



WAKE FOREST FOUNDERS DAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2026
4 P.M., WAIT CHAPEL

*Following the service, there will be a reception for the campus community
and guests in the Green Room on the first floor of Reynolda Hall.*

ORGAN PRELUDE:

Sonata III, Opus 65. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Susan Bates, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Music

INVOCATION The Reverend Dr. Chris Donald
University Chaplain

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Susan R. Wentz
President

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:

“Can We Sing the Darkness to Light”. Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)
Wake Forest University Chamber Choir
Chris Gilliam, Director of Choral Activities

INTRODUCTION OF SENIOR ORATION Eric Stottlemeyer
Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Curricula
Senior Advisor: Alessandra Von Burg
Associate Professor, Department of Communication

SENIOR ORATION:

“I’ve Seen Why the Caged Bird Sings” Chase Clark (’26)

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:

“Through Love to Light”. Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Wake Forest University Chamber Choir
Chris Gilliam, Director of Choral Activities

INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO President Wentz

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION OF MERIT President Wentz
2026 Recipients:
Dr. Jay Wayne Meredith (MD ’78)
Accepted by Dr. Craig M. Greven (’83)

Dr. Julie Ann Freischlag

The Medallion of Merit is the highest honor given by Wake Forest and is presented annually for outstanding achievement and distinguished contribution to the University. For a list of past recipients, visit go.wfu.edu/medallionofmerit.

CLOSING REMARKS Reverend Donald

SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

POSTLUDE:

Carillon de Westminster, Opus 54 Louis Vierne (1870-1937)