

SUMMER 2026

THE WARNER MEMO



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THE NEWSLETTER OF
WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Warnerites,

The days are getting longer. The temperature is steaming up. Summer is upon us! The kids have just a few days left of school and their teachers report they're being good helpers by cleaning out their cubbies, taking their name cards off their desks, and sifting through the Lost & Found shelves to reclaim the items they haven't thought about in months. Their backpacks come home filled to the brim with crinkled artworks, journals that show their work of learning the alphabet, numbers, and writing sentences. At home, summer is upon us and transition is in the air!

It feels like the seasons are changing at church, too.

Over the last few months, we've been spending time cleaning out the cubbies of our building. From my perspective and a newbie here, it's been a lovely walk down memory lane as members of the church recall the stories attached to the items we unearth from the dust. In our clearing out, some treasures were discovered—those are now securely stored in a place where we'll find them. However, we discovered that many of our belongings are no longer useful, usable, or wanted. We feel the changing seasons in the life of our church and we're making room for what is to come.



The Upper Room

where neighbors become friends

Over the summer, the Session and I are reading a book called *Holy Disruption: A Manifesto for the Future of Faith Communities* by Amy Butler and Dawn Darwin Weaks and I want to share a snippet of the book with you. In the beginning of the book, the authors articulate their argument that churches are changing the way they do church, and the only thing standing in the way is our idolatrous fear of change. They say, “As people of faith, we have a story of good news about the new life that is possible after death... [but] ignoring the necessary death that precedes resurrection has been the sin of the modern church. Somebody needs to help us embrace this moment of comeuppance—empty pews, and emergency task forces—as opportunity instead of only grief, as a *holy disruption* instead of just harrowing dying.” That “somebody” the authors call for—it’s us. It’s our spiritual leaders (our Session) and it’s us—all of us—as Christians living in the world today.

Daily, I see our neighbors walking their dogs, shoulders slung forward, movements heavy. I see furrowed brows and impatient footsteps as people close car doors and hurry from one place to another. I see how the love we, as a church, have for them—the love Jesus teaches us to embody—is not being felt in the same ways that has in the past. The seasons are changing and, as Butler and Weaks suggest, “The season for wistfully hoping for a return to what was is over.”

I confess that I have found myself from time to time sitting at my desk with worship bulletin templates open on my computer and sermon outlines waiting to be fleshed out and I’ve wondered to myself: What in the world am I going to do with this big construction project? What am I going to do with this bowling alley once it’s up and running? How is ministry going to look a year from now, with people wanting to connect in such different ways? I wasn’t trained for that!! But, then I look up. I simply look up from my computer, look out the window, and I am reminded of the new opportunity before us—and I can make a

choice. I can approach this next season assuming it will be difficult or too hard OR I can assume this will be an opportunity for God's faithfulness to be made know.

Scripture reminds us that the seed must fall to the ground for it to blossom, to bear fruit, to give new life. There are times when we, the farmer, feel powerless at times and impatient to know whether it's going to bear sufficient fruit to sustain our life in the end. But, God's creating power is at work. It is God who patiently nurtures the order of growth under the surface while we toil above. It is God—the One who provides for the well-being of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field—who will bring forth the fruit needed to sustain our life.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and in God's promise of provision, we Warnerites are invited to come back to the cubbies—to keep clearing them out and recall, with joy, the memories of what was. Soon, another class will start again. New memories will be made. And all the while, God will abide as the seasons change.

Peace, JC



BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATES

We had an outstanding turnout for our storage clean-out and reorganization work days on May 9th (20 volunteers) and 23rd (9 volunteers) + volunteers during the sale on 5/30. A huge thank you to everyone, especially our office manager, Meghan Harrison, who spear-headed the top-floor sale efforts.

We moved the music director's office down to the old CE office, which Peter Smeallie will now share with the speech pathologist who comes in on Tuesdays and Fridays, cleared out the BSA storage room to the left of the stage, reorganized the social hall closet and cabinets, assessed whether to keep or sell many items and moved items to the top floor for the sale, reorganized the Trinity Room and common room closets, emptied the financial office and the top floor hall shelf area, removed choir racks from the main floor LCYC storage room, moved two music file cabinets to the choir loft to make room for historical documents in the music office, removed 2 file cabinets from the counselor's office to add to the sale, fixed the door closer on the Washington St. stairs main-level door, shaved down the narthex closet door, determined a plan of action for the top-floor elevator lobby light that is not working, fixed the counselor's office AC unit problem, fixed the office lateral file drawer that would not open, and installed temporary security cameras in the hall.

