their mother, Lavanda Owenby, as she struggles with ongoing health issues. ◦ John Laney ◦ Chrisann Ohler's brother-in-law, Rusty Denman (Lisa's husband)

BIRTHDAYS

Eloise Murchison	April 4	Angie McDonald	April 14	Sandee Butterworth	May 7
Molly Hamilton	April 10	Claudia Nix	April 21	Pat Wilson	May 11
Leslie Sayyar	April 11	Ken Murchison	April 24	Rick Garrison	May 30
Mary Craig	April 13	Margaret LaMotte-Torrence	April 25		



WWPC Events at a Glance

Presbytery Meeting @ Montreat	9:00 AM	4/28
Ice Cream Social	12:00 (Chapel)	5/3
WWC Graduation	10:00 AM	5/9
Guest Preacher: Patrick Hardy	11:00 (Chapel)	5/10
Pentecost	11:00 (Chapel)	5/24
Tai Chi/Qigong	2:30 (LFH)	Mondays
Together	1:30 (Parlor)	2nd & 4th Tue
Community Yoga	9:00 (Youth)	Wed & Fri
Choir	7:00 (Chapel)	Wed through 5/20
Adult Education Class	9:30 (AdEd)	Sun through 5/31

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



Looking Ahead

* **The July 4th Potluck Picnic** will be following the church service on July 5th. A sign up sheet will be put in the narthex in a timely manner.



CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Office: 828-298-9092

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Rigel, jessica-rigel@warren-wilson.edu

Director of Music: Ted Stewart

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

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

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

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

