

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 33, ISSUE 5

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Musings on Ministry

by Pastor Jess Rigel

Greetings friends!

Autumn has always been my favorite season. I love the fresh start of the school year, the crispness in the air, the visual beauty of the leaves beginning to turn, then drop, then crunch beneath my feet. The arrival of October in particular has always helped to solidify this change of pace and shift in view for me. And this year, as I continue to understand Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church's ins and outs and upside-downs, I have been able to establish some personal priorities to help keep me focused. I thought you might appreciate my sharing them, so that we all might be on the same page about where I am investing my time as your pastor, and why it matters.

Goal 1: 100 Face to Face meetings with at least 15 partner organizations; 35 WWC students & staff; and 50 WWPC members or potential members.

Relationships are at the core of the Christian life. It is therefore essential that I get to know all of you, make connections with staff and students at Warren Wilson College, and develop rapport with the organizations we support as a congregation. If we are going to create a meaningful vision for our church moving forward, it's essential that I know who you are, what you value, and how you want to grow. Jesus constantly models love through investing his time and attention with those alongside him on the journey; it is essential that we model that love as well, not only for our own flourishing, but also for the flourishing of those we would serve.

Goal 2: Engage in 10 Presbytery of WNC events, other than Presbytery meetings

An essential vow I took upon my ordination was to be "a friend among my colleagues in ministry." This commitment extends beyond our congregation and well into the structure of our denomination. Engaging with other elders, deacons, ministers, missionaries, lay people, and Presbytery staff is an important way to live into that vow, and deepen the connection between our church and the church universal.



<continued on page 2>

This issue:

Fall Fest
[PAGE 2](#)

Pastor Jess Installation
[PAGE 3](#)

WWC Homecoming
[PAGE 4](#)

Habitat for Humanity
[PAGE 5](#)

Ministry of Hope
[PAGE 6](#)

VRQ
[PAGE 7](#)

Education/Fellowship
[PAGE 8](#)

Musings on Ministry (cont)

Goal 3: Receive & implement \$5,000 Hospitality Grant from Presbytery of WNC

Since my arrival here at the end of March, I have witnessed firsthand how deeply you care about our community, both at the college, as well as our neighbors in Swannanoa and beyond. I also have noticed that there might be ways to expand our welcome to those communities through improving the accessibility and use of our physical space, as well as by sharing our Presbyterian heritage. A small group of folks discerned some means we might make these improvements, wrote a grant, and received a check for \$5,000 to start implementing our plans! These plans include installing an ADA accessible door in the front of the chapel, developing a Comfort Corner for nursing or calming infants, putting together a class reflecting our church history and theology, and improving our visibility. Look for new signs, spaces, and learning opportunities in the next six months as we start to use those monies we were so blessed to receive.

I encourage each of you to help me to be accountable to achieving these goals by March of 2027, and also to share your insights with our Session and other church leadership so that we might better articulate our wider congregational goals as we enter the stewardship season. We have energy and momentum to spare; let's use those resources wisely and well to keep moving forward!

With love and light,
Pastor Jess :)



Join us in the Fellowship Hall for this fun event on Friday, October 30, 6:00 PM. We'll have yummy chili, pumpkin painting, and lots of festivities for the fall season. Many thanks to the Congregational Life and Spiritual Nurture Teams for organizing this event!



INSTALLATION OF PASTOR JESSICA RIGEL



Rev. Rigel's installation commission:
Front Row: Jil Meadows, Rev. Dr. Shannon Spencer, Rev. Jessica Rigel, Rev. Megan McMillan, Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely
Back Row: Rev. David Black, Rev. Dr. Keith Grogg, Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, Rodney Lytle, Rev. Dr. George Thompson





Warren Wilson College Homecoming

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

Friday, October 2 - We are having a service of remembrance for Pat and Ernst Laursen on October 2 at 2:00 with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, October 3 - We invite alumni, faculty, and friends to join Revs. Shannon Spencer and Jessica Rigel in the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church cemetery for a Service of Remembrance honoring WWC alumni. The service will take place from 9:30-10:30 on Saturday, October 3rd. A shuttle will be available in front of the Chapel at 9:15 for anyone who would like a ride.

