

“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.
God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

1 John 4:16.

God loves you.

We hear these words so often that they come across more as a simple fact than a beautiful reality that has changed our lives forever. We acknowledge the simple fact that God loves us and move on. Hearing these words is often like hearing that the “sky is blue,” or that “2+2=4.” At least, that is the intellectual experience of hearing these words; the heartfelt experience is quite different.

When we hear the color of the sky or basic arithmetic, our hearts do not draw back – they don’t doubt. In fact, they may even delight in the sky’s hue or the concrete perfection of simple math. However, when our hearts hear of God’s love for us, when we stop and allow those words to touch the deeper parts of ourselves, many of us draw back.

In our hearts of hearts, many of us say: “Sure, the Bible says God loves us, sure Jesus died for us in the ultimate expression of that love, sure Psalm 3 demonstrates how our mere existence is proof of God’s sustaining love for us, and sure all these people I know say that God loves us, and that’s well and good for them – but surely God can’t love me.”

In *Gentle and Lowly*, Dane Ortlund offers a great image of how we misunderstand God’s love for us. We often see ourselves as a slug, and God as a child taking on a dare, reluctantly reaching out to barely touch us. We see ourselves as a repulsion to him, as if his love were a duty that he carries out with a cringing face and an averted gaze. But this is not the God of the Bible. This is a God that makes sense to us: a domesticated God confined to our human notions of love and its limits. In contrast, Scripture says that “God is love” (1 John 4:16).

God’s love is limitless, and no amount of doubt on our part can change that. The astonishing reality of the gospel is that God’s love is not reluctant, but earnest and passionate and overflowing. God’s love is not confined to human notions of reciprocity – he loves us not because of who we are but because of who he is: love! God is love.

The Father’s arms are open to us, and we cannot close them. Jesus beckons us to dine with him, and we cannot stay his hand. The Spirit invited us to walk with him, and we cannot hush his whispers. Nothing we do can change God’s love for us – because we cannot change God. God is love.

God loves you. He really loves you. For real. It’s just who He is.

Douglas Bunting, Duke Intern.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Romans 5:1-8

Sermon Title: *Out Of The Mire*

As we look ahead to Sunday, I encourage you to read the scripture ahead of time as part of your devotional time and preparation for Sunday. One passage of scripture can easily take us in many directions. Use the sermon title to help guide your reflections. Spend time in Lectio Divina with the scripture as part of your daily devotions. There are lots of videos on YouTube on how to participate in Lectio Divina. Here is a meditative video that is instructive to be a resource to you –

Meditative How To - Lectio Divina

Vacation Bible School

ILLUMINATION STATION

Let's Shine a Light on Who *Jesus* Really Is!

June 14-17, 2026

Dinner
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Vacation Bible School
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Enjoy:

- Bible Lessons
- Music
- Crafts
- Fellowship
- Fun for All Ages

All Are Welcome!
Bring a Friend!

"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path."
— Psalm 119:105

Walnut Grove UMC
Hurdle Mills

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found box is located in the hallway between the Pastor's and secretary's offices. It is a green plastic basket on the bottom shelf of the table. If you are missing an item, please check it. If you find an item, please leave it there.

OCIM Update

OCIM's current needs are:

saltine crackers, mayonnaise, cans of chicken noodle soup, mixed vegetables, green peas, and pork-n-beans, jars of pasta sauce (any variety), and apple sauce.

Walnut Grove has donated 916 pounds of food to OCIM since January. Thank you so much for your support of OCIM and our community.

Water Aerobic/Exercise

If you're interested in exercising and like the water, come join our aerobic/exercise class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 beginning this month of June. The class is at my home on Wilkerson Road, a few miles from the church. I offer the class for free. So, if you want to have a fun time and benefit from water movement, give me a call at 919-619-2294.

