

I remember growing up, my dad brought home a laser pointer from work to play with our calico cat, Prissy. Prissy had two names in good southern fashion. She was also known as Milagro, which means miracle in Spanish, as she was an answer to a prayer from my sister who wanted a cat for her birthday. My parents promise she just showed up and was not purchased at the nearby pet store.

Prissy loved a laser pointer and to get a ball and bring it back to us. Yes, she was a cat and still loved to play fetch. I remember watching her jump after that light, dance a little merengue almost, if we timed it right. We had fun and Prissy got exercise instead of being on the hunt for the latest lizard outdoors, the little tiger that she was.

Focusing on the light was a game for the cat. Focusing on the light of Christ, we think, is not a game. Maybe we have been taught to take our faith seriously, no laughing at church, straighten up, God is watching! We may have to unlearn this habit of thinking faith is devoid of joy, of seeing others as curmudgeons. We might even equate light heartedness as a sign of immaturity or naivety. What if we saw the light of Christ as joy, pure joy, a joy that makes us want to dance and laugh? What if our lives mirrored a light that didn't distract from God's goodness but enhanced the joy in our hearts? This joy we have is grounded in a depth that we know as good news of resurrection, celebrating a mini-Easter each and every Sunday

Resurrection will be found this weekend with tired and weary youth and youth leaders gathering for Pilgrimage. This conference weekend event brings together thousands of youth from across our United Methodist connection in the NC Conference. I'm not going this year but I am vowing and asking you to commit to pray for our youth and our youth leaders by name. Keep daily in your prayers this weekend our wonderful adult leaders Kara Roberts and our Duke Intern, Lauren Birch. Pray for their guidance and wisdom as we give thanks for their willingness to take our youth on this trip. Our youth going this year covet your prayers. In the midst of their excitement, pray for our youth by name. Pray the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts and minds as they experience the goodness and joy our Lord gives us.

The auditorium where they gather will be dark for the most part, with a movie theater time light. In the midst of the atmosphere and excitement, may God be their perpetual light as they delight in God's light, learn, and grow to share God's light. I'm excited to hear about the journey they will have as together they go to seek and be guided by God's perfect light, Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for worship on the 19th. Our youth are going to share some testimonies of their time together from Pilgrimage too! Blessings to our youth and youth leaders!

~Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Rise Against Hunger



*Scan to
register
and
donate!*



*Help us package
20,000 meals
to fight global hunger!*



Hosted by Orange Cooperative Parish churches

***Sunday, November 12th
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM***

@ Pleasant Green UMC

3005 Pleasant Green Rd. Durham, NC 27705

You have been invited to join a meal packaging experience with Orange Cooperative Parish churches - Cedar Grove UMC, Hillsborough UMC, Pleasant Green UMC, Union Grove UMC, & Walnut Grove UMC - in the movement to end hunger.

Orange Cooperative Parish churches are giving thanks by coming together in partnership with Rise Against Hunger in the fight to End Hunger. Rise Against Hunger meals are distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training and respond to crises. Be sure to register through the link below for this fun, kid-friendly, high-impact event!

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/pgumc>

Harvest Festival 2023

We're planning a follow up meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and record specifics, talk about what areas we could improve upon and what worked well, plus make some notes while it's mostly fresh on our minds.

I want to thank you all for everything you did to make this years' Harvest Festival the success that it was. I appreciate all of you.

If you can't make the meeting but have something to offer, feel free to submit it to someone who's coming, or me! Everyone is invited!

Cheryl S. Parker
HF Team 23
919-451-0321

Music Ministry Update

How about getting to sing some Christmas music in November? The Worship Choir (adults) will rehearse at 4:30pm each Sunday for our annual Christmas presentation. This year's music is titled, "The Celebration of Christmas" and includes a mix of hymns, contemporary songs, and narration to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 10:30am worship service. If you would like to get in on a short-term commitment, this is for you! (Of course, you're welcome to join us on Sunday mornings too.)

The Hallelujah Kids (K through 5th grade) will rehearse at 6:00pm each Sunday (during the KidsKrew time) for their annual Christmas presentation. Their music is titled, "Sleepover at the Stable" and includes songs and a play about the animals in the stable the night Jesus was born. It will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 24th at the 10:30am worship service. Also, if you have a 3 or 4 year old who would like to take part, let Leigh know.

For more information, contact Leigh McFalls at leighmcfalls@gmail.com or 919-818-3317.

Charge Conference News

Mark your calendar for November 29th from 7:30-8:30 for our annual charge conference! We will be hosting it this year at Walnut Grove UMC with our sister church, Pleasant Green UMC, also having their charge conference at Walnut Grove. Hope to see you there!

