

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 4

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

A Note from Pastor Jess

Greetings friends!

The Summer has been a season to remember at WWPC; we've shared hiking trips, Presbytery meetings, and baseball games. We've heard from a variety of preachers, including Jamie Dale and Jacq Lapsley. Many of us have enjoyed Sabbath time with family and friends away from our faith community. But as Fall arrives, it's time to get back to work. Warren Wilson College students will start moving in on August 20th, our new student chapel crew will start August 24th, our choir will resume meeting on September 16th, and I will be officially installed as your pastor on September 23rd. There's a lot to prepare for and a lot to celebrate as we transition into shorter days and cooler weather!

As we look towards this new season of the year, it's important to remember that we are still very much in a new season as a church. The Session-WWPC's board of congregational leaders—and I have been studying Lessons in Leadership: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks for the last several months, and our reading from a few weeks ago struck me as especially pertinent in this new season we find ourselves in. In reflecting on the story of Joseph, Jacob's favorite son, Sacks posits the following as a primary lesson:

...dream dreams. Never be afraid to let your imagination soar. When people come to me for advice about leadership I tell them to give themselves the time and space and imagination to dream.... Dreaming is often thought to be impractical. Not so; it is one of the most practical things we can do. There are people who spend months planning a holiday but not even a day planning a life. They let themselves be carried by the winds of chance and circumstance. That is a mistake.



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A Note from Pastor Jess (cont)

It is essential as we continue to grow together, that we create a vision—a dream—of what we hope and desire our church to look like. It is not only important that we imagine this vision, but that we articulate it, so that we might be accountable to living into it.

We have started this work through our hospitality team and grant application, and it is work the Session and I will continue to do together as we move forward. And if you have dreams and visions for this community, I hope you will share them with us so that we might design a picture of how we can continue to best live and grow as a faith community that widely shares the grace, mercy, love, and service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I look forward to hearing your dreams and collaborating to help them come to fruition!

With love and light,
Pastor Jess :)



Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
Installment
Service for
Rev. Jessica Rigel

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 | 6 PM
WWPC Chapel | 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC

RSVP VIA EMAIL
INFO@WARRENWILSONCHURCH.ORG

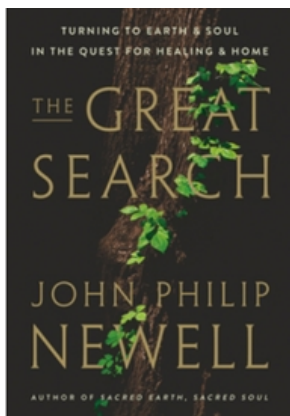
Rev. David Black
(First Presbyterian Church of Chicago)
will be preaching

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

The WWPC Adult Education Class will begin 9/13/26 at 9:15 AM. Our first book will be "The Great Search: Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home", by John Philip Newell. (He will be leading a class at Montreat Conference Center this fall on this book. If you are interested, you can go to the Montreat website.) Paulette Heck will teach the first lesson. Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 for the first class on September 13th. If you are willing to teach a class, please let Paulette know. (pheck812@gmail.com) We take turns leading the classes.

Another book that has been suggested is "Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation", by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. If you have a suggestion for another reading selection for our class to study, please bring your suggestion to class with you and let us know. We appreciate your input.

We will have an intergenerational class the last Sunday of the month based on a children's book. Natalie Daugherty will lead the first class on September 27th.



Sept. 13 - Intro and Chapter 1 - Seeking Vision: Thomas Berry
Sept. 20 - Chapter 2 - Seeking Earth: Nan Shepherd
Oct. 4 - Chapter 3 - Seeking Presence: Martin Buber
Oct. 11 - Chapter 4 - Seeking Awareness: Carl Jung
Oct. 18 - Chapter 5 - Seeking Wellness: Julian of Norwich
Nov. 1 - Chapter 6 - Seeking Love: Jalaluddin Rumi
Nov. 8 - Chapter 7 - Seeking Wisdom: Rabindranath Tagore
Nov. 15 - Chapter 8 - Seeking Meaning: Etty Hillesum
Nov. 22 - Chapter 9 - Seeking Faith: Edwin Muir

Agencies that Help the People of Gaza (Compiled by Adult Education Class, WWPC)

Our Adult Education Class read a book called, "One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This" by Omar El Akkad. The book raised our consciousness about the plight of the people of Gaza. We compiled the list of places where contributions can be made to help them.

