

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Pastor Jess

Greetings friends!

It's hard to believe that summer is upon us and that I have already been here for over two months! How the time does fly! Yet in the midst of this brief scope, I have already completed part one of an ongoing executive leadership program for female clergy aimed at promoting best practices for thriving ministry called Iron Sharpening Iron (ISI). My engagement with this program could not have come at a better time, as I continue to get to know you all as a congregation and start to dream of where we might journey together next.

During my time at ISI, my colleagues and I learned about change management, strategic planning, and conflict resolution, but the most interesting learning for me was about Design Thinking, an innovative problem solving strategy that centers on better understanding human needs, challenging assumptions, and continuously testing ideas. As part of our preparation for that workshop, we were to watch a [Tedx talk by Doug Dietz](#), an industrial designer for GE who used design thinking to make MRI equipment more user friendly for children. Through using empathy as a tool to better understand how frightening the MRI experience was for young patients, Doug put together a team of folks to create diagnostic imaging machines that would feel like play with wild success.

At UPMC in Pittsburgh, Doug designed an MRI machine that looks like a koi pond, using colorful paint and light and music and sound effects and even scent to help children feel calm. At another hospital, Doug's machine became a pirate ship, where children could hold onto the wheel at the helm as they got images taken. Another machine is designed as a tiki hut, yet another as a camping experience, and with each machine's installation, technicians, doctors, and hospital administrators reported that pre-scan sedation rates among formerly terrified children dropped from 80% to less than 1%! Children were asking to come back the next day to get scanned again! The way these newly designed machines were affecting patients reminded practitioners of why they got into healthcare in the first place. Design Thinking focused on humility, empathy, and creativity revolutionized how healthcare could better support sick children and their families.



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A Note from Pastor Jess (cont)

It's strange to think of the Church as a product, but we indeed are one. The original "design" of the Church was as a community to foster deeper relationship with God through service, study, worship, evangelism, and fellowship. It is worth pausing to reflect on whether or not the Church is still functioning in that capacity today, and if not, what needs to be redesigned to meet those goals for the current place and time we are in. How might Warren Wilson better meet the needs of students, families, young adults, and elders, both in and beyond our church building? What might we need to redesign about our thinking to better meet the needs of each of those groups? How and where are we communicating our values? How accessible is our facility? Our website? Our community engagement? Who is underrepresented in worship?

These are basic questions, not only of design thinking, but of Christian hospitality. Who needs our help and how can we deliver it to them on their own terms in light of our faith? Change can sound scary and hard, but innovation implies movement and wonder and curiosity, all things the universal Church needs desperately. How can we use the humility, empathy, and creativity modeled by people like Doug Dietz to better allow not just the Church, but our church—our building, our people, our missional engagement—to be the force for good in the world early Christians intended it to be?

I am so excited to continue to answer these questions, and many others that may come up in the months and years to come, alongside you as we carry on the good work of our forebearers in serving God by putting "love above all."

With love and light,
Pastor Jess :)

Earth Care Congregation

Several of our members have expressed an interest in renewing our Earth Care Congregation status, a unique designation by our denomination that marks worshipping communities as modeling their values of stewardship of Creation. Churches achieve this designation by approving the "Earth Care Pledge", then documenting in a spreadsheet format the completion of a number of activities in the areas of facilities, education, outreach, and worship to earn points across each category. A church does not need to have accomplished all activities and conditions listed in the spreadsheet, but enough to have earned 25 points in each. Once approved, the Earth Care emblem can be shown on a church's website or bulletin and then the church is also listed in a large list of other congregations that have achieved this status. A renewal application for continued accountability is required annually for the first 5 years.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church was a certified Earth Care Congregation, but failed to renew our application in 2023 when Bob Gambrell, our leader in the endeavor, injured his legs and required rehab. However, WWPC leaders are looking to reestablish our commitment to this program, and are hoping to form an earth care team. This team will review the application spreadsheet and determine which activities we are already doing and which activities we would like to accomplish in the future to improve our care for the planet. Our application is not due until February 15th, 2027, but we were hoping to assemble a team sooner rather than later so that we can get started.

If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Bob or Jessica by June 14th so that we hold a meeting by early July.

Thank you!

Bob Gambrell

225-603-9866, gambrell4@charter.net

Rev. Jessica Rigel

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MUSIC NOTES

The Chapel Choir is now on recess for the Summer. We give thanks and appreciate the beautiful and inspiring music they brought to our services this past season as well as leadership in Hymns and Liturgies.

The choir will resume their new season with a rehearsal at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, in the Chapel Choir loft.

The choir invites anyone who can carry a tune to join us in our new season. Need a nudge? Call, Email or catch at church Director Ted Stewart. (816) 305-1038, stewart.smith@att.net.



