

In a Nutshell

September 12, 2025

A God in the Midst of Loss

Once, in Florida—where houses sometimes collapse due to swampy ground—I heard of someone exasperated by a legal problem. Their insurance company refused to pay a claim by invoking a legal loophole. The policy covered structural collapse but excluded property damage caused by "wear and tear" or "earth movement." Since 99% of collapses in that area were due to Florida's soil, it was evident that what the insurer claimed on paper was nearly impossible to uphold in practice. In South America, we use the word *leguleyada* (legal chicanery) to refer to such manipulative tricks. After graduating from law school, I learned to reject these kinds of conveniently twisted interpretations. However, I've come to notice that *leguleyadas* also have a place in the world of theology.

In the face of terrible loss and suffering, like the devastation caused by floods in Texas, it is inevitable to ask why God allows such things. Unable to grapple with that mystery, we resort to *leguleyadas*: "God didn't do it, He just allowed it," "Everything happens for a reason," "God won't give you more than you can handle." Of course, we don't use these expressions to deceive, but to try to understand what we cannot. Our theological *leguleyadas* fulfill the formal requirements of an explanation but become disconnected from the emotional experience that loss exerts on us. And yet, deep down, we know: God is not an argument—God is presence.

The Bible speaks of adversity in many different ways. When adversity arises from human injustice, it calls it sin, and suffering opens up the opportunity for repentance. When Scripture reveals that bad things happen as a consequence of wrongdoing, it calls it judgment, offering the opportunity for prophetic denunciation and social repair. When misfortune falls upon the righteous, it is called a test, which becomes an occasion for strengthening and growth. Notice how adversity is the same in each case, but the meaning and opportunities that arise come from our belief in a God who desires our well-being. So, even if we cannot grasp the universal mechanics of suffering, we can still, trusting in God's love, discover in life's blows a multitude of meanings that may restore us and make us more whole—even if it is very hard to see at first.

The church must not forget that it is also the presence of God for others, especially for those who experience the "silence of God" in the midst of pain. The old Methodist motto expresses this well—not with arguments, but with actions: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." It's paradoxical, but perhaps there is no better way to describe how divine omnipotence can work through human finitude! We are called to be there for others—not simply to fulfill a commandment, but because it is part of our nature, a nature transformed by grace.

Peace and goodness,

Alejandro Rivas, Duke intern

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Rise Against Hunger

Dear Walnut Grove Church Family,

Friends, get ready for another year with hair nets and the ringing of the gong at our third annual Rise Against Hunger, coming up on September 14th, from 2 to 4! Jolinda Swiggett is our coordinator for the event, so please reach out to her with any questions. You'll also find more information on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. As we live into being a generous church, we are so grateful for each and every donation. So far we have raised more than half of our needed goal with only \$1642.74 left to raise. If we raise more than our goal, the extra funds will give us a head start in supporting next year's Rise Against Hunger event. No matter how large or small, every gift makes a difference! Together, let's make a dent in fighting hunger around the world in the spirit of Christian love! Link for September 14th event to:

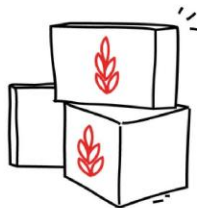
[Donate and Register for Rise Against Hunger](#)

 **RISE AGAINST HUNGER®**



Help package
10,000 meals
to fight global hunger!

Walnut Grove UMC
Sunday, September 14th
2:00pm-4:00pm



Register & donate!



<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WalnutGroveUMC25>

We will be packaging at least 10,000 meals in this 2-hour span, so we need at least 50 volunteers to make this event a success. Also, at 1 pm, we will need strong individuals to help with unloading the rice and setting up tables before the event. Then we will need help with clean up after the event.

You can sign up to volunteer or to donate by clicking on the link above. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jolinda Swiggett @ 919-302-0110 or jolindaswiggett@gmail.com. Please donate to this event if you are able.

Young Adult Sunday School Class

A new Sunday School class for young adults has begun. We will be meeting in Lauren's office or in the modular depending on the a/c situation. We may be starting a little after 9:30am. Please feel free to join us.

~Daniel Johnson

Sunday Night Meal Sign-up and RSVP:

If you want to cook AND/OR eat a meal this fall at Sunday night Bible study, you need to sign up!

Sign up [HERE](#) to cook a meal (just 4 slots remain)

[RSVP HERE](#) for which meals you and your family plan to eat.

1K for 1KID Day

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5th as we hold our annual 1K for 1Kid Day at Walnut Grove UMC. We hope to be joined that day by Donna Tate and former WGUMC intern Avery Edwards as we learn about, celebrate and support the ministries for the Methodist Home for Children. Sunday School and Worship will have opportunities to hear about this great ministry of our connectional Church. After Church, we will gather outside to walk or run 1 Kilometer around the Church property. As part of our offering and walk that day, we hope to gather at least 1K (\$1000) of financial support for the Methodist Home.

If you would like more information, or can assist in the setup of the walk that day, contact Wesley Tilley at 919-749-0173 or wesley.tilley@alumni.duke.edu

OCIM Update

They are in need of canned fruit, green beans, dried pinto beans, 1 lb. or 2 lb. bags of rice, and very low on personal care items such as toilet paper, deodorant for men, deodorant for women, toothpaste, laundry detergent pods, and Pampers (diapers) sizes 4, 5, & 6.