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



WWC Fall Fest & Working Lands Showcase

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, October 3 10AM - 2PM

A morning on the Farm full of craft demonstrations, autumnal activities, tours, live music, and open houses from our land and craft crews! The Farm School General Store will be open with WWC-raised meat and other WWC items available for sale. Bring the whole family and enjoy a taste of fall on the Farm. Food, coffee, and more will be available for purchase from local vendors.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS

by Larry Griswold

VOLUNTEERS, EXPERIENCED AND NEW, WANTED TO HELP BUILD HOUSE OF FAITH #6

Construction of Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's House of Faith #6, has started, and volunteers from our church, whether experienced or new, are requested to help. Work is done Tuesdays through Saturdays, and Habitat likes to have up to six volunteers per day.

Our church has volunteer spaces reserved for the following dates and locations:

Friday, Oct. 23, (8:15 - noon) and Saturday, Oct 24 (8:15 - 3)

These dates will be for assembling pre-built walls, and the work will be indoors at the Habitat warehouse in Biltmore Village in Asheville. Don Collins went to Hendersonville to do this last year and enjoyed it. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help.

Friday, Nov. 13, (8:15 - noon) and Saturday, Nov. 14 (8:15 - 3)

These dates will be at the New Heights neighborhood where House of Faith #5 was built, and, weather permitting, work could be outdoors. Volunteers will be matched with tasks that they feel comfortable doing, and no experience is necessary, just a willingness to help.

If you have any questions about this, contact Larry Griswold. If you might like to volunteer on other dates in October, November or December, contact Larry to check on availability.



A JOYFUL MOMENT FOR MISSION - On Sunday morning, Sept. 27, Hydeia Beck, second from the left, and future owner of Habitat for Humanity House of Faith # 6, joined us for a Habitat Moment for Mission. Speaking directly to the congregation at the start of our worship service, Hydeia thanked us for all that we have done to support Habitat for Humanity's mission of building affordable houses including her house which will begin construction in West Asheville in October. Beth Coakley of the Asheville Area Habitat staff, second from the right, also joined us that morning. Donations of any size to help build House of Faith # 6 may be made through our Church website's Give Online button, or by check payable to our Church with Habitat offering written on the memo line.





Ministry of Hope Fall Luncheon

The Ministry of Hope is a community-funded chaplaincy program which employs on-site chaplains at Western Correctional Center for Women (WCCW) in Swannanoa, NC. Their chaplains conduct religious services in the center's chapel and provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance to the inmates. Their guidance and leadership are crucial to helping these women, many of whom struggle with addiction, abuse, and grief issues. The women at WCCW are within five years of release or parole. The chaplains offer them a sense of hope and real-world self-care tools to manage parenting, relationships, and employment with discernment and spiritual maturity.



Back table: Anne & Jamie Dale, Alisa White, Mary Wheeler, and Amanda Branscombe Front table: Elizabeth Cook and Winn Legerton

The state of North Carolina provides no funding for a chaplain position (and related services) at the WCCW facility. Our community's support provides the funding necessary to ensure the employment of two chaplains, Milly Morrow (full-time) and Shannon Spencer (part-time), as well as continuing the over 60 programs the chaplains facilitate each month (along with the Ministry of Hope board and volunteers) – inside and outside “the gates.”

As a not-for-profit organization, the Ministry of Hope relies on donations raised through local churches, organizations and individuals in the Swannanoa Valley. Warren Wilson Pres. is proud to be a long time supporter thanks in part to Mary Wheeler, who was involved with the Ministry in its infancy and advocated for the Community Engagement Team to include the Ministry in our annual budget.

On September 22, eight of our congregants were pleased to join pastor Jess at the ministry's annual fundraising luncheon at Upper Anderson, Montreat. Among the several speakers were both chaplains, the assistant warden, and two women who have been blessed by the program – one still serving time and another now living and working in the Swannanoa Valley.

While WWPC Community Engagement budget contributes to the Ministry of Hope annually, we were pleased to support and attend this inspiring event. Contact Sally Broughton if you'd like to know more.