Season 57 concerts:

Week 1 - July 11

Ripples

Week 2 - July 18

Parlor to Pub: 18th Century English Music

Week 3 - July 25

Voices

Week 4 - August 1

Clara & Robert: Equality

Tickets are now available at cms-carolinas.org

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. Here's what they have to say about this year's concerts:

Chamber music is a shared act of listening. Musicians and audience gather in the same room, shaping an experience that only exists in that moment.

This summer, Artistic Directors J and Rachel Freivogel, along with an extraordinary roster of festival artists, bring these discoveries to the stage across four weeks. The music moves from a Brahms Sextet, to 18th-century English dance music, to the Jasper String Quartet exploring compelling works of living composers.

Each program is its own small endeavor; the results only available live.

Decoda Music Festival

Last year we were thrilled to host the Decoda Music Festival which is a camp for young musicians looking for a greater challenge and learning experience. As of publication we do not have specific dates, but they will be using our building for rehearsals and performances from June 15-26. A probable concert date is 6/25. Check the bulletin in the coming weeks for more details.

MINISTRY PARTNERS EXPRESS APPRECIATION

by Ken Murchison

Our Community Engagement Budget at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church provides financial support to a variety of ministry partners in Swannanoa and the Asheville area and throughout the world. Our local partners include: [Habitat for Humanity](#), Verner Child and Family Center, [Pisgah Legal Services](#), Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, [Helpmate](#), Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, [Ministry of Hope at the Swannanoa Correction Center for Women](#), Black Mountain Home for Children, [Creation Care Alliance](#), Asheville Poverty Initiative, [Swannanoa Communities Together](#), MLK Memorial Scholarships, [Beloved Asheville](#), and Bounty and Soul.

Nationally and internationally, we support our presbytery and denomination as well as the Presbyterian Heritage Center, This Child Here (Ukraine), and Mark Hare and Judy Bent (Costa Rica).

One can scarcely exaggerate the joy and gratitude these partners express as our treasurer sends our contributions throughout the year. Many attach handwritten expressions of thanks to the letters or cards acknowledging our gifts, as a few recent examples illustrate:

- [Bounty and Soul](#): “Thank you for turning empty plates into full tables and full hearts.”
- [Homeward Bound](#): “We are so grateful for your long-standing support and partnership.”
- [Verner Center](#): “Your gifts truly help so many children and families in WNC.”
- [Swannanoa Communities Together](#): “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”
- [Asheville Poverty Initiative](#): “Your support has allowed us to provide opportunities for our community to come together, to lift up the voices of those with lived experience of poverty and homelessness, and to educate about the realities of poverty. Thank You!”
- [Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry](#): “We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support. It truly makes a difference in the lives of so many throughout our community.”
- [Swannanoa Valley MLK Memorial Corp.](#): “Thank you so much for your generous support!”
- [Habitat](#): “We are so appreciative.”
- [Black Mountain Home for Children](#): “You’re not just meeting needs. You are showing kids they are worth investing in.”

Many of us are already invested in working directly with our ministry partners, and the Community Engagement Team hopes to increase our participation. If you already work with one of our ministry partners or would like to do so in the future, please let Jessica or Ken know.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

by Larry Griswold

OUR VOLUNTEER AND FUNDING ASSISTANCE HELPED COMPLETE HOUSE OF FAITH #5 HOUSE OF FAITH #6 WILL BE NEXT

In May Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity issued a report with details of the support it received to build House of Faith #5. Houses of Faith are supported by a coalition of area faith communities, and the report included this information: 25 faith communities including our church donated funds to help build the house. 14 faith communities including our church sent volunteers who helped build the house. Our church was one of 11 faith communities that donated funds and had volunteers help build the house. According to the report, 84 faith partner volunteers worked at the site. Twelve volunteers were from our church with eight working on one date during the seven-week volunteer window, three working on two dates, and one working on three dates.

In addition to the support of area faith communities, House of Faith #5 received financial support from Jewish Helping Hands, a New York based non-profit organization, and from First Baptist Church of Asheville, sponsors of the House's lot. Asheville Area Habitat also announced that a meeting in August will provide plans for House of Faith #6. Volunteer work on the house is expected to start in October.



JOYFUL MOMENT - Serhii Bochkai and his wife Olha had big smiles after receiving a ceremonial key to Habitat for Humanity House of Faith #5 at a New Heights neighborhood dedication event on May 22. The Bochkais, from Ukraine, have five children and will close on the four-bedroom house on June 5.



Pictured here are the hand drawn cards from some of the Bochkai family. A note written to the church is on the bulletin board in the Education Building

VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ)

by Larry Griswold



VETERANS RESTORATION QUARTERS FOURTH FRIDAY LUNCH SERVICE

Though so much has been done to recover from the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Helene more than 20 months ago, much more including reconstruction of the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) on Tunnel Rd. remains to be done.