DoctorsWithoutBorders.org

[American Friends Service Committee – afsc.org](http://AmericanFriendsServiceCommittee.org)

[Church World Service – cwsglobal.org](http://ChurchWorldService.org)

OliveBranchFairTrade.org – Extra virgin olive oil and many other products from Palestine available for purchase. (Olive oil is also available through our Quaker friends.)

anera.org – Provides humanitarian and developmental aid.

JewishVoiceforPeace.org – Jewish organization supporting Palestine.

TheSumudCollective.com – Western NC based group dedicated to solidarity with Palestinians against occupation. Sumud means steadfastness.

[Friends of Sabeel – fosna.org](http://FriendsOfSabeel.org) – Interdenominational Christian organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land.



EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

The Warren Wilson Book Group

The Warren Wilson Book Group would like to invite you to join us for a great year of fellowship and reading! On Thursday, September 10 we'll meet to discuss "The Good Priest's Son" by Reynolds Price, with Sandy leading the discussion. Our meetings start at noon and September is our annual salad luncheon so bring a salad to share from 12-12:30, when our book discussion begins. On October 8, Cate will lead our discussion of "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey. Bring your lunch and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30 and then we'll discuss the book. New members are always welcome!

View Deep Sky Objects at the College View Observatory

Don Collins (dcollins@warren-wilson.edu) will conduct astronomy viewing sessions throughout the fall of 2026 held at the College View Observatory. We will use the 14 inch telescope with CCD camera to view selected deep sky objects using the CCD camera and video monitor. We will see distant galaxies, planetary nebulae, dark nebulae, binary stars and more. The first session will be held on Friday September 18, 2026 - weather permitting. Please sign-up in the Church Narthex with your e-mail so I can notify people about weather and further details. If September 18 is clouded out, we will plan for the following night - September 19.

Off Campus Fellowship

Members and friends of WWPC spent some time out and about in the Asheville area in joyful fellowship this summer.

WWPC at a Tourists game



Many joined in on a hike through the Fairview Community Forest (formerly Camp Woodson)



VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ)

by Larry Griswold

WE'RE COOKING AT THE VRQ AGAIN AND REV. JESS JOINED THE TEAM IN JUNE

When the Veteran's Restoration Quarters had to find a long-term temporary location after its ground floor including the kitchen and dining room were destroyed by Hurricane Helene, our fourth Friday lunch service changed too. Before Helene we had been cooking and preparing lunch in the morning before serving it at noon.

The VRQ temporary location was set up across Tunnel Rd in the Quality Inn, but, with no kitchen, meals for the residents could only be provided with donated food and our role changed to only serving the food.

That changed in March with the addition of a food truck on the property, and after making sandwiches for a few months, we began cooking again in June. At the May meeting of the Community Engagement Committee Rev. Jess had asked to help, and on a hot June day she grilled lots of hamburgers which were then enjoyed for lunch.

Describing that experience from the pulpit two days later, she said "This past Friday I was really blessed ... to reach out, to have my heart enlarged by serving at the VRQ it was really meaningful to get to serve the men who have served our country and to sit down at a table and eat with them and share a meal that we had prepared. There are going to be more and more opportunities for us to reach out, for us to have our hearts enlarged in direct service in the community... actually coming alongside people, building relationships, getting to know the people we are serving."



COOK TEAM - On June 26 Rev. Jess and Larry Griswold teamed up to grill 114 hamburgers for lunch at the VRQ. Barbara Griswold helped serve them to the residents and staff. On July 24 Anne and Jamie Dale and David Ball did that again.



SPECIAL GIFT - On June 26 before our volunteers went to work preparing and serving lunch at the VRQ, Rev. Jess presented a gift from our church to the VRQ volunteer coordinator, Ruth Lolo.



VRQ CONTINUED



In other VRQ news, the long-awaited rebuilding of the Veterans Restoration Quarters started with a groundbreaking ceremony at the site on Thursday, August 13.