Alisa White,
Mary Wheeler,
Amanda
Branscombe,
and Jess Rigel

VETERAN'S RESTORATION QUARTERS (VRQ)

by Larry Griswold

Facts and Figures about the VRQ and Veterans Village

Rebuilding of the Veterans Restoration Quarters on Tunnel Rd. began on Aug. 13. and VRQ Director Marcus Laws shared information about it and the newer Veterans Village during a recent talk he gave to the Givens Estates veterans group.

When Hurricane Helene flooding ravaged the building in September 2024, residents and staff were relocated to the nearby Quality Inn. 96 rooms there provide housing for about 150 residents and staff, but there was no kitchen or dining room at the site.

This meant meals had to be provided by organizations such as World Central Kitchen, Mercy Chefs, and some churches and local organizations. Our role on the fourth Friday of each month went from preparing and serving lunch to just serving it, until early this year when an on-site food truck and grill enabled us to help prepare lunches again.

Before Helene ABCCM had been looking to expand their services to veterans, and after moving the VRQ to the Quality Inn, they purchased the motel and renamed it the Veterans Village. They are now gradually converting rooms to studio apartments for low-income independent living veterans with a goal of 134 units after the VRQ returns to its original location.

Marcus Laws gave December, 2027, as the target date for returning to the rebuilt VRQ, and said that it will have space for up to 250 men and emergency shelter space for 65 more. ABCCM provides transitional housing facilities for women veterans at its Transformation Village at 30 Olin Haven Way in Asheville.



VETERANS RESTORATION QUARTERS - Rebuilding of this ABCCM facility where volunteers from our church prepared and served lunch on the fourth Friday of each month before it was flooded by Helene is now underway, and this rendering shows what it will look like when the work is complete. The grounds will include the residential and dining facilities, a training center, a Veterans Resource Center, and an ABCCM/Azalea Donation Center.





EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

Adult Education Class

Our Adult and Inter-generational Education Classes are up and running for this school year! The adults are studying "The Great Search" by John Philip Newell. Each class stands alone, so you can join the class whenever you like.

Class starts at 9:15 AM until 10:15 AM. Here are the topics for October:

Adult Classes:

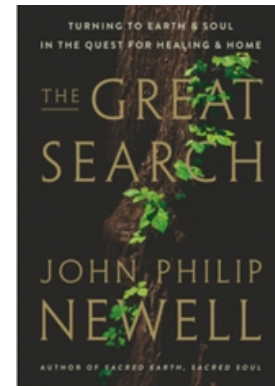
October 4 - Chapter 3 - Seeking Presence: Martin Buber

October 11 - Chapter 4 - Seeking Awareness: Carl Jung

October 14 - Chapter 5 - Seeking Wellness: Julian of Norwich

Intergenerational Class:

October 25 - - Based on "One Day A Dot: The Story of You, The Universe, and Everything" by Ian Lendler. It breaks down 13 billion years of history into a simple, accessible narrative about the Big Bang, evolution, and how humanity came to be. The book ends with the question . . . Where did the very first dot come from? Join us for this exploration and discussion. Support our young people and all who identify with them.



The Warren Wilson Book Group

The Warren Wilson Book Group is a wonderful group of readers who have been meeting at WWPC for over 20 years! We'd love to have you join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at noon. We bring our own lunches and enjoy some fellowship from 12-12:30 when our member-led book discussion begins. In October we'll start to choose the books we'll discuss in 2027 so it's a great time to check us out! Here are the titles coming up this fall:

- October 8: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey
- November 12: *Beyond That, the Sea* by Laura Spence-Ash
- December 10: *Heart the Lover* by Lily King

Togather

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 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 in the church parlor for a time of sharing, contemplation, and prayer. Please contact Beth Meriwether for more information at bethmeriwether@gmail.com.



The Togather Group enjoying lunch together at Givens Highland Farms. From Left: Jackie Wintle, Pat Wilson, Beth Meriwether, Barbara Escalante, and Paulette Heck

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 next open viewing will be Friday, October 9 (backup date Oct. 10) - 7:30 PM at 138 College View Dr. All are welcome!

