

In a Nutshell September 11, 2026

To Be a Blessing

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ~ Genesis 12: 1-3

Blessed to be a blessing.

Blessed: I think of a person standing with their arms out in front of them and God filling their arms with the products of a harvest – long sheaves of grain and carrots with the tops still on and winding vines of tomatoes and every other good thing, pouring down and overflowing until knee-deep.

Blessed to be a blessing: that same person, the blessed one, giving overflowing armfuls of food to the hungry, readily meeting all their needs and then some, sending everyone away joyful.

What's interesting about this picture is that the "blessed" person is filled up and happy but the blessing stays put. No one else is affected. The "to be a blessing" person is improving the lives and lessening the load of everyone around them, as well as being filled themselves.

It makes me think of spiritual gifts. *Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (~ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)*

For the common good. We are given gifts not to hold them and watch them pile up but to share them with everyone we can.

With what have you been blessed, and in what way can you share those blessings with the fellow children of God on this beautiful earth with you?

~ Lindy Thompson

Pray

God, help us to be grateful and generous. Amen.

~Shared by Leigh McFalls

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Genesis 50:15-21

Sermon Title: *The Shape of Forgiveness*

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

Harvest Festival News

Thank you to everyone who participated in the chicken cook day on Saturday. A few of our men came Friday evening to get out a couple of pots and burners to get them prepared for the main event on Saturday. Chicken cooking, cutting/shredding, weighing and freezing moved along in record time and we finished before noon. Beef and pork cook day is scheduled for September 19th beginning at 8am.

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.

Pat Beck, 919-812-8737

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!

OCIM Update

Thank you for your generosity and support for the Food Pantry at OCIM (Orange Congregations in Missions). On August 31 and on September 8 our church donated 213 pounds and 111 pounds of food. Our total for the year is 2583 pounds of food since January.

There is still a need for canned fruits, apple sauce, pork & beans, canned potatoes, jars of spaghetti sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise, and personal items such as shampoo and dishwashing soap.

Once again thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry of Orange Congregations in Missions (OCIM).

~Brenda and Jimmy Berry

Legacy Building Sunday

Spread the word! Sunday, September 27, we will celebrate Legacy Building Sunday with Rev. Lynn Benson, Director of Legacy Giving at the NC United Methodist Foundation preaching in Sunday worship and offering a free estate/wills workshop following church. Free lunch and childcare will be provided.

To learn more valuable reasons
to have a will, please join us as the
United Methodist Foundation leads an

ESTATE/WILLS

Workshop

While knowing your state's laws is key,
you don't have to be an expert to write your will.

Rev. Lynn B. Benson, Director of Legacy Giving from
your United Methodist Foundation, will lead this
workshop as you begin to craft your wishes into
a legal document. A local estate planning attorney
and CPA will be included in the Q&A panel
discussion during the workshop.

WHEN:
Sunday, September 27
11:45-1:10 PM

WHERE:
Walnut Grove UMC
7215 Walnut Grove Church Rd
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

COST:
FREE

WHAT:
A light meal and
beverages will be offered

REGISTRATION:

Please register by contacting the church
office by **Thursday, September 25, at 11 AM.**

Email the church office at
office@walnutgroveumc.com

Sign up on the bulletin board
in the fellowship hall

Call the church office at
(919) 732-5722

 THE UNITED METHODIST
FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CAROLINA

For more information, please contact
office@walnutgroveumc.com.



We need your support!

Ways to help with 2026 Operation Christmas Child project at Walnut Grove UMC:

- 1) Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall. We need help with assembling shoeboxes, etc. RSVP to Jeanne Crabtree at Jeanne.crabtree630@gmail.com.
- 2) Donations of: No. 2 pencils, colorful pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, playing cards, calculators, dominos, jack rocks, wash cloths, band aids, fingernail clippers, combs, brushes, socks for ages 2-4 & 5-9 children, small stuffed animals and dolls. These items can be left in black tote in Fellowship Hall. If ordered on Amazon, can be shipped directly to Jeanne Crabtree, 2316 Hawkins Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541.
- 3) Donations in church earmarked for "OCC – shipping expenses for shoeboxes".
- 4) If you are interested in joining our group to volunteer at the Boone Processing Center, please e-mail Jeanne Crabtree at Jeanne.crabtree630@gmail.com Details to follow!

Jeanne Crabtree & Kimberly Gilbert

NCCUMC Corridor
District Book Study

Building Beloved Community
NCCUMC CORRIDOR DISTRICT
BOOK STUDY

***Building Beloved Community:
The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny***
by The United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Find a Group Near You

Durham - Wednesdays at 12pm at Epworth UMC
Orange - Thursdays at 6:30pm Eno House Hillsborough
Alamance - Sundays 3:00pm FUMC Graham
Online - Mondays at 6:30pm

[HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/1W31Q](https://shorturl.at/1w31q)



A vibrant poster for a kids' event. The background is dark blue with colorful stars and confetti. At the top, a bowling pin and a purple bowling ball are on the left, and a slice of pepperoni pizza is on the right. The text 'WALNUT GROVE' is in white, 'KIDS' is in large, colorful letters (green, blue, orange, purple), and '(K-5TH GRADE)' is in white on a pink banner. Below that, 'NIGHT OUT!' is in large white letters. A banner below reads 'BOWLING & PIZZA' in green and yellow, with 'AT PALACE POINTE' in blue below it. A yellow banner with a blue bowling ball icon on the left and a yellow star on the right contains the date and time: 'SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20' and '5:30 - 7:00 PM'. Below this, a white box with a blue border contains three items: a clock icon with 'PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 5:15 to leave shortly after.', a car icon with 'We will leave Palace Pointe by 7:00 and will be in contact regarding arrival time back to Walnut Grove.', and a people icon with 'Parents are welcome to attend, but not required.' To the right of this box is an illustration of bowling pins and a red bowling ball. At the bottom, a green box contains a speech bubble icon with 'Let Stephanie know if your child(ren) will be attending! 919-812-8901' and a green starburst icon with 'We do ask for a \$10.00 donation to help cover cost.'