Other B&G happenings:

- The outdoor AC units were checked 5/18, and, unfortunately, we need a repair on one of the sanctuary units.
- Meghan ordered common room air cleaner filters, and June replaced the old ones 6/3.
- Baumann's planted two 5-gallon-bucket grey owl junipers north of the patio retaining wall, like the ones already on the hill along Calvert Place.
- The broken handle on the left Narthex exterior door, discovered 5/31, was fixed.

- Mark Eakin replaced the single electrical wall socket and the 4-outlet wall strip that were not working above the coffee shelves in the common room on 5/7.
- June filled holes with Stuff-It (where wasps were sighted) in the wooden retaining wall along Washington St by the playground to discourage nesting.
- We have been meeting with carpet and VCT tile cleaning contractors in anticipation of summer work.
- We are planning our summer work schedule.
- Fountain of Mercy replaced the boiler room faucet, pressure washed the sanctuary windows on the Calvert Place side, the steps, etc. and the Calvert Place church office entrance steps and walk, and cleaned out the east window well of the social hall. They also helped with much heavy lifting on our first work day.

~ Susan Kline

COMMISSION for CARE of the CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

Warner Mission Trip 2026 To North Carolina This August – Your Help is Needed!

North Carolina was severely impacted by Hurricane Helene during late September 2024, primarily in its western Appalachian region, causing at least 106 reported deaths and significant destruction of infrastructure and residential areas across several settlements. Asheville Regional Airport recorded 19.38" of rainfall before losing communication. Other areas nearby reported over 30" of rain. As a result of the historic rainfall, several rivers in the region overflowed and inundated multiple settlements, destroying

houses and infrastructure and cutting off power, transportation, and communications to many towns for prolonged periods.

While effects on the Infrastructure have been largely restored the impact on countless individuals, families and their homes will be felt for years to come. We felt like Mission Trip 2025 was a success for both the people and projects we touched and our community at Warner. Warner's Session and the 4C's Commission are again enthusiastically supporting our mission efforts and sponsoring a 2026 Mission Trip to Asheville, NC!

We plan to travel on August 2nd, work through the week and return September 8th. Like last year we'll be staying at Montreat in nearby Black Mountain, NC. For those of you who remember sleeping with sleeping bags on cots in church social halls or showering in a trailer from past mission trips, this is not that! 😊 Montreat offers us single and double air conditioned rooms with linens, private baths, comfortable meeting spaces, and large kitchen and dining facilities in a lovely Presbyterian mountain retreat setting. There is a possibility, for those interested, that Montreat will allow for some early arrivals and extended stays. As in the past, we can also likely accommodate participants who are not able to stay the full week.

As always, this is very much a working trip. We are expecting to do light construction and renovation projects, including most building trades. The working environment will be hot, dirty, and noisy and often smell bad. Heavy lifting and a few bumps and bruises are expected. Despite all of this, the spirit is always with us and the opportunity to learn something and connect with familiar and new folks is not to be missed.

Here's how you can help:

- If you have not yet expressed your interest to Steve, please do so NOW. We would like to have a firm count of who is coming by July 10th.
- Let your friends know about this opportunity to help our neighbors in North Carolina recover from the storm. You do not need to be an active member of Warner to participate
- Please help defray the costs of this trip by making a contribution to Warner through our website or by sending a check to Warner marked "Mission Trip 2026."

Stay tuned for more on ways to support the trip as our plans firm up.

As Rev. Rowles in Pearlington, MS taught me on the first day of my first mission trip following Hurricane Katrina, these trips rebuild our damaged community while building your own community. Take this chance to do both.

Thanks,
Steve Dunn,
c: 703.626.7443
e: stevedunn1919@gmail.com

Returning Citizens Assistance Network An Update for Warner Memorial Background on RCAN

The Returning Citizens Assistance Network (RCAN) was established in 2018 by members of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYAPC) and Metropolitan AME Church who wanted to be more involved in assisting individuals who are currently or formerly incarcerated. RCAN is now composed

of 20 congregations and synagogues and partners with the Public Defender Service (PDS) of DC to help their clients resolve issues that make it difficult for them to successfully reenter the community or serve their sentences. RCAN assists those who are still in prison by matching them with individuals who correspond with them via our Prison Friendship Project and also makes occasional donations to their commissary accounts. RCAN raises money primarily through contributions from individuals in our member congregations and about \$30,000 was raised in 2025. RCAN is an all-volunteer organization and 100% of the funds collected are used to provide direct aid to PDS clients.

