

In a Nutshell

October 10, 2025

Why is it important to say thank you? When our kids are young, we teach them the importance of showing gratitude, but thankfulness is about more than just being polite. It's about recognizing and acknowledging when someone has helped you in a way that you could not help yourself. That's why gratitude can be challenging. It reminds us of our weakness, that we can't do life alone, that we need each other— and we especially need Jesus.

Our Scripture this week is about ten lepers who are healed by Jesus, only one of whom returns to give Jesus thanks and praise. Luke's Gospel is quick to point out something unique about this leper: he was a Samaritan (17:16). Why note this? Perhaps Luke knows his readers. He knows their negative feelings against Samaritans. He knows a Samaritan is the last "type" of person they expect to show true faith and gratitude. But maybe it is the mistreatment, judgement and stigma this man faced during his life that made him *more* readily able to recognize the True Savior and to praise the God who healed him.

As we sit with Luke 17:11-19 this week, I challenge us to ask ourselves: has self-reliance made us ungrateful? Have we passed judgment on those we think are least likely to respond to the healing power of Jesus? Who might be the "Samaritan leper" in our community that models true gratitude and faith?

~Lauren Welch Birch

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Harvest Festival 2025 Update

Everything is finally in place for the big day. We only have one more food prep day and that is cutting up the potatoes and onions on Friday, October 17, at 8 am. This is always a fun time. A knife and cutting board will be needed again. To show our appreciation for all your hard work, a spaghetti lunch will be served. You can also start bringing in your auction items on Friday. It is hard to believe Harvest Festival is almost here. The last few months have just flown by. Everyone looks forward to the fellowship, food and fun. The sights and sounds of early morning Harvest Festival are the best. The air is cool, the stew is cooking, and the BBQ is being packed. The hushpuppy oil is heating up, and auction items are making their way to the trailer. The tents, tables, and chairs are ready for the day. There is a lot of chatter as last-minute decisions are made about one thing or another. We are all excited about the day that has been planned for months. I am looking forward to seeing you all on October 18th. When you arrive just breathe deeply and take it all in.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Pat Beck

919-812-8737

Harvest Festival Quilts

Our quilts are ready for the Auction.



New Plants Coming Soon!

Walnut Grove UMC has been selected as a recipient for two grants: from Backyard Butterflies and from the 39th Annual Azalea Celebration. This means we will have lots of new flowering plants and azaleas around our campus in the upcoming weeks! Chuck Davis and his team will be working to excavate overgrown or unhealthy shrubbery to make space for these new plants. This work will not conflict with Harvest Festival. We're excited for some fresh blooms to bring color and beauty to our church grounds!