Linda Reynolds

Summer Camp – OCP Week at Camp Chestnut Ridge

[You can use this link to register:](https://www.ultracamp.com/ClientLogin.aspx?IDCAMP=596&CampCode=CRD)
[campchestnutridgeregistration](https://www.ultracamp.com/ClientLogin.aspx?IDCAMP=596&CampCode=CRD)



**ORANGE
COOPERATIVE
PARISH
WEEK**

@ CAMP CHESNUT RIDGE

JULY 19-24

FAMILIES CAN REGISTER AT THE
ONLINE PORTAL HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.ULTRACAMP.CO
M/CLIENTLOGIN.ASPX?
IDCAMP=596&CAMP CODE=CRD](https://www.ultracamp.com/ClientLogin.aspx?IDCAMP=596&CampCode=CRD)
YOUR \$50 DISCOUNT CODE IS:
OCP. IT CAN BE APPLIED TO
ANY OF THE WEEK 6 CAMPS.



Summer READING



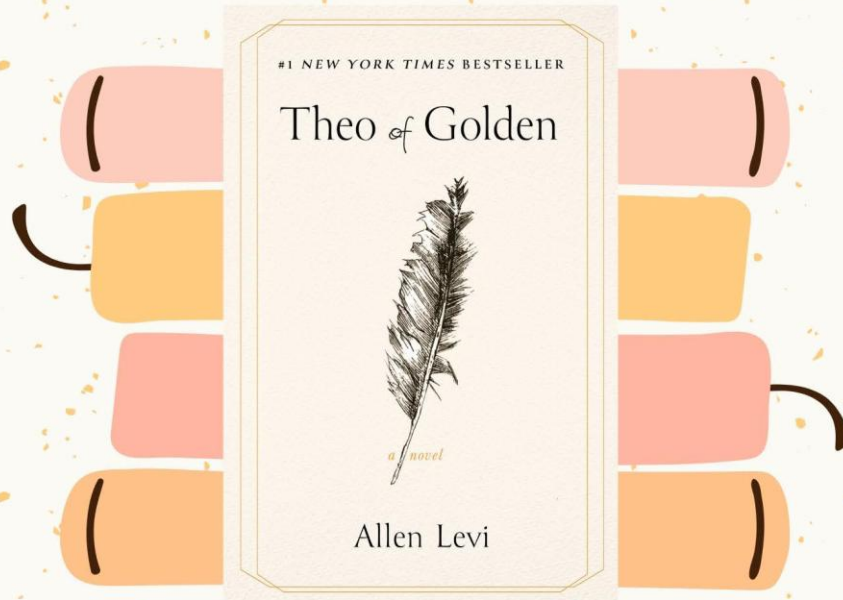
Theo of Golden by by Allen Levi

Meets Sun. Aug. 16 at 4pm

at Eno House -

903 Eno St. Hillsborough

Grab a copy of the book read along and join us for a book discussion in August.



Tithes and Offerings

We now have five ways to give to our ministries. If you would like your offering to be allocated towards a specific ministry, please indicate it in the memo of your check or you will be prompted on the website.

1. Give during our weekly Worship Services.
2. Mail in a check to 7215 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541.
3. Use our church [website](#). Click **GIVE** in the upper right corner.
4. Use our "My Church" mobile app. Click GIVE in the lower right corner.
5. Use our Vanco QR Code, which you can find on the back of the Sunday bulletins or right here in the weekly *In A Nutshell*.

