

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

October 18, 2026



"The soil is the great connector of lives,
the source and destination of all.
It is the healer and restorer and resurrector..."

- by Wendell Berry in
"The Unsettling of America: Culture & Agriculture"

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026 11:00 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

WWPC Handbell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Don Collins

One: We gather this day to worship God, who invites us to join in the ongoing work of creation and cultivation right where we are. When our souls feel trampled on, and too hardened to bear fruit,

All: Let us gather.

One: When our hearts exclaim over God's word for a moment, but don't quite let it sink all the way in,

All: Let us gather.

One: When the weight of the world seems to stifle our spirits like thorns, making compassion hard to come by,

All: Let us gather.

One: And when God cultivates in us hearts soft enough to receive, to nurture, and to bloom,

All: Let us gather to worship our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer

*OPENING HYMN 451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, and yet whose mercy we too often forget: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. Forgive us for the times we have put our energy into misplaced priorities, or have doubted . With reverent and humble hearts, may we may draw near to you and to each other, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength.

Silent moment for personal confession

A PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS & PEACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.***

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
606 OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God all Creatures Here Below
Praise God above the Heavenly Host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Children and youth of all ages are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 139:1-6, 23-24

ANTHEM “The Beauty of This Sacred Place” James Biery

*The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.
We sing with love, bestowed by grace: from God all richest Blessing flow.*

*The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole;
with joyful hearts sing all day long, God’s blessings satisfy the soul.*

*We look into each person’s eyes and see such longing hunger there.
Respond each with love to other’s cries;
our neighbor’s burdens gladly bear.*

So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead;

Our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need.

(Stanza 5 - Congregation is invited to stand and sing with the choir)

The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow.

***We sing with love, bestowed by grace;
from God all richest blessings flow.***

SECOND LESSON

Luke 8:4-15

SERMON

***HYMN OF PRAISE 722** “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”
CANONBURY

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

5 O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For
Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.***

***CLOSING HYMN 543**

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”
GREEN TYLER

1 God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

2 Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

3 Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

4 Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

WWPC Handbell Choir

*Please rise in body and/or spirit

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jessica Rigel, Pastor
Ted Stewart, Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist: Don Collins
Elder of the Day: Jim Storey
Fellowship Time: Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS If you are worshipping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor information card, located on the right as you enter the chapel, and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERING Plates are just inside the doors to the chapel or scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin. Our gifts take many forms: open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we share with neighbors, and our willingness to live in a world as allies and advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The monies we bring symbolize the offering of our lives in all circumstances.

GUEST PREACHER Rev. Allison Wehrung currently serves as a Director for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, mostly focused on college and young adult programs and summer day camp. She grew up in Davidson, and between schools, volunteer years, and work in churches, camps, and college campus ministries, she's lived in six other states across the south. When she's not at work (and sometimes when she is), you're likely to catch her talking about birds, local coffee shops, national parks, and her nephews.

COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

We celebrate: The Handbell Choir for leading worship so beautifully today! ° All from our congregation who helped with a flurry of events happening in our space the past few weeks: funerals, receptions, potlucks, Jess' Installation, and worship!

We remember in prayer: The family of Bill Christy, former WWC President, who passed away on September 30 ° Arden Starnes was recently moved to Stone Creek Rehab Center following a fall.

CHRISTIANITY AT A CROSSROADS Join us immediately after worship next Sunday, October 25, for a screening of this documentary about the future of the church in America. Sign up in the narthex if you would like a box lunch or reach out to Pastor Jess. We will also meet to follow up on November 15.

THE WWC MEAT SALE is here. Order forms available in the narthex.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE The deadline for submissions and/or suggestions for our November Newsletter is Monday, October 26.

JUST ONE CAN Will you help to feed your neighbors when you go to the grocery store? A new food drive has begun, and we are asking that every time you go to the store...you add "Just One Can" to donate to your neighbors in need. Bring it to the church on Sunday, **or** during the week following your shopping trip. Place it in the blue container that you'll see when you walk in the entryway of the church. **If we all add Just One Can per week, we can provide a steady flow of compassion and sustenance to those who need it most.** Contact David Ball at Ittech.ball@gmail.com, or donnaeaglejoslin@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

HELPERS NEEDED to assist Habitat for Humanity construction crews build House of Faith #6 in West Asheville. No experience is necessary. We have volunteer spaces reserved for half day shifts (8:15 - Noon) at the House of Faith #6 site on Friday, Nov. 13, and full day shifts (8:15 – 3) on Saturday, Nov. 14. Work will be indoors in heated spaces, or outdoors if weather permits. If you have questions or would like to help on these or other dates, contact Larry Griswold.

FALL FEST 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 fall festivities. Thanks to Congregational Life & Spiritual Nurture for organizing this event. Sign up to bring chili through Susan Daugherty.

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE LECTURE Patriotism, the American Revolution, and the Reformed Tradition with Prof. Mark Valeri, Ph.D is about Presbyterian colonists in America that were among the most patriotic supporters of the American Revolution. Their reformed theological inheritance shaped their political views and led them to criticize the new nation and reject assertions of a religious national identity. This lecture is happening at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat on Oct 23 at 7 PM.

INTERGENERATIONAL CLASS Oct 25 9:15-10:15 - Based on "One Day A Dot: The Story of You, The Universe, and Everything" by Ian Lendler, 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/discussion. Support our young people.

Cover image: Hochhalter, Cara B.. "A Parable - The Sower", from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58962> [retrieved October 13, 2026]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.

Most of our worship services are live streamed and may be permanently hosted on our YouTube channel.

The week ahead at WWPC

10/18	2:00 (UFH)	Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
10/19	N/A	NO Tai Chi/Qigong
10/20	1:30 (Parlor)	Togather
10/21	9:00 (Youth)	Community Yoga
10/21	12:00 (UFH)	Church College Relations
10/21	6:00 (Chapel)	Handbells
10/21	7:00 (Chapel)	Choir
10/23	9:00 (Youth)	Community Yoga
10/23	3-9 (UFH)	Private Event
10/25	9:15 (AdEd)	Adult Education Class
10/25	12:00 (Youth)	Documentary/Lunch

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



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
Office Hours M-F 9-3
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org



Online Giving



WarrenWilsonPC



WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



@WarrenWilsonPC

*At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers,
single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white,
prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole – and
everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity,
yet as a joyful, caring, and loving community of faith,
we are one in Christ!*