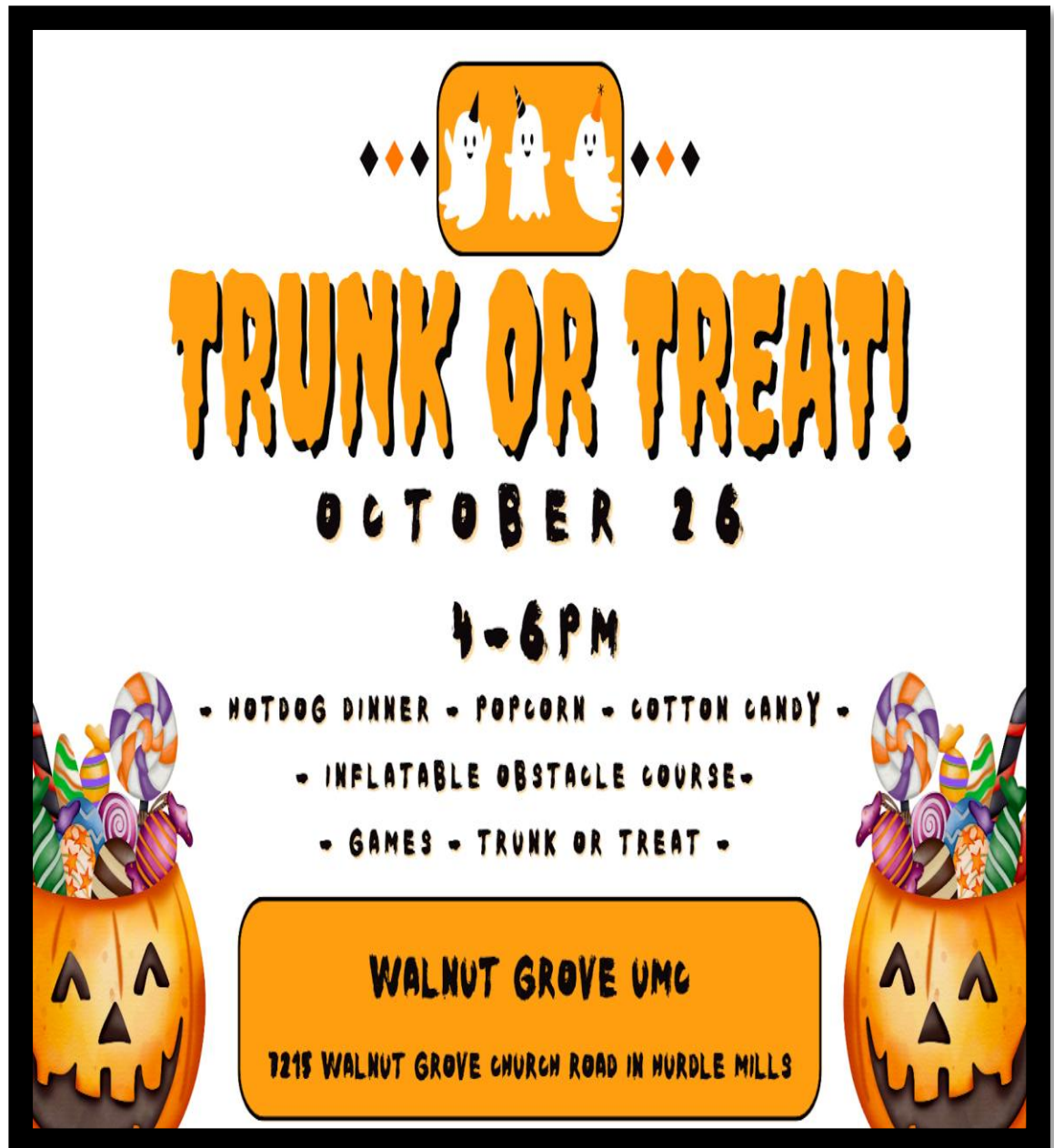
Sunday Night Meal RSVP:

If you want to enjoy a meal this fall at Sunday night Bible study, you need to sign up!

RSVP HERE for which meals you and your family plan to eat.

Trunk or Treat, Oct. 26

Candy! Costumes! Competition! Join us for an afternoon of trunk-or-treating fun on October 26th! We encourage EVERYONE at church to join in for this event, by decorating a trunk and/or by bringing your family to participate in the activities. This year, we'll have a competition and prize for the best decorated trunk, so show up with your most creative ideas!



Be A Disciple

There are several UMC courses offered on BeADisciple.com. Share this opportunity with someone you know who might benefit from extra guidance during the upcoming holiday season. If you are a church member and need assistance (partial or full scholarship), please let Pastor Laura know. Don't let cost be a hindrance for this opportunity!

<https://beadisciple.com/online-christian-courses/grief/ifd374-bridge-to-surviving-grief-during-holidays/>

Music Ministry Update

October is here, and that means it's time to learn some Christmas music!

The **Worship Choir** has recently started learning this year's cantata, "All is Well". We will present this on Sunday, December 14th, during the 10:30am worship service. If you are interested in participating with us (singing or speaking), join us on Wednesdays at 7:30pm (starts Oct. 29th) and/or Sundays at 6:00pm (starts Nov. 2). Youth are welcome to participate too!

The **Hallelujah Kids** also have some new Christmas music waiting for them to learn. We will start practice on Sunday, October 19th at 4:45pm. The title of this year's program is "The Mystery of the Missing Manger". We will present this on Sunday, December 21st during the 10:30am worship service. Children K through 5th grade are invited to participate in the singing and acting parts. We will also have some opportunities for the younger children as well. Join us on Sundays at 4:45pm!

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

OCIM Update

They are in need of:

Food items: canned fruit, jelly, soups, beef stew, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, cereal, rice (small bags).

Non-food items: toothpaste, laundry pods, toilet paper, diapers (size 4)

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.

The poster features a dark red background with a pattern of gold-colored leaves. The text "OCIM 2025 FALL FEST" is prominently displayed in large, bold, gold letters. Below this, a white rectangular area contains the event details in black text. The event is scheduled for October 18, from 9 AM to 2 PM, at 300 Milstone Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278. A list of activities includes Baked Goods, Art Walk, Antiques, Pottery, Jewelry, Store Coupon Bundles, and Silent Auction Items. All proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels. Contact information for Bernadette is provided at the bottom.