WALNUT GROVE
KIDS
(K-5TH GRADE)
NIGHT OUT!
BOWLING & PIZZA
AT PALACE POINTE

 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
5:30 - 7:00 PM 

 PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH AT **5:15**
to leave shortly after.

 We will leave Palace Pointe by 7:00 and will be in
contact regarding arrival time back to Walnut Grove.

 Parents are welcome to attend,
but not required.



 Let Stephanie know if your
child(ren) will be attending!
919-812-8901

We do ask for a
\$10.00
donation to
help cover cost. 

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

PULL TOGETHER

COLLECT POP TABS FOR SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN
www.RMHCTriangle.org

Pull Together!
Collect pop tabs to support seriously ill children and their families!

WHAT?
Collect the tabs from aluminum beverage or food cans in any container, such as a two-liter drink bottle or milk jug. RMHC can also provide a special branded sticker to help you promote the program. When full, deliver your container to one of our Ronald McDonald Houses. Any time or place in any American Legion Post in NC by recycling. Easy!

WHY?
Families of sick and injured children are not charged to stay at Ronald McDonald Houses. However, the actual cost to host a family for one night is about \$500. The pop-tab recycling program is one way friends generate much-needed revenue to help cover these expenses to support families.

WHO?
Anyone can collect pop tabs! It's a great way for schools, clubs, groups, churches, and companies to get involved.

Fun Facts

Ping-Pong Can	1/3 lb	5,300 tabs
2 liter bottle	1.75 lb	2,800 tabs
Gallon milk jug	3 lbs	4,900 tabs
Coop quarter ton	24 lbs	38,400 tabs
34 gallon trash can	20 lbs	32,000 tabs

One million tabs laid end-to-end would measure 25 miles!

Drop off:

Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill
301 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Ronald McDonald House of Durham
506 Alexander Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Triangle
Contact Cathy@RMHCTriangle.org or Mike@RMHCTriangle.org, or visit RMHCTriangle.org to learn more!

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. 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
- 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 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

Betsy Parker (Thinking of You), 3535 Laws Store Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Emily Phenice (sympathy in the passing of her grandfather), 2748 Campus Walk Ave., Apt 14D, Durham, NC 27705-3750. Emily is a former and soon-to-be returning Duke Intern

Jean Mangum (Thinking of You), Croasdaile Village, 2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy, Room 220, Durham, NC 27705

Quilts

Tommy Manibusan from Inman, South Carolina who has stage 4 lung cancer. Tommy is a friend of Cheryl and Clay Parker.

Georgia Ashley from Saxapahaw, NC who is having health issues. Georgia is a friend of Emma Beckham.

(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.)

From The Mailbox

I really loved the quilt and want to thank both the quilters and the congregation for the quilt wrapped in prayers. And also, a huge thanks for all the cards with well-wishes and prayers. It has meant a great deal! Thinking of all of you!

~Tom Rutledge

Birthdays

Saturday 9/12 – Jeannie Burton

Sunday 9/13 – Donnie Davis, Mary Emma Roberts, Judson Dunlap, Zachary Durham

Monday 9/14 – Chris Boling, Jan Clayton, Tucker Dillard, Sydney Cole

Tuesday 9/15 – LuAnne Bledsoe, Mike Roberts

Wednesday 9/16 – Gloria Jean Coffey

Saturday 9/19 – Lynne Cecil, Matthew Dean, Tiffany Riley, Avery Robinson

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

September 13th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Gracie Hall
Greeters: Margaret Anne Dow/Beverly Huey
Ushers: Kennedy Dunlap/Krystal Robinson
Scripture: Mike Roberts
Nursery: Debby Donnelly/Grace Dunlap
Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth
Financial Rep: Emma Beckham

September 20th

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Callie Smith
Greeters: Scott & Cheryl Humphrey
Ushers: Mary Emma Roberts/Stacey Spake
Scripture: Toni Shaw
Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Courtney Humphrey
Trustee Open/Close: Daniel Johnson
Financial Rep: Ashley James

Mowing Schedule

September 12 - Chris Boling	September 19 - Scott Humphrey
September 26 - Jimmy Berry	October 3 - Bruce Richardson
October 10 - Todd Harris	October 17 - Mike Parker
October 24 - Clay Parker	October 31 - Barry Walker

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, September 13	9:30am Sunday School
	10:30am Worship Service
	10:45am Children's Church
	4:00pm Youth packing party (Operation Christmas Child)
	5:30-6:00pm Dinner - Grandparents & Games
	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 5:15pm Kids Night Out (leave church at 5:30pm) 5:30pm Youth gathering
Monday, September 21	7:00pm Covenant Council meeting
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 Legacy Building Sunday following church service United Methodist Foundation (Lunch & presentation)
Wed, September 30	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!