RCAN Status Update

Since its founding, the RCAN has operated as a project of the NYAPC and it has now grown to the point that it has recently become an independent, non-profit organization! On June 30, 2026 RCAN will end its fiscal relationship with NYAPC and begin to accept donations directly. A new RCAN Board of Directors is being created which will manage and expand the work of the group over the next few years and reach out to involve even more congregations and individuals in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. Warner has supported RCAN in various ways over the years and Lena hopes to continue Warner's relationship with RCAN. She will hold an information session on ways to get involved and hopes those at Warner and in the community will join the conversation. RCAN is excited for the next chapter as an official 501 (c)(3) and looks forward to growing their mission to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God".

~ Lena Aspiras

LIFE of the CHURCH

The “Life of the Church” (LotC) commission, established in 2025 to support various activities at Warner, is looking forward to its second summer. The commission members meet monthly to help keep things running smoothly on Sundays as we gather to worship and fellowship together.

Listed below are the current members of our commission and the areas of focus for each of the members as listed below.

- Worship – Kay Gorman
- Music – Peter Smeallie, Director of Music
- Education – Chelsea Cook
- Food/Hospitality – Sue Burns, Claudia Stalker & Diane Schoeder
- Community Outreach – all Commission members
- At Large – Lora McGlade

As we look forward to a fun and enriching Summer 2026 at Warner, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight various aspects from this Commission’s perspective:

Worship

Summer worship will occur at 11 AM, as usual, throughout the summer and will be held in the sanctuary.

July 5th through August 30th.

- Chris Kim, Scott Camillo, and Ginny Atwood will provide piano accompaniment as scheduled and Peter Smeallie will lead us in hymn and response singing on most Sundays during this timeframe.

- The Sanctuary and Bell choirs are on summer hiatus but if you are interested in providing an instrumental or vocal offering, please contact Peter Smeallie. We look forward to being treated to ad hoc choir anthems as folks' collective schedules allow.
- Hybrid worship will continue over the summer, and volunteers are needed as usual. If you are interested in helping with this, please take a peek at Sign-Up Genius or contact Kay Gorman.
- This summer, we are inviting folks to share their favorite hymn one Sunday during worship and highlight why it is particularly meaningful to you in a brief reflection. Rev JC indicated at worship on June 7th that there were still a few Sundays available for those who may be interested. Please contact JC or Meghan, as soon as possible, so you don't miss the chance to share your thoughts and insights. This is a unique opportunity to connect with our fellow Warnerites.

If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding worship at Warner, please reach out to Kay Gorman

Christmas In July??

Not to rush the season... but... LOTC would like to pull together a planning committee to ponder over the summer months what activities, including holiday decorating, we may want to plan for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to head up such a group or participate in this effort, please let one of the LotC members know ASAP. We hope to get together later this summer, which will be here before we know it. Get your creative juices flowing!

Fellowship

We are looking forward to a Summer Kick-off Potluck in the Common Room on Sunday 6/28 following the 11 AM worship. Please plan to join us for a tasty lunch and fun conversation.

Fellowship Hour will occur following worship each Sunday provided we have a volunteer(s) to host. Please check Sign-Up Genius on the WMPC website or contact Sue Burns if you are looking for a Sunday to host or help. As this article is being prepared most, if not all, Sundays are still seeking a host. Please consider if you would like to provide a snack in the Common Room. This is a great time to keep it simple and be creative - fresh melon and a cool drink could be just the ticket to a cool and refreshing Fellowship Time! We have been very fortunate to sustain this tradition throughout the summer months. Thanks in advance to all!

Sue Burns will continue to monitor Fellowship Sign-up and rely on Diane Schroeder to reach out, as needed, during the summer to ensure we can maintain this activity throughout the summer.

Claudia Stalker and Chelsea Cook monitor supplies provided for Fellowship Hour so that anyone who chooses to host can be confident paper goods and supplies are readily available and easily located. You can find plates and other materials in the corner closet on the hall side of the Common Room. Thanks to Chelsea for exercising her organizational skills on “Clean-out” day in early May. If you notice any item requiring replenishment, please reach out to Claudia or Chelsea.

Education

Chelsea Cook will keep watch over education offerings at Warner. While Adult Sunday School, Press Pause, and Joy Circle are on summer hiatus, please be pondering any new ideas or suggestions you may have as we approach the Fall season.

Community Outreach

We are still seeking someone to focus primarily on Community Outreach. If you are interested or know of someone who may be, please contact one of the commission members. Until we have someone, the members have agreed to share this focus, but this has been a busy spring, so we have not made a lot of progress.

