

The Beginning of Wisdom

"Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them"

(Psalm 111:2)

Psalm 111 invites us to contemplate God with gratitude and wonder. This psalm is structured as an alphabetical acrostic in Hebrew: its praise goes from A to Z. That suggests a complete, total praise that embraces the whole of life. This makes sense, because this song is really a hymn of praise to God for the works God has done in the history of God's people. It invites us to see the works, the traces, the signs of God in our own history as evidence of divine faithfulness. It is an invitation to find meaning in our present by recognizing God's hand at work in our past.

Many times, however, it is difficult for us to recognize the works of God. Perhaps it is because we expect supernatural acts, the kind we think belong properly to divinity. Perhaps it is because we have specific expectations about what we want to receive. Yet the eyes of faith see things differently: life itself is a gift. What we have, what we are, our privileges, much of all this is something received, something we never asked for but into which we have been "thrown." While some prefer to see life as the result of their own effort, or as the arena in which everything must be conquered, to understand life as a free gift, as the place where Another greater than ourselves has been at work, keeps us from acting however we please. We are not owners, but stewards. That is precisely the difference between seeing things without faith and seeing them with it.

It is perhaps for this reason that, in a move that is difficult to explain at first glance, our psalm ends unexpectedly: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice his commandments have good understanding" (v. 10). The fear of God is the opposite of lordship; it invites us into a reverent prudence toward what has not been created by our own hands. In practical terms, the attitude is very similar to when we visit a friend's house: before moving a piece of furniture, walking into a room, or taking an object, we ask, we seek permission, precisely because it is not our house. In existential terms, this is what the fear of God means: to recognize that all that exists is sacred and that we cannot dispose of things according to our whims and interests. Such is the beginning, that is, the foundation, of wisdom!

Blessings,

Alejandro Rivas, Duke intern

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Psalm 119:1-8; Ephesians 4:11-16

Sermon Title: Formed By Jesus Christ

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

Methodist Women's Update

It's been a joy and blessing to share together in our recent women's Permission to Pause Retreat and last Monday for our women's follow up gathering. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, ideas, and dreams for the future. We are in the works of planning new things. Details will be coming soon! Stay tuned - Pastor Laura

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. You may also access the link on our website for convenient giving. Alternatively, cash or check contributions continue to be accepted through our tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Angela Lloyd from Efland, NC who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Angela is the wife of Craig Lloyd and is the sister-in-law of Cheryl Humphrey.
- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, particularly JoAnn at this time, but both have health issues. They are members of our church family.
- Lynwood Lovitte, who is a member of our church family.
- Jean Mangum with health issues. She is a member of our church family.
- Jay Mangum with serious health issues. He is Jean Mangum's son.
- Jeanne Crabtree health issues resulting from a fall. She is a member of our church family.
- Katherine (Kitty) Robinson Hawkins from Hurdle Mills who is having health issues, she has been released from the hospital. She is the wife of Lathan Hawkins and friend of Judy Parker.
- 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.
- Carolyn White to whom we gave a prayer quilt is in need of prayer because of complications due to extended chemotherapy treatments.
- Rick Johnson with health issues. He is friends with Judy Butler and many other church members.
- Locklynn Gribble, preemie in NICU. Locklynn's grandmother is a friend of Judy Butler.
- Paul Beck, with health issues. He is a member of Walnut Grove UMC.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She's the director of Seeds of Faith at Camp Chestnut Ridge.
- David Leonard having complications from surgery. He is the dad of a friend of Faith Parker.
- Timmy Parker with serious health issues. He is Barry Parker's brother
- Worth Miller with serious health issues. He is a friend and neighbor of Jimmy and Brenda Berry.
- Neil Donnelly with health issues.
- Helen Miller with serious health issues. She is the aunt of Pat Beck's brother-in-law.
- 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
- Jerry Forrester, bilateral lung cancer
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker
- Debbie Langdale diagnosed with stage 5 kidney disease, waiting for transplant. Friend of John and Brooke Sherron
- Kelly Schoch, with brain cancer. She is co-worker of Erica Nading
- 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.

Quilts and Military Square

Angela Lloyd from Efland, NC who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Angela is the wife of Craig Lloyd and is the sister-in-law of Cheryl Humphrey.

Patricia Deese from Timberlake, NC who is having health issues. Patricia is the sister of Mille Blalock, wife of Tommy Blalock.

Sargent Nicholas Pardo from Suisun, California stationed at Fort Bragg with the 82nd Airborne who will be deployed to Iran soon. Cari Humphrey requested this military square for him.

(The prayer quilts and the military square 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

Friday 4/10 – Johnny Overcash, Bibiana Parker

Monday 4/13 – Meghan Berry, Joyce Roberts, Jeff Smith

Tuesday 4/14 – Ashley Blankenship

Wednesday 4/15 – Debra Snipes, Carla Snipes

Thursday 4/16 – Casey Robinson

Friday 4/17 – Daniel Overcash, Daniel Rath

Saturday 4/18 – Emily Oakley, Steven Prentice

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

April 12th

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Callie Smith

Greeters: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Scripture: Cheryl L Parker

Nursery: Debby Donnelly/Lorraine Hines/Kennedy Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Dan Bledsoe

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

April 19th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Russell Whitaker

Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Ushers: Margaret Anne Dow/Grace Dunlap

Scripture: Mike Roberts

Nursery: Margaret Williams/Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

Mowing Schedule

April 11- Phil Hines

April 18- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

April 25 - Chris Boling

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

Upcoming Happenings

Sunday, April 12	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 3:00pm SPRC meeting
Monday, April 13	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, April 14	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, April 15	7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, April 19	8:30am Potluck Breakfast for interns' last day 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Wed., April 22	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., April 24-25	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, April 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 3:00pm SPRC meeting 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Tuesday, April 28	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wed., April 29	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!