

There was a Walgreen's electronic sign that was photographed saying underneath the red and white logo sign on its marquee- "Easter 75% off." This was referring to the marshmallow peeps and chocolate bunnies then on sale after Easter Sunday no doubt. Easter, like Christmas, may seem like it is over after the day. Good news- it is NOT!

We are on this journey to Easter and Eastertide. This Holy Week, we'll celebrate Maundy Thursday and join together with two meals. We will share a Mediterranean potluck meal in our Fellowship Hall at 6:30. We will worship together at 7:15 with Holy Eucharist and a time of worship with word and table together. As we remember the last supper and the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, we worship this week with moments of prayerful silence, contemplation, and a longing to grow closer to Christ in our faith.

Sunday morning at 7 AM, we will worship outside with our sunrise service followed by our Easter breakfast together. We'll have Sunday school as usual followed by the joy of Easter Hallelujahs with our wonderful Easter Cantata led by our gifted director, Leigh McFalls, and our choir.

The Monday after Easter, the church office will be closed. Then we begin another season focused on the resurrection with fifty days of Eastertide. We'll have a sermon series for four weeks called "Cast Off" as we cast off our tendencies to distance our lives from God.

Beloved, the veil will be torn, the whole earth will tremble, and we will encounter our crucified and risen Savior this week as He was nailed to the cross, died a sinner's death though he was blameless, and anticipate the good news of the empty tomb.

Meditate on the words of scripture and on this poem from the poet, Malcom Guite, who shares these words in a poem entitled *Easter 2020: A New Poem*:

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands

To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that *corona* which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

~ Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Easter Sunday, March 31st

The Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00am with breakfast to follow. At 9:30am we will have Sunday School. Then we will worship God with a celebration of resurrection at 10:30am Sunday morning as the Worship Choir presents the Easter cantata, "Is He Worthy?" Come and celebrate the Risen Lord!

Flowering of the Cross

Sunday we are celebrating Jesus' resurrection by placing live flowers on the cross. This is sometimes called "Flowering of the Cross". During the first congregational hymns, you are invited to come forward, take a flower from the basket, and place it on the cross. As a congregation, we will transform a barren cross into an Easter symbol of new life.

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, April 1st (and this is not an April fool)

Mary Martha Busy Ladies

Thanks so much to all who were able to help with the senior meals this week. The people we delivered meals to were so grateful and we had lots of compliments on how good the food was. Thanks to those who cooked apples and made potato salad at Iris' house (and thank you, Iris, for loaning your kitchen). We appreciate the desserts and those that came to deliver and to those that cleaned up afterwards.

Mary Martha Busy Ladies will meet on Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30 a.m. for a devotion and short meeting. At 11:00am we will leave for Bennett Pointe Grill, 4625 Hillsborough Road in Durham for lunch. Please make your own carpooling arrangements if you'd like to ride with other people.

Evangelism Workshop

Calling one, calling all to a workshop on Evangelism from 4-5 PM on Sunday, April 14th, in the church fellowship hall. This workshop is open to all who would like to learn more about relational evangelism. It will be led by our Duke intern, Lauren Birch. Come ready to listen, learn, and grow in your skills of sharing God's goodness in our daily lives. This workshop will be great for the one who is well versed and for anyone who is wanting to learn and grow. See you April 14th!

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!

March Prayers

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- March 1- Those working in nursing homes
 - March 2- Pilots & Flight Attendants
 - March 3- Nutritionists
 - March 4- Those struggling with health issues
 - March 5- World Leaders
 - March 6- Reduction in Arms Proliferation
 - March 7- Places with Political Unrest
 - March 8- Women Around the World (International Women's Day)
 - March 9- Pioneers in the Christian Faith
 - March 10- Choir
 - March 11 - Our Praise Team
 - March 12- Finance Committee
 - March 13- That we live out our baptismal vows of - prayers, presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness
 - March 14 - Those with vision problems
 - March 15- Cashiers in local stores
 - March 16- Missionaries
 - March 17- Prayer of St. Patrick
 - March 18- Those on the church bulletin prayer list
 - March 19- Lay Servants
 - March 20- Our Duke Intern, Lauren
 - March 21-- Those who are ordained as Deacon in the UMC
 - March 22- Our Farmers
 - March 23- Theologians and Seminary Professors
 - March 24- All who attend worship on Palm Sunday and the Easter egg hunt
 - March 25- Mark 11:12-19 - Holy Monday Prayerful Reading
 - March 26 - Mark 11:20-13:37 - Holy Tuesday Prayerful Reading
 - March 27- Mark 14:1-11 - Spy Wednesday Prayerful Reading
 - March 28- Mark: 14: 26-52- Maundy Thursday Prayerful Reading
 - March 29th -Mark 14:53-15:47 - Good Friday Prayerful Reading
 - March 30th- Holy Saturday Peace
 - March 31st-Easter Joy - Christ Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



