

Divine Hope in All Circumstances

by Rev. Judson Dunlap

So I stopped by Duke's campus two nights ago on the way home from a United Methodist clergy meeting to look up something in the library of the Freeman Center for Jewish Life, Duke's Jewish student union. While there I beheld a devotional table set up with prayers for peace and security for Israel, candles, and poems. One post-WWII prayer that had circulated in 1948 at the time of modern Israel's independence movement read, "Sovereign of the universe, accept in lovingkindness and favor our prayers for the State of Israel...Spread over Israel and all the world Your shelter of peace..." ending with Isaiah 2.4's hopeful vision, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore." My heart joined in this prayer for world peace and then sank in sadness as I saw a prayer list of 152 names of Jews who had been taken hostage in the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas on Israel's soil.

My heart began thinking about what those Jewish hostages were experiencing – the horror of being held by those who wish to end their existence on this earth and to terrorize them along that dreadful way. I asked myself, "What could possibly be sustaining them and giving them hope? What could sustain anyone – Jew, Christian, or Muslim -- in that situation?" Before deploying overseas to combat zones in the middle east in 2019 as a Navy chaplain, I underwent SERE training (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) that prepared me how to handle the possibility of being taken as a POW – how to interact with my captors, how to honor my country and not betray the Constitution, and mostly how to survive. I thought then as I do now: Spiritual preparation through prayer and biblical closeness to God, my Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer was the answer. Through daily conversation with God via God's holy Word, we can be strengthened and ready for whatever may befall us.

Today's Daily Office of prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer* provides fitting words from Psalm 43, "Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; from those who are deceitful and unjust, deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge...O send your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy...Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Charge Conference News

Mark your calendar for November 29th from 7:30-8:30 for our annual charge conference! We will be hosting it this year at Walnut Grove UMC with our sister church, Pleasant Green UMC, also having their charge conference at Walnut Grove. Hope to see you there!

Music Ministry Update

How about getting to sing some Christmas music in November?

The Worship Choir (adults) has started rehearsing on Sunday afternoons at 4:30pm and Wednesday nights at 7:30 for our annual Christmas presentation. This year's music is titled, "The Celebration of Christmas" and includes a mix of hymns, contemporary songs, and narration to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 10:30am worship service. If you would like to get in on a short-term commitment, this is for you! (Of course, you're welcome to join us on Sunday mornings too.)

The Hallelujah Kids (K through 5th grade) have started rehearsals on Sunday afternoons at 6:00pm (during the KidsKrew time) for their annual Christmas presentation. Their music is titled, "Sleepover at the Stable" and includes songs and a play about the animals in the stable the night Jesus was born. You've never seen (and heard) animals tell the Christmas story quite like this before! It will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 24th at the 10:30am worship service. Also, if you have a 3 or 4 year old who would like to take part, let Leigh know.

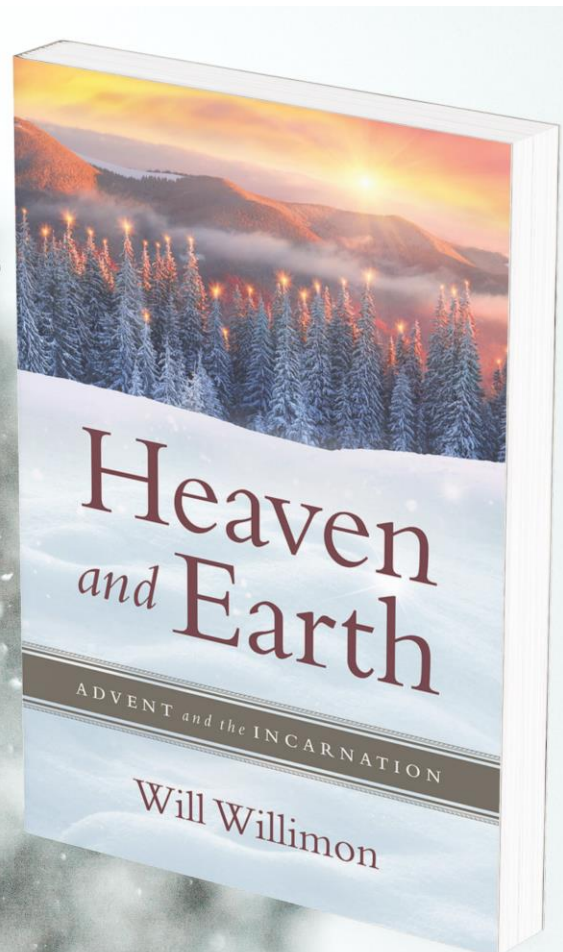
For more information, contact Leigh McFalls at leighmcfalls@gmail.com or 919-818-3317.