GROUNDBREAKING - Several hundred people including state and local government and elected officials attended the ceremony for the rebuilding of the original VRQ. Doreen Garriss of ABCCM, left, started the event with a moving rendition of the National Anthem, while members of the American Legion color guard drill team from Cherokee posted the colors.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

by Larry Griswold

ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT HAS BIG PLANS FOR ITS NEW FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE OF FAITH #6

In his August Executive Update, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity CEO Andy Barnett announced plans for “our most impactful year ever” which will benefit 374 Buncombe and Madison County families. This includes building and selling 24 new houses including House of Faith #6, and completing 150 disaster repairs and 100 home repairs with needs that predated Helene. In addition, partnering with other organizations in the Asheville Regional Coalition for Home Repair will help complete 100 more recovery projects in our region.

On Aug. 12 Habitat held an organizational meeting with faith partner liaisons to present plans for House of Faith #6. The two story, two-bedroom townhome will be built in West Asheville’s New Heights community where some earlier Houses of Faith, including #5, have been built.

An applicant to own House of Faith #6 has been recommended to the Habitat Board of Directors for approval later this month. Volunteer work on the house will start the week of Oct. 6, and October and November work dates for our church members will be sent to all previous volunteers and listed in September Sunday worship bulletins.

HOUSE OF FAITH - this photo of House of Faith #5 which members of our church helped build with donations and volunteer labor, was just added to a wall in our adult Sunday School room where there are photos of 21 other Habitat Houses our congregation has helped build over many years. Dedicated in May, House of Faith #5 is now home for the Bochkai family from Ukraine.



The Bochkai Family
Photo shows a House of Faith #5 built in partnership with local faith communities and the Jewish Helping Hands Foundation. The house was sponsored by First Baptist Church of Asheville.

COMMUNITY AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

SVCM Walk for Your Neighbor and Block Party

The Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry Walk for Your Neighbor is in Swannanoa on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at First Baptist Church of Swannanoa for this year's walk and block party! The walk will start at 2PM, with the block party continuing until 5PM.

Our valley is still recovering and needs remain high. All donations from the Walk will go to support our neighbors! This year, 90% of funds raised will go to SVCM's Crisis Ministry, with 10% going to **The Blessing Project**. The more we raise through this walk, the more we can tangibly share the love of Christ with neighbors in need! We hope you'll give generously, lace up your sneakers, and come walk with us!

More information at svcmblackmountain.org/walk-for-your-neighbor



Immigrant Justice Together

We have opened our building to a monthly meeting of Immigrant Justice Together (IJT) which is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization bringing caring groups and individuals together to provide a hub for sharing information, host immigrant justice education and training, and center the voices of immigrant neighbors, organizations, and leaders.

They meet in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00

Daily Change (formerly known as 5 Cents a Meal)

The Daily Change Hunger Program of the Presbytery of WNC is a grassroots ministry designed to combat hunger locally and globally by asking individuals to contribute a small amount of money – traditionally 5 cents per person at every meal – into a designated home coin box.

Key details of the program include:

1. Funding split: The program retains 50% of the funds locally to support feeding ministries, food pantries, and shelters within Western North Carolina. The other 50% is sent to global hunger relief and development programs through the Presbyterian Church, USA.
2. Grant distribution: Congregations within the presbytery can apply for local grants from these collected funds to directly support hunger relief initiatives in their immediate neighborhoods.
3. Legacy name: The program was previously known widely across the region as the “Nickel-a-Meal” initiative before being updated to “Daily Change”.

An example of how the Daily Change funding is appropriated locally is through the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries who uses their grant to purchase bulk shelf-stable items, fresh produce, and emergency groceries for families experiencing food insecurity.

On an international level, an example includes partnering with Nkhoma Synod in Malawi, where the Daily Change collections are used to purchase emergency food supplies, fund hospital nutritional programs, and construct food storage facilities to combat chronic malnutrition during regional crop failures.

Donations for Daily Change will be collected monthly at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. Place this offering in the red basket on the back table. Coin boxes will be made available for those who wish to use them. If you write a check for your contribution, please write “Daily Change” on the memo line. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MUSIC NOTES

Your Invitation to Sing in the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Choir.

“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 Bible references to “singing” in the scriptures—and about 50 of them are direct commands. How’s that quote for considering singing in the Church 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 Church Choir, both to last season’s singers and to other folks who might give singing a try.