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



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" are collected at WWPC on the first Sunday of each month. Please place this offering in the Red Basket on the back table near the offering plates. Mason jar banks and prayer tents are available for you to take home and place on your dining table as a reminder of the spiritual practice of feeding the hungry. If you write a check for your donation, 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. How’s that quote for considering singing in the Church Choir at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church? 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.

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 rehearsal (Wednesdays at 7 in the Choir Loft)

Need a Nudge? Call/Email Director Ted Stewart or catch me at church.

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

Blessings and Peace to all,

Ted Stewart, Music Director

Handbells too!

The Church Bell Choir is back and would love to have you ring with us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 in the Adult Education Classroom. Reach out to Natalie Daugherty for more information at forestchick07@gmail.com.



BENEFIT PIANO RECITAL presented by Asheville Area Piano Forum and the Church Music Department. The recital raises funds for piano lessons for children in need. Hear 10 of the finest pianists in the area! Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 3:30 pm in the Chapel. Free Tickets for church members and friends - available by signing the Signup Sheet on the table in the narthex (Questions? Contact Music Director Ted Stewart—stewart.smith@att.net). Reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

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: Our officially installed pastor, **Jess Rigel** and all who helped with such a **spectacular installation!** • **Don Collins** for welcoming us to use his telescope • All of the students that led worship on September 13: **Alex Curcio, Benji Fuld, Chelsea Gerhken, Addison Grissett, Ella Hedges, Eloise Hill, Mictehuatl Overla, Mandana Owzar, Maria Perez, Gabe Ranke,** and **Maevae Williams** • **John Bishop, Derron & Susan Daugherty, and Brent Roberts** for their work on landscaping around the chapel • Our Chapel Crew is back with two new crew members: **Magali Michua-Zacaula** and **Addison Grissett!**



The WWC students listening to Pastor Jess during Children’s Time on September 13

We remember in prayer: **Arden Starnes** was recently moved to Stone Creek Rehab Center following a fall • **Betty Holden** moved to assisted living in Charlottesville, VA • **Pat Meehan** as he navigates continued health challenges

BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Hettrick	Oct 4	Winn Legerton	Oct 16	Toby Ives	Oct 25
Donna Eagle Joslin	Oct 6	Carolyn Cole	Oct 21	Susan Laney	Oct 25
Adeeb Sayyar	Oct 7	Salyna Morgan	Oct 22	Barbara Griswold	Oct 27



WWPC Events at a Glance

Pat & Ernst Laursen Memorial	2:00 (Chapel)	10/2
Homecoming Service	11:00 (Chapel)	10/4
Homecoming Potluck	12:00 (UFH)	10/4
SVCM Hunger Walk	2:00 (Off Site)	10/4
Book Group	12:00 (UFH)	10/8
Piano Forum Recital	3:30 (Chapel)	10/11
Guest Preacher-Allison Wehrung	11:00 (Chapel)	10/18
Immigrant Justice Together	6:00 (UFH)	10/26
Chili & Pumpkin Painting	6:00 (UFH)	10/30

Worship	11:00 (Chapel)	Sundays
Adult Education Class	9:15 (AdEd)	Sundays
Handbells	6:00 (AdEd)	Wednesdays
Church Choir	7:00 (Chapel)	Wednesdays
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



Transitions in Presbytery, Synod leadership

The change in seasons in our daily lives also is happening with people in the Presbytery. Here are a couple of recent transitions:

Eastern Neighborhood

Our Presbytery Associates for the Eastern Neighborhood, **George and Beverly Thompson**, will be resigning from the Presbytery staff as of Oct. 31.

The travel distance from their home in the Black Mountain area to the Eastern Neighborhood counties contributed heavily to this decision.



During the last three years, George and Beverly have not only served the churches in Catawba, Gaston and Lincoln counties, but also provided congregations and pastors with tools and processes for visioning, pastoral care, and building relationships. Their service has been invaluable and they will be missed. Please join us in wishing them well in their next endeavors.

Please Use This Address

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**



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