

Look at Birds

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life... Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matt 6:25-26)

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matt. 6:28-29)

God's creation is beautiful. We must be careful not to just affirm that and move on: Jesus invites us to look at nature. To think about it. To meditate on it. *"Consider the lilies of the field,"* he says. So, let's look at the birds.

There's the aesthetic beauty of nature – that's obvious, of course, but that obviousness makes it all the more easy to miss! Think about the most beautiful thing you've ever seen: maybe it was a sunset, or a field of flowers, or a bird feeding its young, or the moon reflecting on the sea on a dark, starry night. Whatever the scene, picture it clearly in your mind: isn't it wonderful? Isn't it inspiring? Doesn't it move you in a way that no man-made thing ever could? God made that, and he chose to make it gorgeous.

Not only is nature beautiful to our senses, but it also allows us to live. There's a beauty in a bird feeding its young, not just in the cuteness of the little birds, but also in the sustaining of their little lives. God could have been satisfied with making a pretty world, but he decided to make it vibrant as well, teeming with life.

Jesus takes things a step further. He understood the beauty of creation; not just in its aesthetic appeal or its life-giving properties, but in its meaning. Jesus saw wisdom in creation; he saw God's character in it. When he saw the birds and the flowers, he saw God's generosity. He saw God's love. Not just his love for nature, but his love for us. Every tree and squirrel and blade of grass is an opportunity to meditate on the beauty of nature and its creator.

This is the rationale behind a teaching of Jesus that many find impossible or irrational: "Do not be anxious about your life..." We may quietly doubt these words: "With all its worries and tragedies, what sort of naive fool isn't anxious about life?" Jesus, apparently. The man of sorrows was not anxious: often grieved and heartbroken, but not anxious. He saw God's sustaining love everywhere, even in the garden of Gethsemane, and he invites us to see it too.

So, look at birds.

Because Jesus said so.

And because birds are amazing! (And they're amazing because God is amazing)

- Douglas Bunting, Duke Intern.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Matthew 14:23-33

Sermon Title: *Walking with Jesus*

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.