Details:

First rehearsal: Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm in the choir loft.

First Service: Sunday, September 27, Warm-up at 10:15 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 or catch me at church.

Got a singing friend to recommend? Invite them yourself, or send me contact information, and I will make contact.

A great opportunity for new life and self-discovery! A Ministry to lead and inspire the congregation to “Sing a New Song” and help the congregation to grow.

Hoping you’ll accept the invitation!

Blessings and Peace to all,
Ted Stewart, Music Director

MORE MUSIC NOTES



Good News of Our Organ Refurbishing Progress:

The College's Chapel music programs (Decoda Chamber Music Festival in June and Chamber Music Society Of The Carolinas in July) took up extensive rehearsal and performance time in the chapel, delaying constructive organ work.



Keeping their stride, "Angerstein Organ Works" (Hendersonville NC) was able to do some work during those months by taking some ranks of pipes to their shop to voice and to adjust and catchup work on other organ clients. They also designed the complex layouts of our new additions, rearrangement of stops and wiring to be sent to "Walker Technical Company" (Center Valley, PA). Walker is presently designing a "POET Digital Voice System" for our organ.

The POET System is a hardware/software for organs, comparable to your computer's software/hardware systems for

computers/cellphones, in that it controls digital organ stops in sound and function. This system is an upgrade of a 2007 Beta System that preceded the POET system, that now in its 5th upgrade (Think of this Beta System as a product for computer/cellphone that is working out bugs before it goes on the market. We have lived with that Beta System since 2008. It has served remarkably well. It is now out of date, out of warranty, and no longer supported for this new POET System. Our new upgraded system is now in production at Walker, being created specifically for the new design of our organ—a one of a kind design.

Now that the two concert series are completed, Angerstein Organ Works is able to return to work time in the Chapel.

We are now waiting for our POET System to arrive from Walker, our pipes to return and be reset, and all pipes tuned so that revoicing can begin.

Work may be finished in one to two months.

We have wonderful artistic workers managing our project. We thank Dan, Anthony, Calib and Javiar. Check in sometime and thank them.

We are exceedingly grateful to Steven Williams (Organist/Choir Director: 1981-2018 —37 years) for his foresight and dream to prepare for this massive refurbishment. Dan Angerstein worked closely with Steven in 2008 and knows much of Steven's wishes and needs forth coming for this wonderful organ. His generous funding gift makes a large part of this work possible. Thank you, Steven!!

Onward in peace,
Ted Stewart, Music Director

PRESBYTERY EVENT

REFLECTIONS ON THE 227th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PC(USA)

**A Church
Leadership
School
Special Event**

**Saturday, Aug. 29
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Warren Wilson
Presbyterian
Church
Fellowship Hall**

Lunch included
*Must preregister for lunch

Free registration



Get the INSIDE SCOOP

Here's your opportunity to hear from the people who represented our Presbytery at the 227th General Assembly held in late June and early July.

A panel of our commissioners will describe their experiences and what the actions of the body might mean for our congregations. Includes Q & A and table discussions over lunch.

Register now at
tinyurl.com/fu82satd
or follow the QR Code.

**DEADLINE TO
REGISTER: Aug. 21.**



OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Homecoming

Homecoming October 2 - October 4 with these events happening at our church:

Friday, October 2 - Ernst & Pat Laursen Memorial at 2:00 in the Chapel

Sunday, October 4 - Homecoming Worship Service at 11:00

- Homecoming Potluck at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall



Please Use This Address When Sending Stuff to the Church

Every now and then we get important things sent to the church using older PO Box numbers or the campus PO Box. While that can still get to us, things can get delayed and/or misrouted. So if you're sending anything to the church via USPS or any shipping services, please use:

**101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778**

That will come to the mailbox directly in front of the church or will be dropped off at the chapel.

RETURN TO THE LAND

An Earth-Based Retreat in the Appalachian Mountains

October 8-11 • Laughing Waters Retreat Center, Gerton, NC



Come spend four days in some of the oldest mountains on earth, along some of the oldest rivers. The Southern Appalachians have been here for 480 million years, and something in us remembers. We'll move through guided meditative walks, a foraging journey through the forest, ceremony led by indigenous women, and gentle teachings that invite you to slow down and listen. We'll gather in a beautiful mountain retreat, share nourishing meals, and return home carrying an abiding connection to yourself and to the land. Bring your body, mind, and spirit and let the land hold you.