Advent Bible Study

an Advent study

**WATCH OUT.
GOD IS ON
THE WAY.**

**JOIN US ONLINE
MONDAYS AT 7PM**



Lunch With Lauren

Consider taking our intern this year out to lunch after church. Lauren can learn more about the ministries and life of Walnut Grove through your sharing stories and food together. You can sign up on one of the available Sundays by clicking the link below. Thank you for supporting all that she is doing for the church and her call to ministry.

Meal Time with Lauren

Local School Needs at Pathways Elementary

Winter Clothing (all sizes)

Smaller boys' /girls' shoes

Water Bottles

Individually Wrapped Snacks

Individually Wrapped Candy

Thank you for helping those in need in our community. You can drop these items off at church and we will get them to the school!

Food Pantry Needs

Good Morning! In talking with Kim at the Food Pantry yesterday, the pantry is indeed of the following items:

- a. Personal care products such as toothbrushes, bars of bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant,
- b. Canned fruits, vegetables, and mayonnaise

For the month of October, Walnut Grove donated 156.4 pounds. Any items that we can gather together will be greatly appreciated. Thank you,
Brenda Berry

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

- Betty Sue Hyder (cancer treatments), Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
- Family of Ann and Bruce Richardson in the loss of Ann's mother
- Beth Roberts, who was recently in a bad car accident. She is the daughter of Billie Roberts
- Families of Jenny Fritz. Friend of Heidi Gerbracht
- Billy Addison from Erwin, NC who has been diagnosed with mouth cancer. Cheryl Humphrey is asking for prayers for Billy.

- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Send A Card

Ann Richardson (Thinking of You), 6000 Payton Drive, Rougemont, NC 27572

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 11/17 – Scott Clayton, Paige Hanson

Saturday 11/18 – Ann Richardson

Sunday 11/19 – Todd Gilmore

Monday 11/20 – Kent Mangum, Dale Swiggett

Tuesday 11/21 – Christie Mathers

Wednesday 11/22 – Katie Whitaker, Doug Kimrey, Grace Dunlap

Thursday 11/23 – Kelsie Hines, Ricky Robinson, Sr., Katherine Berezny

Friday 11/24 – Margaret Williams

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

November 19th

Acolytes: Max Kemnitz/Michael Roberts

Greeters: Lorraine & Phil Hines

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Scripture Reader: Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

PM Nursery: Laurie Rogers/Ashley Parker

November 26th

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Kennedy Dunlap

Greeters: Cheryl & Scott Humphrey

Ushers: Cathy & Chris Boling

Nursery: Laurie Rogers/Sharyn Gates

Scripture: Emma Beckham

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

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 19

- 9:30am Sunday School
- 10:30am Worship Service
- 10:45am Children's Church
- 4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery



Thursday, November 23

Sunday, November 26

- 9:30am Sunday School
- 10:30am Worship Service
- 10:45am Children's Church
- 4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir
- 5:30pm Hallelujah Kids Play Practice

Wednesday, Nov. 29

6:00pm Worship Band

6:30pm Worship Choir

7:30 – 8:30pm Charge Conference

Friday-Saturday, Dec 1-2 Walnut Grove Crafters

Saturday, December 2 9:00am Decorate Church for Advent – All welcome

Sunday, December 3 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service (Hanging of the Greens)
4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir

Wednesday, December 6 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

[illegible]

Wednesday, December 13 Mary Martha Busy Ladies
7:00pm Worship Choir

Friday, December 15 Youth Winter Retreat Registration Due

Saturday, December 16 9:30am – Worship Choir dress rehearsal
Trip to Billy Graham Library and “The Real Christmas Story”

Sunday, December 17 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service – Adult Christmas Program
3:00 – 8:00pm Youth Caroling and Christmas Party
5:30pm Hallelujah Kids play practice

Wednesday, December 20 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Saturday, December 23 9:30am Hallelujah Kids dress rehearsal

Sunday, December 24 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service – Children’s Christmas Program
7:00pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Monday, December 25

Friday-Sat., Dec 29-30 Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, December 31 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
5:00 – 8:30pm New Year’s Eve at the Grove

See You Sunday!!