Thank you to all who have donated money as well as the actual cans of food and veggies, plus the above items. Thank you all so much for your participation.

Opportunities and Work Days with Disaster Ministry

Deployment dates for Corridor Early Response Team. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Jim Polhamus at jbuspolhamusii@gmail.com. Please prayerfully consider joining us and mark your calendars below:

Sep 8 - 13, LTRG09, Western NC Conference UMC- (Location TBD (Spruce Pine, Asheville, Hendersonville), UNC-Wesley students to potentially join Thursday -Saturday, - open 1 ERT to 1 non ERT member, Reservation and awaiting confirmation

Oct 9 - 11, LTRG10, Columbus Co, NC - (Leland Disaster Center, Zion UMC Parsonage, Leland, NC) - open to ERT and non ERT members



Walnut Grove UMC HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday
October 18th

***This & That pre-priced table
open 10:30-1:30**

***Lunch & Take Out: 11:30**

***Live Auction: 1:30**

**BBQ: \$12.00 lb.
Stew: \$12.00 qt.**

**LUNCH PLATES INCLUDE:
BBQ, STEW, SLAW, HUSHPUPPIES,
DRINK AND A DESSERT**

**ADULT PLATE: \$15.00
CHILD'S PLATE: \$6.00
8YRS AND YOUNGER**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
7215 Walnut Grove Church Road

Little River Presbyterian Church “BBQ Pork Supper”

Little River Presbyterian Church is delighted to return to its eat-in or take out “BBQ Pork Supper” Saturday, Sept. 27, 4-7:00 pm @ Schley Grange Hall. Dinner includes BBQ Pork, hushpuppies, slaw, potatoes, homemade desserts & beverages.

Sandwiches will be available for lunch 11am-4pm, behind the Grange near the ball field.

Eat-in or take-out

Lunch: BBQ sandwich-\$7.00

Dinner: Adult plates- \$15.00

Children’s plates (6 and under) \$5.00 (eat-in only)

BBQ by the container- \$12.00

Pre-orders are encouraged by Sept 21. (919-732-6523/lrpcusa@gmail.com)

Preorder pick up at Schley Grange, 4-7pm, Sept 27

All proceeds will go to support Western North Carolina Disaster Recovery Efforts.

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

- 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.
- Katherine Huey, with health issues. She is Rick Huey’s mom.
- Family of Justin and Casey McBroom, relatives of Cheryl L. Parker. Please keep their young children, Anderson, Jaxon, and Kason, in prayer in the passing of their parents.

- Joan Bickel who lives in Dallas TX. She has been diagnosed with brain cancer. She is Erica Nading's aunt.
- Shannon Brown, friend of Kristin Rigsbee
- Ben Lloyd, Cheryl Humphrey's father, with serious health issues
- Iris Tilley, recuperating from a recent fall
- Gilbert Lee in Prince George, VA, who recently had surgery for cancer. He is Richard Lee's father
- Gene Parker, brother of Dorothy Roberts, uncle of Mike Roberts, and family of Debbie Oakley and Sue Powell
- Craig Powell, brother of Ed Powell, with health problems
- Maria Guerrero, mother in-law of Alejandro Rivas, Duke intern, as she deals with terminal illness.
- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, both with health issues. They are members of Walnut Grove UMC.
- 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
- Will Hall, of Cedar Grove, NC with serious health issues- son of Billy Hall and Lynn Clark, nephew of Tommy Hall and Lorraine Parker, cousin of James Parker.
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

Quilt

Rev. Meg Hoffman, diagnosed with breast cancer. She is the director of Seeds of Life at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

(The prayer quilt 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.)

Birthdays

Friday 9/12 – Jeannie Burton

Saturday 9/13 – Donald Davis, Mary Emma Roberts, Zachary Durham, Judson Dunlap

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

Monday 9/15 – LuAnne Bledsoe, Mike Roberts

Tuesday 9/16 – Gloria Jean Coffey

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

Saturday 9/20 – Tony Clayton

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 14th

Acolytes: Michael Roberts/ Isabella Conway
Greeters: Jenny Blalock/Debby Donnelly
Ushers: Krystal Robinson/Stacey Spake
Scripture: Courtney Humphrey
Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Grace Dunlap
Trustee Open/Close: Gary Spake
Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

September 21st

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Russell Whitaker
Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe
Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe
Scripture: Erica Nading
Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams
Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth
PM Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Lorraine Hines
Financial Rep: Judy Butler

Mowing Schedule

September 13- Barry Walker	September 20- Johnny & Shirley Clayton
September 27- Chris Boling	October 4- Phil Hines
October 11- Jimmy Berry	October 18- Bruce Richardson
October 25- Todd Harris	November 1- Mike 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

Sunday, September 14	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 1:00pm Rise Against Hunger Set Up – Event starts at 2:00pm
Tuesday, September 16	7:00pm Men's Group
Wed., September 17	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

Saturday, September 20	Cook Day for Harvest Festival (chicken)
Sunday, September 21	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery
Wed., September 24	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., September 26-27	Walnut Grove Crafters
Saturday, September 27	TarWheels will be using the parking lot
Sunday, September 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery
Monday, September 29	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, September 30	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting 7:00pm Men's Group

See You Sunday!!