Local School Needs at Pathways Elementary

Winter Clothing (all sizes)
Smaller boys' /girls' shoes
Water Bottles
Individually Wrapped Snacks
Individually Wrapped Candy

Thank you for helping those in need in our community. You can drop these items off at church and we will get them to the school!

Food Pantry Needs

Good Morning! In talking with Kim at the Food Pantry yesterday, the pantry is indeed of the following items:

- a. Personal care products such as toothbrushes, bars of bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant,
- b. Canned fruits, vegetables, and mayonnaise

For the month of October, Walnut Grove donated 156.4 pounds. Any items that we can gather together will be greatly appreciated. Thank you,
Brenda Berry

Cedar Grove UMC's Harvest Festival

If you still have the Harvest Festival love and/or want to support our sister church down the road, mark your calendar for Cedar Grove UMC's upcoming Harvest Festival. Who doesn't enjoy a little taste of Thanksgiving earlier in the month?



Lunch With Lauren

Consider taking our intern this year out to lunch after church. Lauren can learn more about the ministries and life of Walnut Grove through your sharing stories and food together. You can sign up on one of the available Sundays by clicking the link below. Thank you for supporting all that she is doing for the church and her call to ministry.

[Meal Time with Lauren](#)

Sunday Night Gatherings

We are approaching our final Sunday Night Gatherings in 2023. We need your help! We have a couple of empty spots for meals and plenty of opportunities to serve in 2024. Please consider signing up to help us finish this year well and start 2024 with grateful hearts.

[Link to Sign Up for Sunday Night Meals](#)

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

- Family of Allen Tidwell who passed away
- Beth Roberts, who was recently in a bad car accident. She is the daughter of Billie Roberts
- Families of Jenny Fritz. Friend of Heidi Gerbracht
- Billy Addison from Erwin, NC who has been diagnosed with mouth cancer. Cheryl Humphrey is asking for prayers for Billy.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Send A Card

Joyce Brown (Thinking of you) in the passing of her brother-in-law and taking care of her sister, 2143 Homestead Hills Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Jamie Freeland (Thinking of You), PO Box 896, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Bill Cole (Thinking of You), 1704 Hawkins Road, Hurdle Hills, NC 27541

Quilts

1. Lilly Virginia from Boone, NC who is recovering from recent surgery. Lilly is the great niece of Jeanne and Donnie Crabtree.
2. Robert Cecil from Chapel Hill who is having cancer treatments. He is a friend of Barry Parker.
3. Deidre Ellenton from Haw River who is having serious health issues. Mother of Billy Pendergraph who is a neighbor of Jimmy and Brenda Berry.

(The prayer quilts will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over the quilts before and after the service.)

From The Mailbox

Stevie and I would just like to say thank you to the Walnut Grove Family for the very special quilt. We love it and appreciate the hands that made it with love. We love you all and are so grateful for your thoughts and prayers.

Stevie and Jenny James.

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 11/10 – Austin Glenn, Cameron Pope, David Markle

Sunday 11/12 – Ashley James

Monday 11/13 – Carter Holleman, Rick Lockamy, Gail Smith

Tuesday 11/14 – Linda Sheppard

Wednesday 11/15 – Cheryl L. Parker

Thursday 11/16 – Sheila Crawford, Debby Oakley Donnelly, Ann Patten

Friday 11/17 – Scott Clayton, Paige Hanson

Saturday 11/18 – Ann Richardson

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

November 12th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Isabella Conway

Greeters: Grace Dunlap/Margaret Anne Dow

Ushers: Jenny Blalock/Mike Roberts

Nursery: Dale Smithson/Katie Whitaker

Scripture: Mike Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Jacob Blankenship

PM Nursery: Mandy Kemnitz/Cheryl L. Parker

November 19th

Acolytes: Max Kemnitz/Michael Roberts

Greeters: Lorraine & Phil Hines

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Scripture Reader: Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

PM Nursery: Laurie Rogers/Ashley Parker

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

Friday-Sunday, Nov 10-12 Pilgrimage

Sunday, November 12

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

10:45am Children's Church

4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir

5:30pm Dinner

6:00pm KidsKrew, Bible Study, Nursery – (No Youth)

Monday, November 13	7:00pm Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, November 14	7:00pm Harvest Festival Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 15	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, November 19	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery



Thursday, November 23	
Sunday, November 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir 5:30pm Hallelujah Kids Play Practice
Wednesday, Nov. 29	6:00pm Worship Band 6:30pm Worship Choir 7:30 – 8:30pm Charge Conference

See You Sunday!!