

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

This week in class, one of my professors asked a guest lecturer, "What is the one thing you didn't learn in seminary?" She responded, "Seminary didn't teach me how to suffer." I almost laughed. To me, seminary certainly felt like suffering sometimes! Endless reading, countless papers due, and what about finals season? That certainly felt like suffering!

But she spoke of a much deeper suffering, one that ministers, and all Christians, experience because of the sin that has stained God's perfect world. Illness, broken relationships, death, this is the type of suffering she meant.

Lent, in many ways, is a time of suffering. We remember that we are dust and to dust we will return. We repent of sin that affects our lives. We sacrifice certain pleasures like caffeine or Netflix (which always feels harder than it should!).

Paul certainly knew the meaning of true suffering. As Pastor Judson reminded us on Ash Wednesday, Paul suffered beatings, imprisonment, slander and eventually death all for the sake of Christ. Yet Paul still writes in 2 Corinthians that his sufferings are nothing compared to the eternal glory that awaits us. I need this reminder daily, especially when the suffering and pain of the world seems too much to bear. May this Lent season be a time to reflect on suffering and give thanks for God's glorious light that comes on Easter morning.

~Lauren W. Birch

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sunday Nights Return in Two Days

We need you! Help fix a meal or serve as a leader of Kids Krew one night during our return to Sunday Night Fun! We need all hands on deck to make our Sunday nights work well. Go in with some friends, a class, a committee- we need servants' hearts! Thank you for signing up to help! We start back Feb. 18th and go to March 17th! Don't miss out!

For Volunteering for Kids Krew- Lessons will be provided

[Kids Krew](#)

For Meals

[Meals for Sunday Nights](#)

Music Ministry Update

Hallelujah Kids – Sundays at 6:00pm

Calling all young singers from K to 5th grade! We will start back THIS Sunday (2/28) with some short practices at the beginning of KidsKrew at 6:00pm. This lively group will be singing on Palm Sunday during the 10:30am worship service. You won't want to miss it!

Easter Music – Sundays at 4:30pm

Sunday afternoon practices will start THIS week (2/18) at 4:30pm for our Easter musical, "Is He Worthy". Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Come and join us in celebrating the Risen Lord through worship and song.

Lake Junaluska

We still have space to attend Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska Assembly near Waynesville, NC. Children (rising 4th graders and up), youth and adults are eligible to attend. We will leave on Sunday, June 23rd, and return on Friday, June 28th.

For more information contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317.

The Church Needs YOU!

Do you have an interest in serving within the church? We would love to have you! The nursery needs volunteers to watch children during the 10:30 service, Sunday Nights Together (6:00pm when in session) and at various times during church events.

We also need volunteers during worship to greet, usher, read scripture and serve communion. To sign up or if you have questions, let the church office or Stephanie Smith know. Once signed up, Stephanie will give you a quick tutorial.

2024 Mowing Schedule

We are in the deep freeze of winter at this writing, but soon Spring will arrive and the grass will begin to grow! If you are interested in signing up to mow the church yard, please contact Cheryl Humphrey at cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com or text 919-730-9365 by 3/15/24. The cemetery and old parsonage yard are mowed professionally so this is just the areas around the church and fellowship hall. We begin the first weekend of April and mow weekly through the last weekend in October. You will need to provide your own mower, weed eater and blower, if used. Thanks for helping to keep our beloved Walnut Grove beautiful!

Faith Formation at Camp Chestnut Ridge

We all long to nurture our children in the faith and see them deepen in their walk with Jesus Christ. Every Monday night starting on Feb. 12th, there will be a gathering with a free meal, fellowship, and faith formation for your family or a family you might want to invite nearby. Families are asked to commit from February until the end of the school year on Monday nights for this gathering at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and reach out to Meg Hoffman at meg@campchestnutridge.org if you have questions.

For more information, check out: <https://www.campchestnutridge.org/seedsofffaith> for details.

Prayers

You are invited to join us on this journey of prayer in 2024 as we strengthen our prayer lives together each and every day. We know the power of prayer in our lives and in our world. God continues to heal, perform miracles, and offer grace and mercy in unexpected ways. We give thanks for the ways the Holy Spirit moves among us. We'll have a new list each month with prayer prompts for us each to grow in our intercessory prayers and broaden our circles to those we might not consider in our daily prayers. Use this list, pass it on, and let it guide you closer to others and to God in 2024!