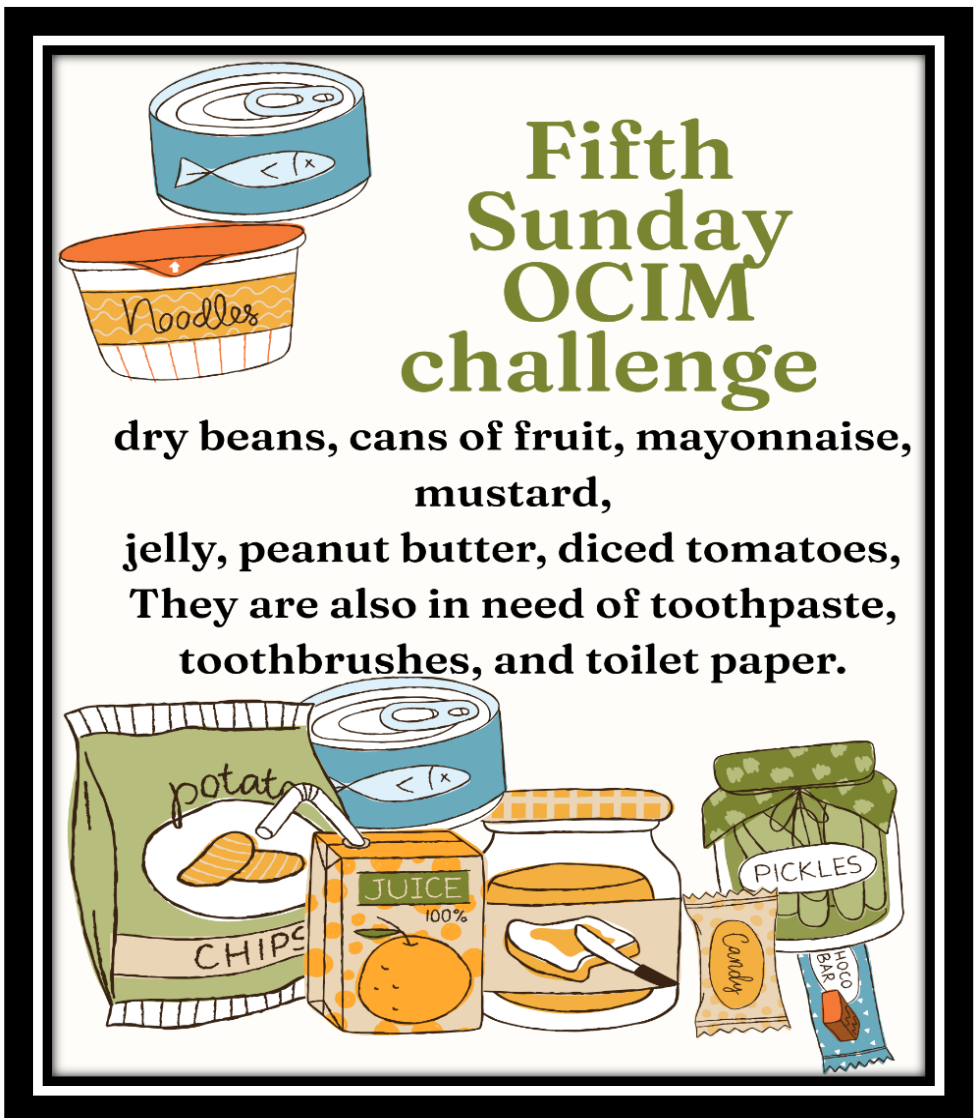
Doughnuts/Coffee

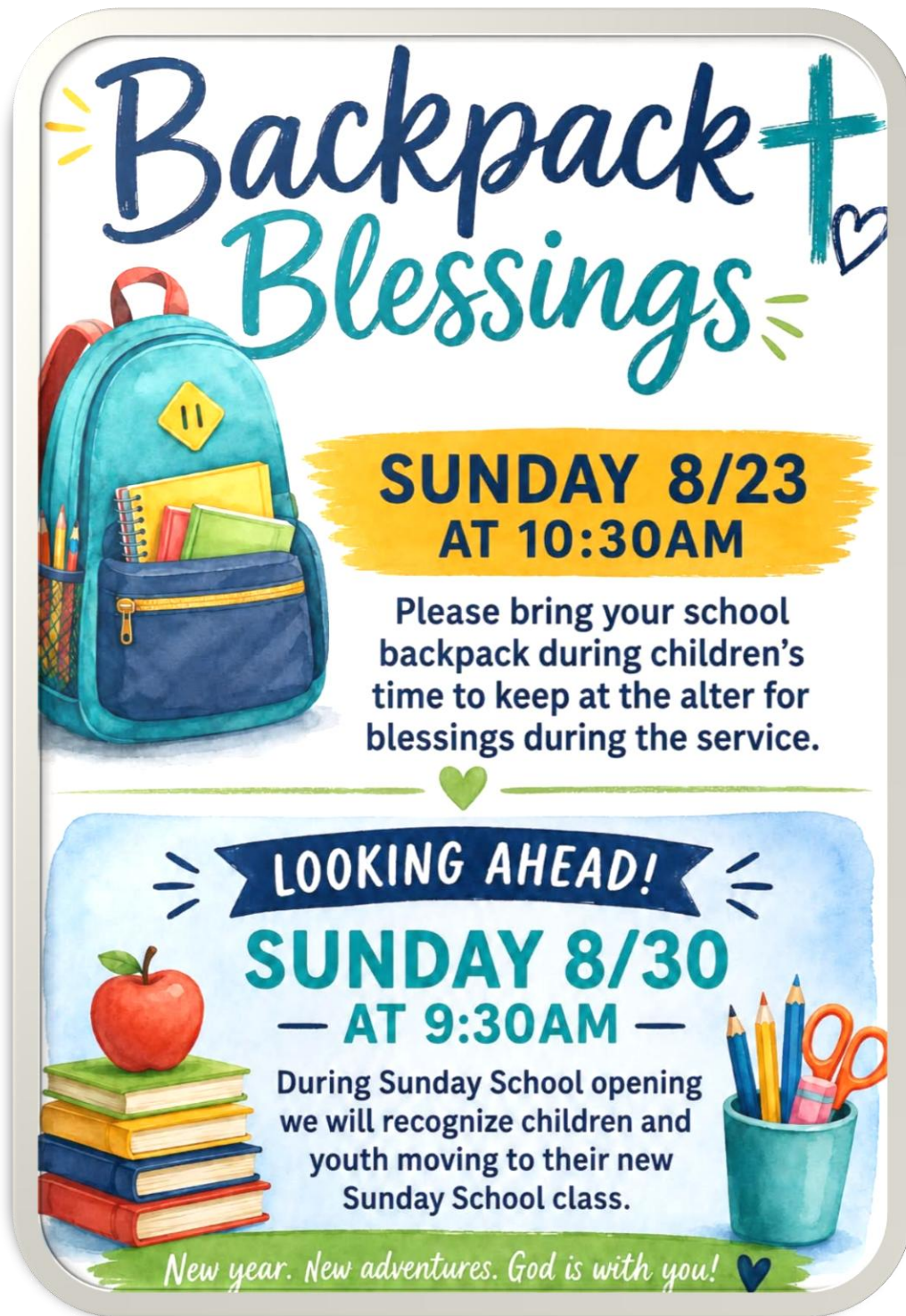
Join us at 9:00am for Doughnuts/Coffee provided by the Methodist Men and then at 9:30am in the fellowship hall for one combined Sunday School class for a fun time of learning together.