**OCIM
2025
FALL
FEST**

Join the **OCIM THRIFT SHOP** for our **FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION!**

- BAKED GOODS
- ART WALK (NEW THIS YEAR)
- ANTIQUES - POTTERY - JEWELRY
- STORE COUPON BUNDLES ON SALE NOW - \$5
- SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MEALS ON WHEELS

For more information, contact Bernadette at 919-732-6194 ext. 21.

OCTOBER 18
9 AM – 2 PM
300 MILSTONE DRIVE
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278

OCP Upcoming Fall Events

Orange Cooperative Parish Fall Fun Happenings

- **All of October** at Camp Chestnut Ridge
Pumpkin Patch at the farm every Saturday in October –
<https://www.campchestnutridge.org/pumpkin-patch>
- **October 11th** Harvest Festival with lunch at noon (homemade egg rolls and other goodies)/country store/children's play area/dinner at 5/auction at 6:30. Chestnut Ridge UMC
- **October 11th** – Auction, BBQ Dinner, Live Music 5– 7PM, Live Auction Starts at 7. At Union Grove UMC. Tickets are \$15. Kids 12 and under eat for free! Purchase Tickets Online [UNIONGROVE UMC](#)
- **October 18th** – Harvest Festival includes Live Auction BBQ, Stew (\$12 each). Lunch plates \$15 – includes BBQ, Stew, Slaw, Hushpuppies, Drink, and Dessert – Adults \$15, Children (8 and younger), \$6 at Walnut Grove UMC
- **November 1** Starting at 2 PM. Stew for \$12 a quart. To preorder call (919)215-7308 Efland UMC
- **November 8th**– Cedar Grove UMC Harvest Festival – Homemade Turkey Dinner from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at Cedar Grove United Methodist Church + Online Auction
- **November 22nd** – Camp Chestnut Ridge Trail Run Fundraiser – <https://www.campchestnutridge.org/trail-run>

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

- Neil Donnelly with health issues.
- Helen Miller with serious health issues. She is the aunt of Pat Beck's brother-in-law.
- Mary Lou Smith-very dear friend of Carol Gerbracht
- Carol Gerbracht recovering from recent surgery
- 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.
- Joan Bickel who lives in Dallas TX. She has been diagnosed with brain cancer. She is Erica Nading's aunt.
- 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
- 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
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

Quilt

Susan Smith from Hillsborough, who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. She is a friend of Tina Walker.

(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.)

From The Mailbox

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful prayer quilt. I love it and will cherish it forever!

Thank you so much –

Love, Shannon Brown

Birthdays

Friday 10/10 – Ken Cecil

Saturday 10/11 – Leila Compton, Jolinda Swiggett, Cheryl Humphrey, Linda Reynolds,
Eddie Rutledge

Monday 10/13 – Isabella Conway, Tabitha Long, Ava Lee

Tuesday 10/14 – Pat Thacker, Levy Beneville, Christi Hawkins

Wednesday 10/15 – Linwood Lovitte, Allyson, Cecil, Tyler White, Griffin Davis

Thursday 10/16 – Mary Beth Elliott, Dave Gibbs

Friday 10/17 – James Parker, William Berry, Jr., Kaitlin Burton

Saturday 10/18 – Chris Adkins, Denise Ford, Sarah Parker, Ellen Johnson

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

October 12th

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Beverly Huey/Anita James

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Scripture: Cheryl L Parker

Nursery: Judy Butler/Debby Donnelly/Kennedy Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

PM Nursery: Mandy Kemnitz/Cathy Boling

October 19th

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Ellen Johnson

Greeters: Patty Maseth/Faith Parker

Ushers: Jenny Blalock/Kennedy Dunlap

Scripture: Mary Emma Roberts

Nursery: Grace Dunlap/Lorraine Hines

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

Financial Rep: Lou Rutledge

PM Nursery: N/A

Mowing Schedule

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, October 12	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
Wednesday, October 15	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, October 16	Set-up pots
Friday, October 17	8:00am Potatoes/onions prep and lunch
Saturday, October 18	
Sunday, October 19	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service / Laity Sunday 4:45pm Hallelujah Kids
Monday, October 20	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, October 21	7:00pm Men's Group
Wednesday, October 22	7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., October 24-25	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, October 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 4:00-6:00pm Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 29	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!