February Prayers

- 
- Feb. 1st- Widows/ Widowers
 - Feb. 2nd- Survivors of War
 - Feb. 3rd – Our Children Doing Mission Work for OCIM
 - Feb. 4th- Nourishment for our souls with Holy Communion
 - Feb. 5th- Deepen in our faith
 - Feb. 6th- For God to open our eyes
 - Feb. 7th – For God to open our ears
 - Feb. 8th- For God to open our hearts
 - Feb. 9th- For the work of our Trustees Committee
 - Feb. 10th- For Our Valentine's Dinner
 - Feb. 11th- For our SPRC
 - Feb. 12th- For our Fellowship Committee
 - Feb. 13th – For our Worship Committee
 - Feb. 14th- For God to renew a right spirit within us as we enter Lent (Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM)
 - Feb. 15th- For Missions Committee
 - Feb. 16th- For Our Music Director
 - Feb. 17th- For Our Organist
 - Feb. 18th – Survivors of Domestic Abuse
 - Feb. 19th – School Principals and Vice-Principals
 - Feb. 20th – Those working in sweat shops around the world
 - Feb. 21st- Repent of our greed and consumeristic tendencies
 - Feb. 22nd- Our quilters
 - Feb. 23- Those receiving quilts
 - Feb. 24th- Sabbath rest
 - Feb. 25th- our children
 - Feb. 26th- caregivers
 - Feb. 27th- those without reliable transportation
 - Feb. 28th- Our police officers

Free Boxes

If you need boxes for any reason, please feel free to stop by the modular and take as many as you want. This picture is one of many stacks of boxes.



Tithes and Offerings

We have four 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 online giving app "Vanco Mobile".

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Ben Lloyd – health issues. Cheryl Humphrey's dad.
- Betty Sue Hyder (surgery on Friday, February 16th), Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
- Wahome Mwangi - serious condition
- Bob Atz who has bladder cancer/lymphoma. Friend of Emma Beckham
- Debbie Smith who recently had back surgery. She is Tyler Smith's mom
- Herring Family (Linda and husband Dortch), Dortch has been in Duke Hospital for several weeks with dementia while they try to find him a permanent facility to go to. Dortch is Jane Sparks' brother-in-law.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

From the Mailbox

To Walnut Grove UMC and the Prayers & Squares Ministry,
I cannot tell you how thankful I am for your prayers. The birds, butterflies and flowers on the quilt are some of my favorite things. I pray that God will bless the Walnut Grove Prayer Quilt Ministry as it has blessed me. Thank you for the kindness you have shown,
~Betty Sue Hyder

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 2/16 – Elaine Berry
Monday 2/19 – Josh Horton, Megan Quigley, Malynne Roemmich
Tuesday 2/20 – Stacey Glenn, Holli Penland, Tommy Roberts
Thursday 2/22 – Herbert Cates, Anne Campbell
Friday 2/23 – Lori Freeland, Lynne Hall, Carmen Trembley
Saturday 2/24 – Genna Taylor

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](#)

[Sign UpHere! For Online Sign-Up](#)

Serving in Worship

February 18th

Acolytes: Gracie Hall/Isaac Conway
Greeters: Cathy & Chris Boling
Ushers: Mary Emma Roberts/Patty Maseth
Nursery: Judy Butler/Ashley Parker
Scripture: Mike Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Laura Dunlap
PM Nursery: Leigh McFalls/Cheryl L Parker

February 25th

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Max Kemnitz
Greeters: Lorraine & Phil Hines
Ushers: Stephanie & Tyler Smith
Nursery: Debby Donnelly/Mary Beth Elliott
Scripture: Emma Beckham
Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton
PM Nursery: Leigh McFalls/Laurie Rogers

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.

Sunday, March 10	<p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS (SPRING FORWARD)</p> <p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:45am Children's Church</p> <p>4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)</p> <p>5:30pm Dinner</p> <p>6:00-7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery</p>
Wednesday, March 13	<p>Mary Martha Busy Ladies</p> <p>7:00pm Worship Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)</p>
Sunday, March 17	<p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service</p> <p>4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)</p> <p>5:30pm Dinner</p> <p>6:00-7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery</p>
Wednesday, March 20	<p>6:30pm Worship Band</p> <p>7:00pm Worship Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)</p>
Friday-Sat., March 22-23	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, March 24	<p>9:30am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:45am Children's Church</p> <p>4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)</p> <p>4:30pm Easter Egg Hunt w/dinner to follow for everyone</p>
Monday, March 25	7:00pm Covenant Council meeting
Wednesday, March 27	7:00pm Worship Choir (Easter)
Thursday, March 28	6:30pm Maundy Thursday Meal & Service
Saturday, March 30	9:30am Worship Choir final rehearsal

Sunday, March 31

7:00am Sunrise Service w/breakfast to follow for everyone

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Easter Worship Service

The Worship Choir presents the cantata, "Is He Worthy"

See You Sunday!!