Since 2010, volunteers from our congregation have prepared and served lunch to VRQ residents and staff on the fourth Friday each month. Since Helene the VRQ has operated at a nearby temporary location, and until March relied on World Central Kitchen, Mercy Chefs, and other sources to provide food for each meal.

Now, two of our volunteers report mid-morning (10:30 or later) to assist a VRQ kitchen staff member with lunch preparation in a food truck on site. A third volunteer arrives at 11:45, and all three people serve lunch in a cafeteria-style line to a very appreciative group of people. We are generally done at 12:30.

Rev. Jess will work with our volunteers at our next date at the VRQ, but if you have questions or might be interested in volunteering on July 24, Aug. 28, or Sept. 25, contact Larry Griswold.



Bob Mancuso, a friend of Larry Griswold, and Jamie Dale helped prepare lunch at the Veterans Restoration Quarters on May 22, and Susan Daugherty joined them to serve it.

Vicki and Don Collins helped prepare lunch at the VRQ on April 24, and Jim Storey joined them to serve it.



COMMUNITY AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Film Series

St James Episcopal Church in Black Mountain is hosting the “Voices that Matter, Voices that Belong” Film Series. There are three films that focus on racial trauma from the perspectives of local black and indigenous people. All of the films start at 6:00 with light snacks and beverages starting at 5:45.

Here’s the schedule:

* **Monday, June 8 “Black in Asheville”** A locally produced documentary that brings together residents and historians to recount Asheville’s black history from slavery until today. Post film discussion will include the film’s producer/director Todd Gragg and local resident Priscilla Robinson whose life and neighborhood were uprooted by urban renewal.

* **Monday, July 13 “A Sacred Thread”** A PBS documentary that follows the Snowbird Cherokee of WNC as they fight to preserve their language, customs, and ancestral traditions. Post film discussion will be led by EBCI Tribal Council member, Shannon Swimmer.

* **Monday, August 10 “Racist Roots - The Death Penalty: The Bitter Fruit of NC’s Racist Past”** This powerful film by the Center for Death Penalty Litigation reveals the NC death penalty’s ddp entanglement with slavery, lynching, and racism. Post film discussion will be led by Noel Nickle, Executive Director of the NC Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.



Welcome and Hospitality Grants Program

A team from our church has been participating in a training for a new grant program from the Presbytery related to welcome and hospitality. The next step of their process is a team meeting on June 8 at 11:00 in the Adult Education Classroom.

Presbytery Guatemala Trip

The Presbytery of WNC is hosting a trip this November to Guatemala with six or nine day travel options. For more information contact Sarah Robinson Bryan, the PWNC Guatemala Partnership Coordinator at (803) 528-6747 or pwncguatemala@gmail.com.

PWNC Hurricane Relief Fund

You can now make donations directly to a fund that will provide relief to people in WNC. The Presbytery of WNC Hurricane Relief Fund is now accepting contributions that will help people with unmet needs who were affected by hurricane damage. The fund will be used for emergency supplies as well as long-term efforts to clean and restore buildings and property. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8dhwwj> or (828) 438-4217

from Don Collins

Don Collins plans to have one or two "Open houses" at his College View Observatory throughout the fall of 2026 and spring of 2027 to invite interested people to view deep sky objects - galaxies, star clusters, nebulae, and planets with his 14 inch telescope. The telescope uses an electronic camera that immediately displays an image on a computer monitor after an exposure of up to a minute.

More announcements will come in the fall of 2026.

