

“And not only that, but we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”
Romans 5:3-5, NRSV

One of my most formative spiritual moments as a youth was entering a Catholic church for the first time with a dear lady (friend of the family) attending mass. Our families were on vacation together. My family is Protestant. Her family is Catholic. Devout in her faith, Saturday night mass was on her schedule, even on this trip away. I had not been to mass much outside of first communion celebrations or weddings. I didn’t typically attend church on Saturday night. I was told I wouldn’t have to dress up, so I tagged along willingly.

We entered the church, La Iglesia de San Martín. It was a small church in the center of Colonial Tovar. Colonial Tovar is a quaint town once known as the “Germany of the Caribbean,” with picturesque German architecture nestled in the Andes Mountains in Venezuela. Walking inside the church was the first time I remember seeing a crucifix. The family friend made the sign of the cross on her forehead and went to kneel down on one of the church’s kneelers. I followed along pretending I knew when to stand, kneel, and what to say. I found I couldn’t stop staring. There was Jesus who died on the cross. There was Jesus who died for the sins of the world.

I grew up knowing John 3:16 since my Sunday school teacher offered extrinsic motivation. Anyone who memorized the verse of the week was rewarded with picking a treat from the high-quality Oriental Trading Company treasure box. Seeing the crucifix though awakened my heart to good news as I fought back tears. The visible drama pierced my heart with the crucifix showing tears painted on his eyes, the blood drops, the crown of thorns, his body broken and nailed to the cross.

When we enter Lent, we take up the cross. We deny ourselves by fully living into the image of God. We journey to Golgotha. We live into this redemptive suffering. We find assurance in these words from Romans when suffering changes our lives from tragedy, pain, or unspeakable grief. At times, in our collective calling to serve God, we take on the boldness of suffering with risks to follow the Spirit wherever that may be. We are entrusted to make difficult and holy decisions in pivotal moments. We long for the Spirit to move through us and speak words of faithful witness of gratitude for what God has done.

March celebrates Women’s History Month and continues the journey of Lent. We automatically equate the forty days of Lent with suffering. Prayerfully, Women’s History Month reminds us of Spirit-filled women of God persevering against all odds as pioneers and even martyrs in the faith. In our own journeys, we might have stories that depict this nuance of suffering and hope. We give thanks Dr. Anna Holleman’s scholarship on clergywomen and resiliency (see this [one-page summary](#) with

prompts for discussion or [the full article](#)). Beloved, take time to listen to each other's stories of faith. Where have you seen God move and lead you to build character and share God's eternal hope?

Note - this piece was adapted after it was shared as our conference's monthly Encouragements for all NC UMC clergywomen in March. It was written by the chair of COSROW, Rev. Laura Dunlap.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sunday Nights Together – Last One Sunday, March 17th

Music Ministry Update

Hallelujah Kids – Sundays during KidsKrew

This lively group is preparing some special music to share with us on Palm Sunday at the 10:30 worship service. Believe it or not, that is only a little over a week away on March 24th! You won't want to miss it!

Easter Music – Sundays at 4:30pm

Sunday afternoon practices have started at 4:30pm for our Easter cantata, "Is He Worthy". Rehearsals will also be on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Come and join us in celebrating the Risen Lord through worship and song.

Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt



Bring your friends and family and join us at 4:30 on March 24th for an Easter celebration and egg hunt! We will play games, hunt eggs and enjoy a movie. We will also have a hot dog supper after the hunt.

We will be collecting stuffed eggs (stuffed with candy, small toys or prizes) in the fellowship hall in marked tubs. There are also unfilled plastic eggs you may take to fill up. Please have them back at church by Sunday morning, March 24.

If you are interested in leading a game, helping serve dinner or in another way, please reach out to Ashley Parker 919.475.5211

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

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 11 - Our Praise Team

March 13- That we live out our baptismal vows of - prayers, presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness

March 14 - Those with vision problems

March 16- Missionaries

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!



March 10- Choir

March 12- Finance Committee

March 15- Cashiers in local stores

March 17- Prayer of St. Patrick

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project

First of all, I thank you for contributing items for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project in 2023. With your help, Walnut Grove UMC filled 200 shoeboxes in 2023.

This year, we hope to collect items in various phases to be a bit more organized. In March and April, we are focusing on PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 10-14. I have attached a link to an Amazon Wish List for ideas and ease of shipping and delivery directly to me. As an alternative, this Wishlist can be used as a guide for suggested items. If you prefer not to shop, but would like to donate, funds can be given directly to me and I'll shop for you or you can make a check payable to Walnut Grove UMC with reference to be applied to OCC.

REMEMBER, NO toothpaste, liquids or glass items can go in the shoeboxes.

View list on Amazon at

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ETO503TP5MYH/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

Thank you in advance for your participation and may God Bless you.

Jeanne Crabtree Walnut Grove UMC

(919) 302-6924 or Jeanne.crabtree630@gmail.com

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 Carlye Carr who passed away on March 8th
- Bailey Thornton with serious health issues. He is a relative of Barbara Hawkins.
- Sandy Combs (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
- 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.

Quilts

- Sandra Combs (Sandy) from Hillsborough who is having continued health issues. Sandra is the mother of Kim Combs.
- Eden Jones from Hillsborough who is a 14 year old girl who will be having thyroid surgery soon. She is the daughter of Corly and Nick Jones.
- Bailey Thornton from Mebane who is having health issues. He is the husband of Keiley Hawkins (daughter of Pam and Randy Hawkins).
- Gene Parker from Hurdle Mills who is having continued health issues. He is the husband of Kay Porterfield Parker, and brother of Dorothy Roberts.

(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.)

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 3/15 – Owen Campbell, Sarah Beth Roberts

Saturday 3/16 – Dorothy Roberts, Sandra Ray

Sunday 3/17 – Leigh McFalls

Tuesday 3/19 – Kristy Robinson, Cindy Sherron, Jami Vuolo

Wednesday 3/20 – Kenny Ray, Susan Wagoner

Thursday 3/21 – Carley Swiggett

Friday 3/22 – Kathie Brown, James Clayton, Marjorie Spruill

Saturday 3/23 – Melinda Marlette, Charles Treis

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 17th

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Kennedy Dunlap

Greeters: Cheryl & Clay Parker

Ushers: Krystal Robinson/Faith Parker

Nursery: Grace Dunlap/Pam Kimrey

Scripture: Ashley Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Gary Spake

PM Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Lorraine Hines

March 24th

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Brenda & Jimmy Berry

Ushers: Cheryl L & Barry Parker

Nursery: Katie Whitaker/Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Grace Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth

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

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| Sunday, March 17 | 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
5:30pm Dinner
6:00-7:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery |
| Wednesday, March 20 | 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter) |
| Friday-Sat., March 22-23 | Walnut Grove Crafters |
| Sunday, March 24 | 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:00pm Worship Choir (Easter)
4:30pm Easter Egg Hunt w/hot dog supper to follow for everyone |
| Wednesday, March 27 | 7:00pm Worship Choir (Easter) |
| Thursday, March 28 | 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Meal
7:15pm Maundy Thursday Service |
| 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?" |

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
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!!	