

In a Nutshell

October 31, 2025

Happy Halloween, everyone! In ancient Celtic culture, this night was believed to be a time when the veil between the living and the dead was lifted, allowing spirits and loved ones to roam the Earth. To protect themselves from wandering souls, people lit bonfires and dressed in costumes, thinking these would ward off or disguise them from the spirits. Ever since I learned about this tradition, I've been reminded of the poignant story of Lazarus from John 11.

"When He had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" - John 11:43-44 (NIV)

This account powerfully illustrates life's victory over death through Jesus. Lazarus had been dead for days when Jesus arrived to see his beloved friend. Despite their faith in Jesus, Lazarus' friends and family struggled to believe in His power, grappling with their grief. Yet, in that moment, all Jesus had to do was speak, and what He spoke became reality. The impossible turned possible as the natural laws we know bent to His will. This scripture foreshadows the incredible power of Jesus, which will ultimately be revealed when He resurrects and returns to Earth after suffering for our sins on the cross. Halloween brings to mind themes of death, fear, and the supernatural. In contrast, the story of Lazarus serves as a profound reminder: death does not have the final say; Jesus does. As you enjoy the festivities—whether you're dressing up, taking your kids or grandkids trick-or-treating, or handing out candy—let the sight of mummies and other costumes remind you of this powerful narrative and the authority of Jesus.

****Prayer:**** Lord Jesus, thank you for the story of Lazarus, which reminds us of Your power over death and Your call to new life with You. Help us to trust in Your ability to bring light into our darkness and life to our weary souls. As we reflect on death and the unknown today, may we hold fast to the truth that You are the resurrection and the life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Happy Halloween,
Duke Divinity Intern Emily Phenice

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

****** Daylight Savings Time Ends This Weekend...Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night.**

Food Train for Lauren and Andrew Birch

Walnut Grove Church Family and Friends,

We are so excited to welcome to our church family little Lenora Louise Birch. As Lauren, our Minister of Discipleship, and Andrew settle into being first time parents, we want to support them as best we can. We've attached a Food Train sign up for them if you are able to support them with a meal or gift card to a restaurant as they continue to adjust to the gift being a family. Thank you so much for your loving support of the Birch family!

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/o89gkl>

Demolition of the Old Parsonage

On February 3, 2025, the Building Committee of Walnut Grove UMC met to discuss plans for the demolition of the old parsonage as we prepare for future growth and new ministry opportunities. The Building Committee voted in favor of the demolition, and the Covenant Council also gave its approval on February 13, 2025.

This marks an exciting new chapter in the life of our church. The demolition will take place in the near future as we look forward to all that God has in store for Walnut Grove.

During demolition work on the church campus, all visitors and staff are asked to park down by the cemetery until the work is complete.

Barry Walker, Chair, Building Committee

Sue Powell, Chair, Covenant Council

Charge Conference -- Sunday, November 16th!

Charge Conference is Sunday, November 16th at 7:00pm at Cedar Grove UMC. This is open to all members of the church! Please join us as we continue to grow together in Christ!

UMVIM Team Leader Training

The Western North Carolina Conference will be hosting an in-person UMVIM Team Leader Training at Christ UMC in Greensboro, NC, on November 8th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. WNCC has graciously offered to open this training to anyone within the WNCC, NCC, and SC Annual Conferences. This one-day training is designed for both new and experienced leaders preparing to guide United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams. The session will feature the newly revised Team Leader Handbook, offering new insights and practical tools for a fruitful mission journey.

If you are interested in becoming certified through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) to lead mission journeys, this training is for you! The cost of the class is \$35, which includes the newly updated Team Leader Handbook and lunch.

To register, fill out the form at this link:

<https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/UMVIM TeamLeaderTraining>

For questions, contact the Conference UMVIM Coordinator, Rev Miles Baker Hunt, at umvim@nccumc.org

Music Ministry Update

Goodbye Trunk or Treat and Hello Christmas!

Can you believe that Christmas is less than 8 weeks away?

The **Worship Choir** has 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 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. 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.

Join "Walk in Their Shoes" - Saturday, November 8th

Open Table Ministry is a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving our unsheltered neighbors in Durham. Our annual fundraiser, "Walk in Their Shoes," is both a celebration of community and a fundraiser - every dollar raised goes directly to support our homeless neighbors with essentials like showers, clothing, hygiene supplies, and vital case management services. Join us at Southern Boundaries Park (100 3rd Fork Rd, Durham) on Saturday, November 8th, as we work together to overcome homelessness through the power of community.

Learn more and register here: <https://secure.givelively.org/event/open-table-ministry/walk-in-their-shoes-walk-and-5k-fun-run-2025/walk-in-their-shoes-2025>

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/>

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. 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.

Pull Tabs For Ronald McDonald House

I am collecting **ALL PULL TABS** (drinks, cat food, vegetables/fruit cans-etc.), for the Ronald McDonald house. A collection bag will be hung on the fellowship hall bulletin board, with their explanation of the purpose. Thanks for contributing.

