

Growing in Unity, Not Discord

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"

— Psalm 133:1 (NRSV)

Unity does not mean that everyone thinks alike, agrees on everything, or sees every situation from the same perspective. Unity means that, even when we have differences, we choose to love one another more than we choose to prove ourselves right.

Discord can begin with something very small - a misunderstanding, a hurt feeling, a disagreement, or words spoken without thinking. If we allow those things to grow, they can create distance between people who were never meant to be divided. What begins as a small crack can eventually become a wall.

God calls us to something better.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:3 to be *"making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* Unity sometimes requires effort. It requires patience when we'd rather respond, grace when we'd rather hold a grudge, and humility when we'd rather have the last word.

Sometimes growing in unity means asking ourselves, *Am I trying to bring people together, or am I adding to the division? Am I listening to understand, or listening only to respond? Are my words helping heal, or are they giving discord room to grow?*

We will not always agree with one another. But we can disagree without becoming divided. We can speak truth without being unkind. We can forgive without keeping a record of what was done. And we can choose peace even when our feelings tell us otherwise.

Jesus prayed for His followers, *"that they all may be one"* (John 17:21). If unity mattered enough for Jesus to pray for it, it should matter enough for us to work toward it.

Let us be people who build bridges instead of walls, who encourage instead of criticize, who forgive instead of keeping score, and who look for ways to bring people together rather than reasons to pull them apart.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to be instruments of unity and peace. Guard our hearts from bitterness, pride, and unforgiveness. Help us to think before we speak and to choose words that bring healing rather than division. Give us humility to admit when we are wrong, grace to forgive when we have been hurt, and wisdom to know when to remain silent. Help us remember that we are one body in Christ. May our words, actions, and attitudes bring people closer together rather than create discord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon Title: *Consecrated Love*

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

August 30th -- 5th Sunday Fun

OCIM Challenge

Sunday, August 30 is our next 5th Sunday OCIM Challenge. Please help us to help our community with this very worthy cause.

Doughnuts/Coffee

Join us at 9:00am for Breakfast provided by Titus II Women's class and then at 9:30am in the fellowship hall for one combined Sunday School class for a fun time of learning together.

5th Sunday SongFest

At the 10:30am Worship Service, we will have our 5th Sunday SongFest with songs requested by you! The song request sheets are on the music stand outside the choir room or you may contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317 or leighmcfalls@gmail.com to help you find the song you need.

**Thank you for all you do for
Walnut Grove UMC and
OCIM.**



Harvest Festival News

We had our first meeting last month. It was a small group, but we accomplished a lot.

It was discussed to order more T-shirts. The T-shirt sale was very successful last year. We will have the "Best Stew Ever" T Shirts again. Short Sleeve and long sleeve. She is already working getting information on prices, sizes-shirts again etc. We will have preorders and we will also order extra shirts. All proceeds go to support our youth activities.

Cook days have been scheduled. Our men will gather this Friday evening to check out burners and clean pots. Chicken will be cooked on Saturday August 29th. All are invited to join in the fun. We need at least 40 to help with the chicken. If you are wanting to help with chicken cut up please arrive at 8 am with your favorite knife and cutting board. Beef and Pork will be cooked on September 19th at 8 am. Potatoes, onions, and kitchen prep on October 16th. Please mark your calendars.

Brenda and Luann have begun the ordering process for all the products that are needed. This includes, meats, spices, paper goods, etc. We are so happy that Bill Cole has agreed to cook BBQ for us again this year!

We had a very successful advertising campaign last year. Stephanie heads this up and Kara Roberts will be joining her this year. She has done a great job with labels for the stew, flyers, signs and contacting local newspapers and social media. As you can see there is a lot to be done. If you have an idea for advertising, please let her know.

One of our best advertisements is you. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It takes a lot of hands and voices to make our Harvest Festival successful.

Have you thought about your auction item yet. We need a lot of items for a successful auction. I know we have very talented people at Walnut Grove. Please share your talents with us. I always look forward to seeing what everyone brings in. Don't forget about our This and That table. This is for smaller crafted items. Patty Maseth and Tina Brooks are heading this up. Let them know if you have any questions.

Pat Beck, 919-812-8737

T-Shirt Order link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenUDg3v1-iB6EQOMIx6OdOsMx0CdtfdkcHspAd9m0_2_5A/viewform

HARVEST FESTIVAL

T-Shirt Orders



Show your support!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT our Walnut Grove UMC youth! 



SHORT SLEEVE

- Youth sizes - Adult: Small - XL \$15.00
- 2XL-3XL \$20.00



LONG SLEEVE

- Youth sizes - Adult: Small - XL \$20.00
- 2XL-3XL \$25.00



ORDER DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 6



PAY IN ADVANCE IS preferred OR AT PICKUP.

Make checks payable to **Walnut Grove UMC** with HF tshirts in the memo line.

Cash is Accepted!



GIVE ORDER AND MONEY TO:

- Pat
- Stephanie
- Church Office



Sunday Night Gatherings

It will be time to start back Sunday night fall activities before you know it! I created a survey to help us plan accordingly. Please take a few minutes to fill it out. If you have questions or comments, let me know! -Pastor Laura

Survey for Sunday Night Bible Study

Save The Date – Charge Conference -- Sunday, October 11!

