

There was an article on United Methodist Communications about your sharing your faith story that I read recently with some good practical information for us as Christians called to witness by our lives to the love of God in our community with our stories that might touch the lives of those around us. There is power in telling a good story.

So here are some suggestions shared in this article:

Start with these three questions to guide your sharing.

- What was your life like before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- How did you come to accept Christ and surrender your life fully to him?
- What happened after you trusted Christ?

An activity to consider, as you begin to gather your faith story- prepare a version that is 30 seconds, 2 minutes, and 10 minutes. You can use this exercise to get more comfortable with sharing your story. The more you practice, the more natural it will become.

Your faith story and how God is working in your life is always evolving. So, as your story grows and changes- here are four simple steps to keep you focused on sharing your faith with others and giving God the glory.

- 1) Begin with prayer
- 2) Be authentic- be you
- 3) Be intentional
- 4) Be Concise

It goes on to share the value of keeping it conversational. I'll share the link, [Link to Full Article on Sharing Your Faith Story](#), as highlighted and underlined in blue. Let's keep the conversation going. During your daily devotional time, take time to work on this important practice or challenge a friend to write one along with you. It might encourage others with a word that needs to be heard to build up, to convict, or to strengthen someone in their own faith journey. Let's keep sharing good news of what God is doing in our lives!

- Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sunday Night Starting Back September 17th!

Sunday Night activities start this Sunday and continue until November 26th. We will share in a meal together starting at 5:30 PM and share in faith formation from 6-7 PM. For our school aged children, we have Kids Krew. For youth we have UMYF; and for adults we will share in a Bible Study together for the first five weeks called, "Fear of the Other," by Bishop Willimon. Nursery will be provided during the 6-7 hour when we gather for families with preschoolers and infants.

We need your help! Sign up to help lead Kids Krew (a lesson will be provided) and consider signing up to bring food one night. Meals could be provided by families, Sunday school classes, or leadership teams. Make sure to add Sunday Nights Together to your calendar as we grow closer to God and grow together as a church family!

[Sign up for Kids Krew](#)

Sign up for Sunday night meals

For questions about the meals, contact Lorraine Hines at 919-619-1090 or lkhines0130@gmail.com or you can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044FAFAD29AAFF2-sunday1>

Harvest Festival Meeting

There will be a Harvest Festival Meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00. Please be prepared to report on your area of responsibility. If you cannot attend, please make sure you make a report on your area through another committee member, or contact Cheryl. All are invited/encouraged to attend!

Cheryl S. Parker
919-451-0321 or cheryluncfan@hotmail.com

College Ministries

College Ministries connects college students from Walnut Grove UMC with members of the church. Students are remembered throughout the year with cards, invitations to church events and remembering them on birthdays and special holidays. Parents of students who want to participate please send addresses to Lorraine Hines at lkhines0130@gmail.com or text to 919-619-1090. If you want to partner with a student, contact Lorraine in the same way.

2024 Budget

We need all committees that need appropriated funds for the 2024 budget to submit their information by Sept 20 to Linda Reynolds by email: Jimlindareynolds@gmail.com or by text: 919-619-2294

1K and Laity Sunday

There are several big days coming in October. One of these is on October 1st which will be our 1K for 1Kid Day and our Laity Sunday. On that day, we will celebrate the ministry of the Laity in our Church at our 10:30 Service. We will also have a guest from the Methodist Home for Children to educate and inspire us about the ministries of this important part of our connection. During the 10:30 service, the Laity will lead all parts of worship. After worship, we will gather outside to walk or run 1K as a fun way to raise funds for the Methodist Home. Refreshments will be served as well. If you would like to participate in either or both of these on October 1st, please contact Wesley Tilley at 919-749-0173 or wesley.tilley@alumni.duke.edu.

Trip to the Billy Graham Library and "The Real Christmas Story"

Saturday, December 16, 2023

For those of you who have signed up to go on this trip, please pay Jean Mangum by October 1st. There are still spots available if you would like to go. The cost is \$135.00 per person. Make checks payable to Jean Mangum.

Sister Church Announcements

Little River Presbyterian Church is delighted to invite you to a **"BBQ Pork Supper"** Saturday, Sept.23, 4-7:30 pm @ Schley Grange Hall.

Sandwiches will be available for lunch.

Dinner includes hushpuppies, slaw, potatoes, homemade desserts & beverages.

Eat-in or take-out

Lunch: BBQ sandwich-\$5.00 (at ballpark area behind Schley Grange)

Dinner: Adult plates- \$12.00 Children's plates (6 and under)-\$8.00

BBQ by the container - \$10.00

Pre-orders are encouraged by Sept 20. (919-732-6523/lrpcusa@gmail.com)

All proceeds will go to support **Hawaiian Fire Relief Efforts**.

