

Some Bible trivia: What is the first command given to humans in Scripture? Take a moment to lock in an answer in your mind.

You most likely thought of Genesis 1:28, where God tells humans to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...” This is correct – but only partially, as Scripture does not call this statement a command. It is an imperative (a fancy grammar term for a word that tells someone to do something), but it is not called a command in the Bible’s vocabulary. It’s actually a blessing. The verse starts with: “God blessed them, and God said to them...” This “command” is the filled-in details of a blessing, a gift that God is giving to humanity. This imperative is less of an order and more of an invitation to participate in something wonderful. The next most likely spot you thought of is the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 2:17. Again, this is partially correct. The first command given to humans is actually a combined set of two commands, and this prohibition is the second part of that set. Alas, it is not the first command itself.

The first command given to humans in Scripture is in Genesis 2:16, and it’s a bit unusual: “The LORD God commanded the man, ‘you may freely eat of every tree of the garden...” Immediately after this, in 2:17, we get the “do not” half of the two-command set. That prohibition sticks in our minds because it better fits our English conception of a command. We don’t generally think of giving someone permission to enjoy something as a command – but that’s what the Bible calls God’s statement that we may “freely eat of every tree of the garden.”

Congratulations to those who got it right, and for the majority who did not, please don’t fret! The very nature of the English language was working against you.

So, what was the point of all that? Well, part of the point is that trivia is fun! But the more important point is that the first command God gives us is to “eat of every tree of the garden.” Think about that for a moment. God commands us to enjoy his blessings and abundance – and not as an afterthought – but as the first command he gives us.

This is strange to us: in our normal human existence, commands are about obligation: they are begrudging, unenjoyable, a chore. They’re about some boss yelling at us to “DO THIS!” or “DON’T DO THAT!” and if you ask why, you either get a look or a “because I told you so.” God’s commands are different.

God’s commands are a blessing, not a burden. They are designed to help us enjoy His wondrous creation and generosity. This is reflected in His first command - an invitation to enjoy the life God has given us, and a demonstration of God’s care for our experience of life. Yes, Christians are called to suffering for His sake – but we are also called to cherish and experience life’s blessings.

So, take a nap. Go pray alone in a pretty, quiet spot. Look at a bird for a while. Do what Jesus did: eat of every tree of the Father’s creation.

~Douglas Bunting, Duke Intern

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Genesis 22:1-14

Sermon Title: *Handing Over My Life*

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

Summer Arts Camp For Kids



Walnut Grove UMC
July 27-30th
9am - 12pm

**SUMMER
ARTS
CAMP**

K-5TH
GRADE

\$20 PER CHILD

Scan to register or email office@walnutgroveumc.org

The poster features a central title 'SUMMER ARTS CAMP' in large, bold, black, hand-drawn letters. To the left, a hand holds a red and purple marker. To the right, a hand holds a paintbrush with red paint. Below the title, a hand holds a red pencil. A QR code is located at the bottom center. The background is a light beige color with a black border. The text 'Walnut Grove UMC', 'July 27-30th', and '9am - 12pm' is in the top right. 'K-5TH GRADE' and '\$20 PER CHILD' are in red, hand-drawn text on the right side. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'Scan to register or email office@walnutgroveumc.org'.

OCIM Update

VBS had 59 lbs. of food and other items donated and WGUMC had 152 lbs. Total donations so far for 2026 is 1520.5 lbs. Thank you for all the contributions.

OCIM's current needs:

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.

As you can see from the pictures, the shelves are very low. On Monday (June 15th), Jimmy and Brenda purchased 181 lbs. of food using OCIM donated money. Thank you so much for your support of OCIM and our community.



A Peals For Peace

Starting Monday, July 6, at 6PM, our church bells will ring for 15 minutes in solidarity with other places of faith throughout the country with a movement in solidarity with the NC Council of Churches to share a message of peace for our world. This message of peace speaks to the need for peace in our world, in our community and state, in our homes, and in our lives. Each first Monday of the month at 6 PM until September will be a time to pause, listen, and pray. Then starting Monday, September 7, bells will ring weekly on Monday evenings until November 2nd. In a world often scarred by violence, division, and suffering, God calls us to be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). May God bring healing through this A Peals for Peace.



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.
- 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.
- 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.

Quilt

Ann Timmons from Durham, who is recovering from back surgery. Ann is a friend of Madora Davis.

(The prayer quilt will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer before or after the service.)

Birthdays

Saturday 6/27 – Jennifer Griffin Davis

Monday 6/29 – Eleanor Whitaker

Tuesday 6/30 – Jeanne Crabtree, Daniel Todd III, Bill Atkins

Wednesday 7/1 – Cindy Anderson

Thursday 7/2 – Lauren Welch Birch, Kitty Hawkins

Friday 7/3 – Ricky Creech, Ron Gerbracht

Saturday 7/4 – Ty Clayton, Austin Dillard, Jamie Freeland, Renna Baker, Jeff Houck

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 28th

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Scott and Cheryl Humphrey

Ushers: Courtney Humphrey/Toni Shaw

Scripture: Courtney Humphrey

Nursery: Sharyn Gates/Krystal Robinson/Aubrey Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

Financial Rep: Ashley James

July 5th

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Kinsleigh Dillard

Greeters: Barry & Cheryl L Parker

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Brenda Berry

Nursery: Krystal Robinson/Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

Communion Servers: Scott & Cheryl Humphrey

Mowing Schedule

June 27- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

July 4- Chris Boling

July 11- Scott Humphrey

July 18 - Jimmy Berry

July 25 - Bruce Richardson

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

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
Wednesday, July 1	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY
Sunday, July 5	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Tuesday, July 7	7:00pm Methodist Men
Sunday, July 12	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Monday, July 13	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting
Tuesday, July 14	7:00pm Building Committee meeting
Wednesday, July 15	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, July 19	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Mon-Fri, July 20-24	Local Missions Week for Youth
Tuesday, July 21	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, July 22	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., July 24-25	Youth Yard Sale
Sunday, July 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Mon-Thurs, July 27-30	9am-12pm Summer Arts Camp for Kids
Wednesday, July 29	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., July 31-Aug 1	Walnut Grove Crafters



See You Sunday!!