Charge Conference is Sunday, October 11th at 3:00pm. Walnut Grove UMC will be hosting this year. This is open to all members of the church! Please join us as we continue to grow together in Christ!

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.





Walnut Grove
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Women's Gathering



Thursday, September 10, 2026

Hygiene Kits for UMCOR ♡



You have your choice of times
to participate:

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

We will have light snacks and a great time to fellowship with each other as we assemble hygiene kits for UMCOR. Materials for kits and snacks will be provided.

OUR GOAL IS
60 KITS!



SERVING
OTHERS



SHARING
GOD'S LOVE



MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



nccumc.org/disaster/kits/hygiene/

Greetings,



Calling all Youth, Women & Men!
September 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Now is the time to help with Walnut Grove UMC's 2026 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. as we ramp up our Shoebox Project for 2026. Calling all Youth, Women & Men! If you're interested in becoming more familiar with the shoebox packing process, please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall that evening. Please RSVP to Jeanne Crabtree at jeanne.crabtree630@gmail.com OR text/call (919) 302-6924.

If you are unable to participate during this evening, we can certainly use all donations (whether monetary to cover shipping of the shoeboxes) or donations for items to be included in the shoeboxes. Items that are needed are: No. 2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, index cards, chunky erasers, small notepads and coloring books (that will lay flat in a shoebox), kid's socks, kid's undies, bandanas, playing cards, dominos, slinkys, yo-yos, kid's flipflops, combs, brushes, wash cloths, small stuffed animals, hair bows and ribbons.

The black Operation Christmas Child Collection Box will be placed in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to donate any items, please leave them in the Collection Box before Sept 1st.

If you have questions and/or would like to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project, please contact us.

Jeanne Crabtree & Kimberly Gilbert
Co-Chairs

Pull Tabs For Ronald McDonald House

I am collecting **ALL PULL TABS** (drinks, cat food, vegetables/fruit cans-etc.), for the Ronald McDonald house. A collection bag is hung on the fellowship hall bulletin board, with their explanation of the purpose. Thanks for contributing.

~Carol Gerbracht



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

- Lou Rutledge surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- Tom Rutledge, in the hospital with serious health issues. He is a member of our church family.
- Jean Mangum, recovering from a fall. She is a member of our church family.
- Rodney Overcash who is having health issues. He is Jolinda Overcash Swiggett's brother.
- Pat Beck, recovering from surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- 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. Pat Sykes and Rev. Mike 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.
- Scott Hackler with cancer diagnosis. He is a friend of Jolinda Swiggett.
- Linwood 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.

- 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.

Quilts

Tom Rutledge from Hillsborough who is recovering from a fall. He is the husband of Lou Rutledge and father of Erin Dillard and Eddie Rutledge.

Wanda Autry from Charlotte, NC who is having knee surgery. She is the mother of Rev. Laura Dunlap, mother-in-law of Rev. Judson Dunlap, and grandmother of Grace and Kennedy Dunlap.

(The prayer quilts 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 8/29 – David Blalock

Monday 8/31 – Wyatt James, Strickland Wade Davis

Tuesday 9/1 – Robby Dow

Thursday 9/3 – Kimberly Long, Kirk Metcalf

Saturday 9/5 – Sylvia Overby

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

August 30th

Acolytes: Kinsleigh Dillard/Magnus Kemnitz

Greeters: Shirley Clayton/Grace Dunlap

Ushers: Courtney Humphrey/Grayson Nading

Scripture: Cheryl L Parker

Nursery: Judy Butler/Cathy Boling/Aubrey Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Gary Spake

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

September 6th

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Corbin Smith
Greeters: Debby Donnelly/Kennedy Dunlap
Ushers: Grace Dunlap/Toni Shaw
Scripture: Lorraine Parker
Nursery: Judy Butler/Mary Emma Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Michael James
Communion Servers: Barry & Cheryl L Parker
Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

Mowing Schedule

August 29 - Phil Hines

September 5- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

September 19 - Scott Humphrey

September 12 - Chris Boling

September 26 - Jimmy Berry

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, August 30	9:00am Breakfast provided by Titus II Women's class 9:30am Sunday School Opening/Student recognition Joint Sunday School Adults 10:30am Worship Service - 5th Sunday SongFest 11:45am Worship Committee meeting 3:00pm 6:00pm Youth Pool Party
Monday, August 31	6:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00pm Covenant Council meeting
Wed., September 2	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, September 6	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Wed., September 9	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, September 10	10:00am-12:00pm Women's Gathering – Hygiene kits 7:00-8:00pm Women's Gathering – Hygiene kits

Sunday, September 13	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church Grandparents & Games – 5:30-6:00pm Dinner 6:00-7:00pm Games
Monday, September 14	6:00-8:00pm Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project
Wed, September 16	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, September 19	8:00am-noon Harvest Festival beef/pork cook day
Sunday, September 20	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Finance Committee meeting 3:00pm SPRC meeting 5:30pm Youth gathering
Tuesday, September 22	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting
Wed, September 23	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., September 25-26	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, September 27	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church Stewardship UMF following church service United Methodist Foundation (Dinner & presentation)
Wed, September 30	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!