

# Allison Thorp

The new year, 2023, brings a new Co-Director of Music to First Presbyterian Church Waynesville. Dr. Allison Thorp joins Diane Combs in continuing a rich and diverse music program. Allison currently serves as Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Western Carolina University (WCU).

Allison has an extremely broad musical background, working with churches in Kentucky and New York and collegiate and community groups. She has conducted choirs including singers from Kindergarten to Seniors, and is a perfect fit for our “more seasoned” singers. Allison also served South Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY, so she has experience with “The Frozen Chosen.”

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Music Education, awarded Summa Cum Laude with Honors from West Virginia Wesleyan College; a Masters in Choral Conducting Performance, awarded with Distinction from Marshall University; and a Doctorate in Choral Music Education, with a Certificate in Arts Leadership from Eastman School of Music

Allison lives in Waynesville with her husband, Sean Coughlin, who plays saxophone with the Blue Ridge Big Band, and her 2½ year old son, Aidan. Allison filled in for Joel this past summer and the choir immediately felt comfortable and excited. We are all looking forward to this new collaboration as Allison and Diane continue our wonderful music program and Joel shifts into the choir. How blessed we are!