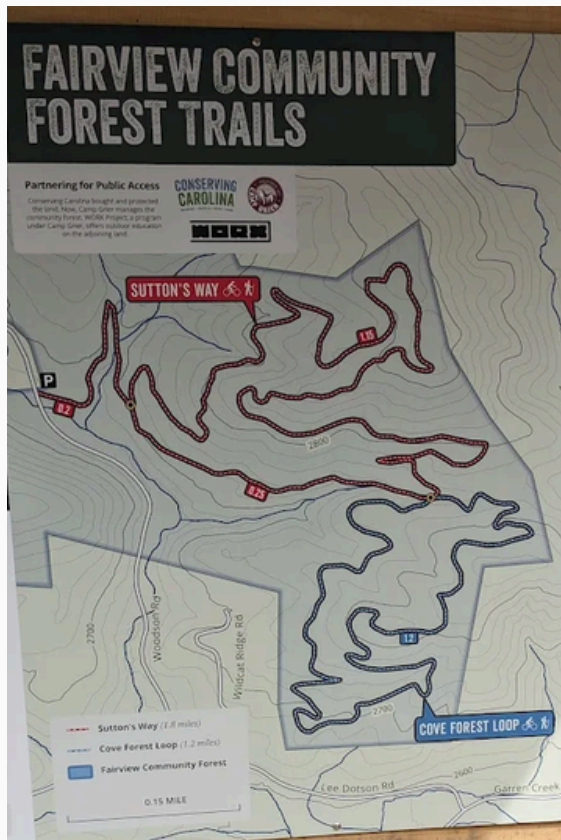
PRESBYTERY PROPERTY NOW A COMMUNITY FOREST IN FAIRVIEW

by Ken Murchison

Camp Woodson was the summer camp for the Presbytery of Asheville before the creation of the Presbytery of WNC. The camp was part of a 242-acre parcel of surrounding woods. After Camp Grier became the presbytery camp, the camp facilities were used as a state supported program for adjudicated youth until it closed in 2011. (For more information on Camp Woodson, ask Toby Ives who was the director of Camp Woodson in an earlier life.)

After years of fund raising, the Presbytery of WNC sold the property to Conserving Carolina so that the area would remain available for use by the public in its natural state. Conserving Carolina transferred the lake and main camp buildings to Camp Grier to use for the Buncombe County WORX project, a vocational and career-connected learning program. It operates as an outdoor education and construction tech campus serving local youth, offering summer day programs for middle schoolers, as well as workforce development and construction training for young adults

The remainder of the property remains a wooded area now open to public use. To facilitate that use, Conserving Carolina recently created the Fairview Community Forest on Woodson Road in Fairview. It has no street number, but if you search for “Fairview Community Forest” in Google Maps, you can find directions.



Nearly three miles of a planned 11 miles of trail are now open. The Community Engagement Team is planning a church hike on June 6. We are meeting at the church at 10:15 and would love to have you join us to explore the trails and then to head for a dutch treat lunch. Come join us in celebrating a good thing our presbytery has done. You can hike as much or as little as you wish.

If you are interested, let Jessica or Ken know.



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: Another fantastic year from **The WWPC Church Choir** ◦ **Natalie and Derron Daugherty** are both back at church following surgery ◦ **Jackie Wintle** is currently cancer free ◦ **Warren Wilson College graduates!** ◦ **Our work crew this year: Eloise Hill and Isabella Love** ◦ New windows and doors in the Education Building

We remember in prayer: **Cindy Riley's mom, Lavanda Owenby** is continuing to struggle with pneumonia. Please pray for her family as they navigate care. ◦ Also **The Rileys daughter, Dr. Erin Riley**, who has an upcoming surgery on June 9 ◦ **Rodney Lytle** following hip replacement surgery on May 27 ◦ Ongoing prayers for **Sharon Lytle** as she helps with Rodney's healing ◦ **Jack Ballard** ◦ **The family of Ernst Laursen** following his death on April 10. A celebration of life is being planned for October.



ADDITIONAL HANDICAPPED PARKING

by Sally Broughton

Hello friends,
Some of you have indicated that our handicapped spaces are often filled, or are still a bit of a distance from the ramp entry to the chapel. We'll now be adding two or three spaces reserved for handicapped parking in front of the chapel on the "horseshoe drive". These are adjacent to the ramp by the church's mailbox. Look for the orange cones.



THE WARREN WILSON BOOK GROUP



The Warren Wilson Book Group will meet **at noon on Thursday, June 11**. Janice will lead our discussion of "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. We'll have lunch and fellowship time from 12-12:30 with our book discussion following. We'd love to have you join us! The book group is taking a break this summer and will not meet in July or August.

BIRTHDAYS

Emma Eagle Joslin	June 1	Anne Dale	June 17	Amanda Branscombe	July 17
Jim Storey	June 3	Jackie Wintle	June 25	Don Collins	July 18
Erika Lytle	June 4	Rodney Lytle	June 27	Brent Roberts	July 23
Mary Fran Spencer	June 6	Larry Griswold	July 4	Bob Gambrell	July 27
Fran Roberts	June 13	Allyson Hettrick	July 8	Pat Crumpler	July 29
Nancy Garrison	June 16				



WWPC Events at a Glance

Fairview Forest Hike	10:15 (Chapel)	6/6
Book Group	12:00 (UFH)	6/11
Guest Pianist: Karen Boyd	11:00 (Chapel)	6/28
July 4 th Potluck	12:00 (UFH)	7/5
Church Office Closed	N/A	7/6
Chamber Music Society Concert	7:30 (Chapel)	7/11
Chamber Music Society Concert	7:30 (Chapel)	7/18
Chamber Music Society Concert	7:30 (Chapel)	7/25
Chamber Music Society Concert	7:30 (Chapel)	8/1
Worship	11:00 (Chapel)	Sundays
Tai Chi/Qigong	2:30 (LFH)	Mondays
Community Yoga	9:00 (Youth)	Wed & Fri

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

Join us for the 4th of July Potluck Picnic July 5th after worship.

Congregational Life will supply the hamburgers and hotdogs (regular and vegetarian) lemonade, and buns. Look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



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