Vanco QR Code

As we continually adapt to the gift of technology, Walnut Grove now has a Vanco QR code provided on the back of the bulletin and in the Nutshell for online giving. Simply hold your phone or tablet's camera over the code for the link to Vanco. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Herbert Cates, recovering from car accident and other health concerns. He is a member of our church family.
- JoAnn Cates with health issues. She is a member of our church family.
- Family of Wayne Berry who recently passed away.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She's the director of Seeds of Faith at Camp Chestnut Ridge.
- John Hougom from Hurdle Mills who is being treated for lung cancer. John is the brother of Sonja Tilley and brother-in-law of Wesley Tilley.
- Rev. Mike Sykes and Pat Sykes with health concerns
- Kathy Matthews recovering from a fall. She is a friend of Kim McColman.
- Gene Parker who has ongoing health concerns and was recently discharged from the hospital. His wife, Kay Parker, is a member of WGIMC.
- Jaxson Bates injured in a traffic accident. He is a friend of Mary Emma Roberts.
- Barb Atz from Hopwood, PA who recently had triple by-pass surgery. She is a friend of Emma Beckham.
- Scott Moore, diagnosed with leukemia. He is the brother-in-law of Emma Beckham.
- Merrill Messick, who is Beverly Huey's father and Mary Dietz, her aunt.
- Sam Woods, who is facing health issues.
- Wayne Dewberry, who is facing surgery after a recent fall.
- Scott Hackler with cancer diagnosis. He is a friend of Jolinda Swiggett.
- Lynwood Lovitte, who is a member of our church family.
- Jessy Privette from Wendell has been diagnosed with cancer. Jesse is the girlfriend of Jeffrey James, who is the son of Anita James and brother of Michael James.
- Rick Johnson with health issues. He is friends with Judy Butler and many other church members.
- David Leonard having complications from surgery. He is the dad of a friend of Faith Parker.
- Leo Brooks Populorum (7 Months old), from Pittsboro, has very serious health issues. Leo is the grandson of John and Judy Guibert who are friends of Beverly Huey.
- Ben Lloyd, Cheryl Humphrey's father, with serious health issues.
- Gilbert Lee in Prince George, VA, who recently had surgery for cancer. He is Richard Lee's father
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

Prayer is powerful and we love praying for one another! If you have a request on the prayer list, we would be grateful for any updates needed. This helps us know how to continue praying and when requests may be removed or celebrated. Please let us know how we can best pray for you and your loved ones.

Birthdays

Saturday 6/13 – Kinsleigh Dillard, Michelle Latta

Monday 6/15 – Louise Shulack

Tuesday 6/16 – Aaron Gross, Adam Huskins, James Sparks, Ashley Reynolds

Wednesday 6/17 – Courtney Humphrey, Lula Daniel, Austin Elliott, Lisa Pope

Thursday 6/18 – Cathy Chapman, Clara Parker, Jenna Read, Bethni Lee

Saturday 6/20 – Phillips B. Sparks

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Kim at the church office at 919-732-5722 or by email at office@walnutgroveumc.org so we can update our records.

STAYING CONNECTED

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

Serving in Worship

June 14th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Magnus Kemnitz

Greeters: Ashley Parker/Mary Emma Roberts

Ushers: Barry & Cheryl L Parker

Scripture: Aubrey Nading

Nursery: Margaret Williams/Lorraine Hines/Kennedy Dunlap

Financial Rep: Emma Beckham

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

June 21st

Acolytes: Russell Whitaker/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Krystal Robinson/Beverly Huey

Ushers: Mike Roberts/Mary Emma Roberts

Scripture: Rick Huey

Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cheryl L Parker/Michael Roberts

Financial Rep: Ashley James

Trustee Open/Close: Dan Bledsoe

Mowing Schedule

June 13 - Barry Walker

June 20 - Phil Hines

June 27- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

NOTE: If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify Kim of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 14	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Sun-Wed, June 14-17	5:15 - 6:00pm Dinner 6:00 – 7:30pm - Vacation Bible School
Wednesday, June 17	7:30pm Worship Band and Worship Choir
Sunday, June 21	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Sun-Fri, June 21-26	Children @ Lake Junaluska
Tues-Fri, June 23-26	Youth @ Breakaway
Tuesday, June 23	7:00pm Methodist Men
Fri-Sat., June 26-27	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, June 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Monday, June 29	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting

See You Sunday!!