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.**





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!

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



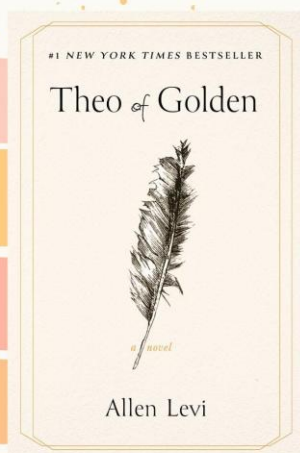
Summer READING



Theo of Golden 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.



Annual Mother-Child Retreat

REGISTER!

[HTTPS://WWW.ULTRACAMP.COM/INFO/SESSIONDETAIL.ASPX?](https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?IDCAMP=623&CAMPCODE=DLC&IDSESSION=583286)

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SEPTEMBER
11TH-13TH

THE NORTH CAROLINA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS HOSTING A MOTHER/CHILD RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP DON LEE! THIS WEEKEND IS FULL OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! THERE WILL BE FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS GEARED TOWARD YOU AND YOUR CHILD. CAMP PROGRAMMING WILL INCLUDE SAILING, CANOEING, ARCHERY, CRAFTS, AND OF COURSE S'MORES!

DATE: SEPT 11-13

ARRIVAL - 5:30PM FRIDAY (PLEASE EAT DINNER BEFORE ARRIVAL)

DEPARTURE - 10AM SUNDAY (AFTER BREAKFAST AND WORSHIP)

FEES: \$132 FOR ADULTS OVER 18, \$100 FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH 6-17.



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

- 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.
- Carol Gerbracht, 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.
- Wayne Dewberry, who is facing surgery after a recent fall.
- 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.

Send A Card

Roger McFalls (Recovering from broken arm), 429 Jericho Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Quilt

Douglas Bunting, Duke Intern, prayers for much success in his continued studies and serving others.

(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

Friday 8/7 – Nicholas Hengsterman

Sunday 8/9 – M.J. Bumgarner

Monday 8/10 – Luke Taylor

Wednesday 8/12 – Melissa White, Clayton Robinson

Thursday 8/13 – Mike Bordeaux, Kara Campbell, Kathy Keough, Bill Lee, Jr.

Saturday 8/15 – Debra Todd, Cynthia Gibbs

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 9th

Acolytes: Gracie Hall/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Ushers: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Scripture: Mary Emma Roberts

Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cheryl L Parker/Michael Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

August 16th

Acolytes: Corbin Smith/Ellen Johnson

Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Scripture: Ashley Parker

Nursery: Faith Parker/Krystal Robinson

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

Financial Rep: Tyler Smith

Mowing Schedule

August 8 - Mike Parker

August 15 - Clay Parker

August 22 - Barry Walker

August 29 - Phil Hines

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 9	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Wednesday, August 12	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, August 16	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Finance Committee meeting 3:00pm SPRC meeting
Monday, August 17	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting
Wednesday, August 19	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., August 21-22	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, August 23	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service Back to School Sunday (bring your backpacks) 10:45am Children's Church
Wednesday, August 26	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday., August 29	8:00am–noon Harvest Festival chicken cook day
Sunday, August 30	9:00am Doughnuts/Coffee for everyone!! (provided by Methodist Men) 9:30am Sunday School Opening/Student recognition Joint Sunday School Adults 10:30am Worship Service - 5th Sunday SongFest Time TBD Youth pool party/celebration

See You Sunday!!