April Prayers

April 1- To be Easter people even after
Easter Sunday

April 2 - those with tremendous stress

April 3 -General Conference Lay Delegates

April 4- General Conference - Clergy Delegates

April 5- Mary Marthas

April 6-Preschool Aged Children

April 7- Children in K-2

April 8- Children in 3-5 Grades

April 9- Middle Schoolers

April 10th- College Students

April 11th- Our Administrative Assistant, Kim

April 12-Ushers

April 13th - Greeters on Sunday Mornings

April 14th- OCIM

April 15th- sister OCP churches

April 16th-Church Musicians

April 17th- Sunday School Teachers

April 18th- Nursing Homes

April 19th - Nurses

April 20th- Lauren, our Intern

April 21- Rise Against Hunger Event

April 22- All of Creation

April 23- Those with dementia

April 24-General Conference

April 25 - Our Quilters

April 26- Our Crafters

April 27- Wisdom

April 28- Perseverance

April 29- Humility

April 30th- Miracles



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

- Jerry Smith with serious health issues.
 - Bailey Thornton with serious health issues. He is a relative of Barbara Hawkins.
 - Sandy Combs with serious health issues. She is Kim Combs' mother.
 - Betty Sue Hyder (health issues). Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
 - Wahome Mwangi - serious condition
 - Debbie Smith who recently had back surgery. She is Tyler Smith's mom
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- 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

On behalf of the Hawkins and Thornton families, I want to thank everyone for the lovely prayer quilt that was made for Bailey Thornton (boyfriend of Keiley Hawkins). The thoughts and prayers of members of Walnut Grove UMC, our community, neighbors and friends have meant so much to all of us. Bailey is doing much better and improving with each passing day. With deep appreciation and love to all,

Barbara Hawkins

Upcoming Birthdays

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

Saturday 3/30 – Sharyn Gates

Monday 4/1 – Emma Beckham

Tuesday 4/2 – Mackenzie Claire Perkins

Wednesday 4/3 – Sharon Addison, Randy Oakley, Karen Read, Lany Freeland

Thursday 4/4 – Dale Smithson, Kim McColman

Friday 4/5 – Martha Bordeaux

Saturday 4/6 – Brandi Oakley

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

March 31st

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Kennedy Dunlap

Greeters: Patty Maseth/Debby Donnelly

Ushers: Mike Roberts/Pat Beck

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Trustee Open/Close: Sharyn Gates

April 7th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Grayson Nading

Greeters: Courtney Humphrey/Jenny Blalock

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Ava Lee/Laurie Rogers

Scripture: Lorraine Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Jacob Blankenship

Mowing Schedule

March 30 – Chuck Davis

April 6 – Scott Humphrey

April 13 – Barry Walker

April 20 – Johnny & Shirley Clayton

April 27 - Chris Boling

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

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?"

Monday, April 1 Church office will be closed

Wednesday, April 3 7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, April 7 9:30am Sunday School Opening

10:30am Worship Service

Monday, April 8 6:30pm Covenant Council meeting

Wednesday, April 10 11:30am Mary Martha Busy Ladies – Bennett Pointe Grill
6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Fri-Sat, April 12-13 WG Game Night and Youth Lock-in

Sunday, April 14 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:00pm Evangelism Workshop in fellowship hall

Wednesday, April 17 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, April 21 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
After Church Lauren – Lunch Around The World and
2:00 – 4:00pm Rise Against Hunger

Wednesday, April 24 20 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Friday-Sat., April 26-27 Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, April 28 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church

See You Sunday!!