RefugeeMinistry

Jesus says when we welcome the stranger we have welcomed him. Matthew 25. Have you ever wondered how you might welcome refugees who flee to the US?

JOIN

Orange Cooperative Parish and others in our community are talking about forming Welcoming Circles for our newest neighbors.

Not sure what that looks like?

Come to an interest meeting:

Tuesday, Oct. 3 @ 7 p.m.

Cedar Grove United Methodist Church 5218 Eland-Cedar Grove Road (10 minutes north of Eland)
Cedar Grove, NC 27231

Contact Pastor Monica: mbeacham@nccumc.org

RefugeeMinistry - Welcome Circles Information:

Did you know that 1 in 74 people worldwide is displaced? And that 330,000 people each year come to the US through government programs as refugees? Jesus says when we welcome the stranger we have welcomed him (Matt 25). We have an opportunity to welcome refugees in our midst by forming Welcome Circles for new families settling in our area. We are especially blessed because we have the Orange Cooperative Parish, which has seven United Methodist Churches working together, with many skills and resources that could help families who come as refugees.

What is a Welcome Circle? A Welcome Circle is a group of individuals who provide financial, resettlement, and emotional support to newcomers for six months to a year until they reach self-sufficiency. Circles can form as part of a synagogue, organization, community center, church or interfaith community, or they can be made up of private individuals. Most circles have 5-8 core members who lead on different tasks, such as finding housing, signing up for benefits, helping enroll children in school, and assisting adults with job readiness and employment.

Who will be helping us? The families are welcomed through HAIS, originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. They have been helping resettle families for years, and have lots of resources and staff to help assist and answer questions.

Where do these families come from? The families we may help resettle are legal refugees who apply and gain refugee status through the government. They come from around the world, and have many different backgrounds and stories.

I'm interested! How can I help? We will have an interest meeting to answer more questions and discern together on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 7 PM at Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, located at 5218 Efland-Cedar Grove Road, Cedar Grove, NC. We are about 10 minutes North of Efland.

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

Praises

The Family Fun Day event was a true blessing! Thanks to everyone who attended and volunteered to make that day a success!

Prayer List

- Family of Laura Tapp in the loss of their brother, Billy Woods. Laura is the custodian for the church, who lost her son last week.
- Billy Addison from Erwin, NC who has been diagnosed with mouth cancer. Cheryl Humphrey is asking for prayers for Billy.
- Peggy Bledsoe, health issues. She is Dan Bledsoe's mom.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Send A Card

Laura Tapp (Sympathy, passing of her brother), 4822 Guess Road, Rougemont, NC 27572

From The Mailbox

Dear Members of the Prayers & Squares Ministry,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt. You have truly blessed my family and me. What a special treasure and reminder of His love. We don't know where our journey here might take us but we know who holds our hands. Thank you again for the wonderful gift. (Lydia Wilson, Albany, OR)

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 9/15 – LuAnne Bledsoe, Mike Roberts

Saturday 9/16 – Gloria Jean Coffey

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

Wednesday 9/20 – Tony Clayton

Friday 9/22 – Nancy Huskins, Teresa Long, Erin Rutledge Dillard

Saturday 9/23 – Michael Powell, Melissa Powel Machtolff, Nita Trembley, Audrey Lee

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

September 17th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Wyatt James

Greeters: Patty Maseth/Judy Parker

Ushers: Mary Emma Roberts/Mike Roberts

Nursery: Grace Dunlap/Katie Whitaker

Scripture Reader: Margaret Anne Dow

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

PM Nursery: Cathy Boling/Leigh McFalls

September 24th

Acolytes: Eleanor Whitaker/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Faith Parker/Mary Emma Roberts

Ushers: Stephanie & Tyler Smith

Nursery: Judy Parker/Laurie Rogers

Scripture Reader: Grace Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Laura Dunlap

PM Nursery: Laurie Rogers/Mary Beth Elliott

Mowing Schedule

September 16 – Phil Hines

September 23 – Jimmy Berry

September 30 – Bruce Richardson

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 17	9:30am Sunday School
	10:30am Worship Service
	5:30pm Dinner
	6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wed., September 20	Youth: Pilgrimage Registration Due – Kara Roberts
	6:30pm Worship Band
	7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat, September 22-23	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, September 24	9:30am Sunday School
	10:30am Worship Service
	10:45am Children's Church
	5:30pm Dinner
	6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wed., September 27	6:30pm Worship Band
	7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, September 30	Harvest Festival Cook Day 1

See You Sunday!!