Carol Gerbracht



OCIM Donation Opportunities

Come help Saratoga Grill support

OCIM

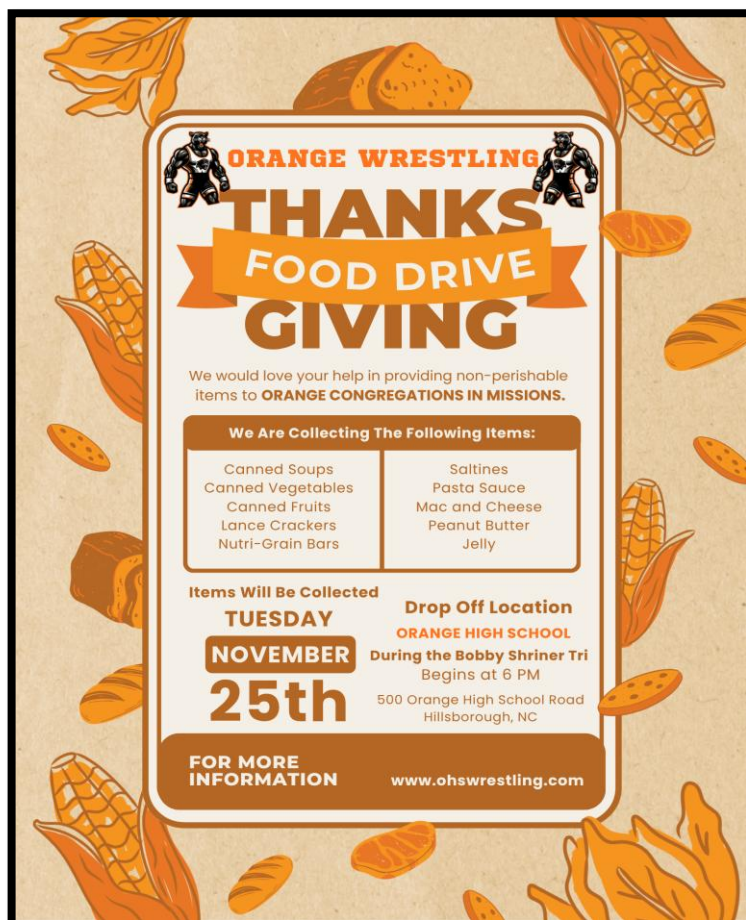
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

10% of sales will be donated to help the
Orange Congregation in Mission

4:30-8:30pm

Bring Non-Perishable Food Items and
restock their Food Pantry!

For Reservations call (919)732-2214
or email thesaratogagrill@gmail.com
or visit our website at www.saratogagrillnc.com



ORANGE WRESTLING

THANKS FOOD DRIVE GIVING

We would love your help in providing non-perishable items to **ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSIONS.**

We Are Collecting The Following Items:

Canned Soups	Saltines
Canned Vegetables	Pasta Sauce
Canned Fruits	Mac and Cheese
Lance Crackers	Peanut Butter
Nutri-Grain Bars	Jelly

Items Will Be Collected
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
25th

Drop Off Location
ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL
During the Bobby Shriner Tri
Begins at 6 PM
500 Orange High School Road
Hillsborough, NC

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.ohswrestling.com

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

- Timmy Parker with serious health issues. He is Barry Parker's brother
- Worth Miller with serious health issues. He is a friend and neighbor of Jimmy and Brenda Berry.
- 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 from 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
- 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.

From The Mailbox

To the wonderful quilters and knot tyers of Walnut Grove United Methodist Church,
My husband John and I want to send our most sincere thanks to the wonderful folks who created and perfected the beautiful quilt for our infant grandson, Leo Populorum. Your kindness, generosity and support has touched our hearts,

Most Sincerely,
Judy Guibert

Birthdays

Monday 11/3 – Mike Parker, Debbie Wagoner, Richard McColman, Tommy Clayton

Tuesday 11/4 – John Sherron

Wednesday 11/5 – Betsy Porterfield

Saturday 11/8 – Randy Elliott, Bailey Rath, Holt Comer, Meg Merritt

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

November 2nd

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Michael Roberts

Greeters: Clay & Cheryl S Parker

Ushers: Margaret Anne Dow/Grace Dunlap

Scripture: Brenda Berry

Nursery: Faith Parker/Ashley Parker/Aubrey Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

Financial Rep: Ashley James

Communion Servers: Cheryl Humphrey/Kennedy Dunlap

PM Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Mandy Kemnitz

November 9th

Acolytes: Callie Smith/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Faith Parker/Krystal Robinson

Ushers: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Scripture: Toni Shaw

Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Cheryl S Parker/Grayson Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Michael James

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

PM Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Ashley Parker

Mowing Schedule

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, November 2	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (CLOCKS FALL BACK) 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service/Communion/All Saints Sunday 4:45pm Hallelujah Kids 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery 6:00pm Worship Choir (Christmas)
Monday, November 3	6:30pm Worship meeting
Tuesday, November 4	7:00pm Men's Group
Wednesday, November 5	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sun, November 7-9	Youth at Pilgrimage
Sunday, November 9	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 4:45pm Hallelujah Kids 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery 6:00pm Worship Choir (Christmas)
Wednesday, Nov. 12	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, November 16	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:45pm Hallelujah Kids 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery 6:00pm Worship Choir (Christmas) 7:00pm Charge Conference at Cedar Grove UMC
Tuesday, November 18	7:00pm Men's Group

Wednesday, Nov 19 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, November 23 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:00pm Decorate Church for Advent
4:45pm Hallelujah Kids
5:30pm Dinner
6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Adult Bible Study, Nursery
6:00pm – 7:00pm Youth online safety training with Tyler Smith
6:00pm Worship Choir (Christmas)

Thursday, November 27



Sunday, November 30 9:00am Doughnuts/Coffee for everyone!!
 (provided by Men's Group)
9:30am Sunday School Opening - Joint Sunday School (Adults)
10:30am Worship Service - First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens
4:45pm Hallelujah Kids
6:00pm Worship Choir (Christmas)

See You Sunday!!