MEET YOUR GUIDES

Laura Collins <i>Spiritual Doula</i> Forty years of spiritual leadership blending Celtic Wisdom and Creation Spirituality with training in somatic healing, trauma, and grief. She brings humor, play, and joy to the work of finding your center — walking alongside your labor to birth deep wisdom. laurajcollins.com/about	Jessica Ayala <i>Spiritual Sovereignty</i> Informed by indigenous wisdom traditions and over 25 years studying spiritual truth, Jessica creates space to gently expand consciousness and reclaim spiritual power — releasing outside pressures and honoring the unique path your soul is here to walk. jessicaayala.com	Bek Jopling <i>Founder, Foraging Home</i> Nearly 20 years teaching nature connection, ecology, and wild edible and medicinal plants and fungi. Bek helps others see the natural world with fresh eyes and explore the more-than-human community with wonder and curiosity. foraginghome.com/about
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DATES	TUITION	REGISTER
October 8-11	\$795 before Sept 5 \$835 after	laurajcollins.com/events

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: **Jack Ballard** for constructing and installing a very nice new platform for the pulpit that provides Rev. Jess with a more stable place to stand. ◦ **Cadence Cowal and the WNC Presbytery Youth Council Mission Team** and their trip to Guatemala in June (see below) ◦ Students and teachers returning to school, including Warren Wilson College which is beginning with Convocation in our Chapel ◦ New blinds in the Education Building

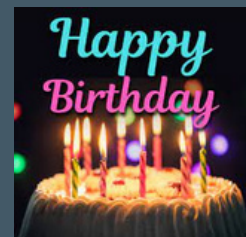


Cadence Cowal's commssioning before leaving for Guatemala with the WNC Presbytery Youth Council

We remember in prayer: **Ron Vinson**, who died August 6th at Mountain Ridge and **his wife, Ann.** ◦ **Ken and Eloise Murchison** following the loss of his beloved sister, **Marcia Murchison Magee** ◦ the **family of Marjorie Hettrick** following her death on June 17 ◦ **Alisa White** after a medical procedure and a brief hospitalization ◦ **Rachel Sparling** had hip replacement surgery on August 7 ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin** healing from non surgical fractures in two vertebrae ◦ **Chrisann Ohler** had hip replacement surgery on June 22 ◦ **Pat Meehan** had shoulder replacement surgery on June 26 ◦ There are several health needs in our spiritual community that remain unspoken. Please lift up those members requesting anonymous prayers for healing, trusting that our benevolent Maker knows their needs.

BIRTHDAYS

Beth Meriwether	August 1	Bill Mosher	August 11	Chrisann Ohler	August 30
Alisa White	August 6	Janice Collins	August 12	Natalie Daugherty	September 15
Blake Joslin	August 8	Paulette Heck	August 12	Carla Greenfield	September 20
Elaine Barnes	August 10	Vicki Collins	August 14	John Laney	September 23
Pat Levi	August 11	Mary Wheeler	August 14	Elizabth Cook	September 27



WWPC Events at a Glance

WWC Convocation	4:00 (Chapel)	8/20
Immigrant Justice Together	6:00 (UFH)	8/24
General Assembly Reflections	9:00 (Chapel)	8/29
Odd Couple in Flat Rock	7:30 (Off Site)	9/3
Office Closed	N/A	9/7
Book Group	12:00 (UFH)	9/10
Student Led Worship	11:00 (Chapel)	9/13
Welcome Students Potluck	12:00 (UFH)	9/13
Pastor Rigel Installation	6:00 (UFH)	9/23
Immigrant Justice Together	6:00 (UFH)	9/28
Worship	11:00 (Chapel)	Sundays
Adult Education Class	9:15 (AdEd)	9/13, 9/20, 9/27
Church Choir	7:00 (Chapel)	9/16, 9/23, 9/30
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



Welcome Back Students!

Join us for the
**Student Led
Worship Service**
followed by a
**Potluck Lunch on
September 13!**
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 Sayyar, (828) 333-8867, treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

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

Bookkeeper: Barbara Escalante, bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

