

*"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Blessed is the king of Israel!"*

— John 12:13

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, a moment filled with celebration, expectation, and deep irony. Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a war horse, but on a humble donkey. The crowds gather, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna," a word that means "save us." They are longing for a king, a deliverer, someone who will change their circumstances.

But the kind of King Jesus is—and the kind of salvation He brings—is not what they expected.

The people wanted power. Jesus brought peace.

They wanted political victory. Jesus brought spiritual freedom.

They wanted immediate rescue. Jesus brought eternal redemption.

It's easy to look back and wonder how the same crowd that shouted "Hosanna" could later cry "Crucify Him." But if we're honest, we often do the same. We celebrate Jesus when He meets our expectations, but we struggle when He moves in ways we don't understand.

Palm Sunday invites us to examine our own hearts. Are we welcoming Jesus for who He truly is, or only for what we hope He will do for us?

Jesus still comes to us today, gently, humbly, and faithfully. He comes into our busy lives, our worries, our hopes, and even our disappointments. He does not force His way in; He invites us to receive Him as King.

And when we do, we discover that His way, though unexpected, is always better.

Where in your life are you expecting Jesus to act a certain way?

Are you open to the kind of peace and salvation He actually offers?

What would it look like to fully welcome Him as King today?

## **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,

As we remember Your entry into Jerusalem, help us to see You clearly—not as we want You to be, but as You truly are. Teach us to trust Your ways, even when they differ from our expectations. We welcome You as King of our hearts. Bring Your peace, Your grace, and Your salvation into every part of our lives.

Hosanna—save us, Lord.

Amen.

## **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship**

Scripture for Sunday: Zechariah 9:9-10, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon Title: The Unexpected Messiah

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

### **2026 Mowing Schedule**

Spring has sprung and the grass is beginning to grow! If you are interested in signing up to mow the church yard, please contact Cheryl Humphrey at [cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com](mailto:cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com) or text 919-730-9365 by 3/31/26 please. I apologize for the short notice- time slipped up on me this year!

We usually have enough volunteers that you only have to mow twice. The cemetery and old parsonage yard are mowed professionally so this is just for the areas around the church and fellowship hall. We will begin the last weekend of March and mow weekly through the first weekend of November. You will need to provide your own mower, weed eater and blower, if used. Thanks for helping to keep our beloved Walnut Grove beautiful!

### **Music Ministry Update**

#### **Hallelujah Kids**

The children will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am worship service.

#### **Worship Choir**

The adults and youth will be presenting the mini-musical, "Easter...Marvelous Love" on Easter Sunday, April 5th at the 10:30am worship service. This is a short program of musical reflections on the Resurrection. In addition to the Wednesday night practice time of 7:30pm, we will also meet Sunday afternoon at 6:00pm. For more information, contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317 or

[leighmcfalls@gmail.com](mailto:leighmcfalls@gmail.com)

## OCIM Update

Current needs are pinto beans, pork-n-beans, green peas and corn. **Don't forget to bring in canned goods for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.**

## Upcoming Easter Events

### Palm Sunday - March 29th

During the 10:30am worship service, we will celebrate Palm Sunday while we sing and wave our palm leaves. The Hallelujah Kids will add to the morning excitement as they process into the sanctuary waving palms and offer a special song. Come, receive your blessing and be a part of the throng!

### Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your friends and family and join us at 11:45am, on March 29th following our worship service for an Easter celebration and egg hunt!

We will be collecting stuffed eggs (stuffed with candy, small toys or prizes) in the fellowship hall in marked tubs. There are also unfilled plastic eggs you may take to fill up. Please have them back at church by Sunday morning, March 29.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please reach out to Ashley Parker 919.475.5211

### Good Friday Service

On Good Friday (April 3rd) we will share at Mediterranean potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15pm. We will worship together at 7:00pm.

### Easter Sunday

Sunday morning (April 5th) at 6:45am, we will worship outside with our sunrise service followed by our Easter breakfast together. There will be no Sunday School classes. At 10:30am we will be blessed by the joy of Easter Hallelujahs with our wonderful Easter Cantata led by our gifted director, Leigh McFalls, and our choir.

### Easter Monday

The Monday after Easter (April 6th), the church office will be closed.

## 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

- Family of Neil Donnelly in the passing of his son Greg Donnelly.
- 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.
- John Facklam from Charlotte, who is in hospice. Prayers for Tish Nowack, her mother, and sister as they await Mr. Facklam's transition. He is the father of Tish Nowack, one of our Walnut Grove Crafters
- 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.**

### **From The Mailbox**

Dear Brenda Berry & Members of Walnut Grove Prayers and Squares ministry,  
 Scott received his prayer quilt at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas today. He has it on his bed, and we've already added prayers knots. Thank you so much for your kindness and prayers. We are so grateful for your sharing of your talents and ministry.

With great fondness and appreciation,

Scott Moore,

Jeannie Beckham

### **Birthdays**

Friday 3/27 – Jack Holleman, Candace Young, Jacob Powell Machtolff

Sunday 3/29 –Abbie Rath, Kaylee Markle, Gabriel Parker

Monday 3/30 – Sharyn Gates

Wednesday 4/1 – Emma Beneville

Tuesday 4/2 – Mackenzie Claire Perkins

Friday 4/3 – Sharon Addison, Karen Read, Lany Freeland

Saturday 4/4 – Dale Smithson, Kim McColman

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](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org) so we can update our records.

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

### **Serving in Worship**

#### **March 29th**

Acolytes: Max Kemnitz/Ellen Johnson

Greeters: Krystal Robinson/Mary Emma Roberts

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Kara Roberts

Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Grace Dunlap

Financial Rep: Lou Rutledge

Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth

## **April 5th**

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Samantha Johnson

Greeters: Stacey Spake/Pat Beck

Ushers: Jenny Blalock/Pat Beck

Nursery: Pam Kimrey/Judy Butler

Communion Servers: Fred & Erica Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Daniel Johnson

Financial Rep: Tyler Smith

**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**

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|-----------------------|---|
| Fri-Sat., March 27-28 | Walnut Grove Crafters   |
| Sunday, March 29      | 9:30am Sunday School<br>10:30am Palm Sunday Service<br>11:45am Easter Egg Hunt<br>6:00pm - 7:00pm Worship Choir (Easter)                                    |
| Tuesday, March 31     | 7:00pm Methodist Men  |
| Wednesday, April 1    | 7:00pm Worship Choir  |
| Friday, April 3       | 6:15pm Mediterranean Potluck Dinner<br>7:00pm Good Friday Service   |
| Saturday, April 4     | 9:30am Worship Choir Final Rehearsal  |
| Sunday, April 5       | 6:45am Sunrise Service<br>Fellowship Breakfast to follow<br>No Sunday School<br>10:30am Easter Service  |
| Monday, April 6       | Easter Monday – Church office will be closed  |
| Sunday, April 12      | 9:30am Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship Service<br>10:45am Children's Church<br>3:00pm SPRC meeting<br>3:00-7:00pm Youth Service Day at Camp Chestnut Ridge |
| Monday, April 13      | 6:30pm Covenant Council meeting   |
| Tuesday, April 14     | 7:00pm Methodist Men  |

Wednesday, April 15	6:30pm Worship Band 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!!