Please take a moment to appreciate the message on our Church sign acknowledging June as Pride Month.

If you have an idea or suggestion for how we can show our support, even in a small way for our community members, please speak up and let us know.

Please contact Kay, Chelsea, Diane, Claudia, Lora, Peter, or Sue with your ideas, questions, and interest in solidifying plans for the Life of the Church Commission to move forward. We are excited about the work that continues to lie before us and would love to hear from each of you!!

~ Sue Burns

SESSION UPDATE

Session members met in person on Sunday June 7th. In addition to the housekeeping tasks of approving minutes from the May Session meeting and the May 31 congregational/corporation/special session meetings, we learned:

- Rev JC will be attending a Worship Planning Retreat in Connecticut June 29-July 1
- New Commissioned Ruing Elder Dorothe Igo Koula, from Silver Spring Presbyterian Church will join us for several weeks, August 10th - September 20th. She will be preaching two Sundays during her time with us. We look forward to working with her.
- There have been some recent security concerns in the building and steps have been taken to ensure access, via fobs and cameras, is sufficiently monitored to ensure the safety of LCYC students and church staff.
- Progress continues with the Missional Incubator project. There were meetings held /scheduled with the architects and county zoning representatives regarding the Feasibility Study for the plans to create a community gathering space in our building that is consistent with and reflects Warner's mission. The focus and goal are to provide a place for community members to gather, connect, play, and be with one another. JC shared a draft brochure that provided an overview of, "The Upper Room" and we reviewed a draft schematic that showed an interactive "game" space along with bowling alleys on the third floor. It was very exciting and energizing to see this proposal in print. Folks had an opportunity to raise specific questions and concerns regarding the possible uses for the spaces being modified, for example, senior or parent exercise classes, gaming leagues, mahjong, yoga, children's birthday parties, etc.. Having this designated as an "alcohol-free" gathering

space in our community was also highlighted as an important and unique feature.

- Of the various options for using existing funds available to support our Missional Incubator plans, the Session voted to reallocate monies designated in the "Manse Fund" to be moved to "The Upper Room" fund. As we seek to raise approximately \$1.2M for the project, we're grateful to have a running start with ~\$300K in the bank to begin with.
- Over the Summer, ruling elders will be completing some homework. We'll be reading *Holy Disruption: A Manifesto for the Future of Faith Communities* by Amy Butler and Dawn Darwin Weeks.

~ Sue Burns and JC

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is a high-level view of the church’s operating income and expenses compared to the budget, as of April 30, 2026.

	April 2026	YTD 2026	YTD 2026 Budget	% of YTD Budget
Pledge Income	\$20,602	\$119,578	\$75,534	158%
Total Income	\$31,708	\$156,764	\$112,126	140%
Total Expenses	\$32,804	\$145,941	\$141,952	103%
Difference	\$1,095	\$10,822	\$29,823	

Total Assets: \$727,997; Total Liabilities: \$66,488 (AC loan), \$5,402 (borrowed from LCYC).

Per capita income so far: \$1,666. Warner regularly receives less than ½ of the per capita we pay to NCP and PC(USA) each year. Have you paid yours? If so, thank you for your contribution. Warner is responsible for paying \$51.28 per family member for the 2026 per capita.

~ Mark Eakin, Elder and Chair of Administration and Finance Commission



June and July

Carol Andresen
Margaret Carroll
Jen Cope
Tito Fojo
Bill Jackson
Michael Kline
Lora McGlade
Patrick McGlade

Ginny Atwood
Chris Bragg
Peter Brown
Chris Burns
Louisa Cadwallader
Aislinn DeCarlo
Susan Fulton
Jim Gorman
Alex Lee
Rajesh Puri
Chris Robins
Beverly Sceery
Logan Smeallie

WARNER WELCOMING STATEMENT

All people are of sacred worth and God loves everyone without exception. We welcome all people into our worship, fellowship, membership, and leadership. Believers, seekers, and doubters are all welcome at Warner. We are an affirming and supportive spiritual community that celebrates God's infinite love, wisdom, and grace through worship, music, education, mission, and fellowship. Though we are all unique, we are united in loving and praising God and in loving each other. We are committed to communing together in such a way that we give witness to Christ's sacrificial life, redeeming death, and glorious resurrection. Loved and accepted by God, our congregation offers love and acceptance to all.

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Music Director: Peter Smeallie

Musician: Chris Kim

Office Manager: Meghan Harrison

Director, Learning Center for Young Children: Elizabeth
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Technical Director: Peter Brown

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