

I receive Friar Richard Rohr's Meditations via e-mail. I was reminded and grateful for our time of reflecting on our pausing Sunday during prayers of the people to be more reflective and quiet. I know the power and importance of stillness and silence in my own life as I share these words, Richard Rohr's thoughts, from a recent meditation. This meditation reflects on the power of God's presence in those still small voices and how quietude impacted the ministry of John Wesley and also the civil rights movement as well.

From Richard Rohr's Meditations

Spending time with Quakers provided Rev. Howard Thurman with sacred space to experience his oneness with God and other people. It proved to be a doorway to both action and contemplation. Author Lerita Coleman Brown writes:

For more than four hundred years, a vibrant Quaker commitment to the mystical practice of silence has persisted.... Staunch promoters of the "still small voice," Quakers believe that everyone carries the divine light of God within them and that we are all equal regardless of title or socioeconomic status. They believe that God speaks ceaselessly to us and that quietness and stillness are prerequisites for hearing the soft, gentle, wordless communication of God. Yet for Quakers, being contemplative is not enough; they assume that actions emerging from the silence should facilitate the end of social injustices and the creation of a more benevolent world. As advocates of peace and equality, many Quakers participated in the Underground Railroad, assisting thousands in escaping slavery.

As part of his study of mysticism, Howard Thurman attended Quaker meetings and sat in the silence that characterizes unscripted forms of Quaker worship. In a 1951 sermon on the strength of silence in corporate worship ... Thurman speaks of his personal experience of group silence during a traditional Quaker meeting:

Nobody said a word ... just silence. Silence. Silence. And in that silence I felt as though all of them were on one side and I was on the other side, by myself, with my noise. And every time I would try to get across the barrier, nothing happened. I was just Howard Thurman. And then ... I don't know when it happened, how it happened, I wish I could tell you, but somewhere in that hour I passed over the invisible line, and I became one with all the seekers. I wasn't Howard Thurman anymore; I was, I was a human spirit involved in a creative moment with human spirits, in the presence of God. [2]

Beloved, let us each spend some time in silence this week to listen and glean from the goodness of God who calls us to action to further God's kingdom.

Peace - Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

Harvest Festival

Hello Walnut Grove:

On Saturday, October 21, 2023 Walnut Grove will hold our annual Harvest Festival on the church grounds. Please consider this your cordial invitation to attend and participate in this well-loved community and church event. BBQ and Brunswick Stew will be prepared, cooked, served and sold for take-out. The auction sale will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Harvest Festival doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of work and planning from a lot of folks to make it run smoothly and to make this event a success. Many hands make light work. There is a job for YOU! With that in mind, please take a look at the projected timeline of events that will take place all along and up to that weekend. Times are approximate and subject to change.

Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for specific ways you can volunteer and specific donations you can make to support our efforts in the upcoming Harvest Festival. You can see how many people it takes to get these jobs done. Besides your presence, gifts and service, you can also support us with your prayers and witness.

As always, we would like to see lots of home-made crafts, jams and jellies, pickles, desserts and baked goods for our craft table/pre-priced items and for the auction. If you're dropping off a dessert, please put a note on it and indicate if you want it served at lunch, or auctioned off.

Ingredient donations should be at the church by 12:00 noon on Friday, October 20.

Auction items and items for the craft/pre-priced items can be dropped off as early as Thursday 10/19, but no later than Saturday morning. Auction items should be placed in the hallway between the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Craft/Pre-Priced items should be placed on the table marked accordingly.

Flyers are available for you to share with your friends, co-workers and other places in the community.

With everyone working together, we will have an exciting and successful 2023 Harvest Festival. When it's over, with full tummies and tired feet, we will smile at the memories and count our blessings!

Cheryl S. Parker
HF Team 23

Sunday Night Activities

Sunday Night activities have started and will 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. You can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044FAFAD29AAFF2-sunday1>

Music Ministry Update

Fall is here and music is happening! Below are several dates to put on your calendar.

Sunday, October 1 at 10:30am - Laity Sunday - The Hallelujah Kids will be leading a new Doxology during the service.

Sunday, October 29 at 10:30am - 5th Sunday SONGFEST (requests are ongoing)

Advent and Christmas will be here before you know it! Here are a couple of music programs to look forward to.

Sunday, December 17 at 10:30am - Worship Choir Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24 at 10:30am - Hallelujah Kids Christmas Program

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

Prayer Partners

If you are longing for a prayer partner or have one and would like to grow in your prayer life, check out this new opportunity through United Methodist Discipleship focused on growing in prayer. To learn more check out the link: [Finding a Prayer Partner](#)

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.

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.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project Return deadline 10/1

We blessed and excited that Walnut Grove UMC has approved our participation in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project this year!

There are numerous ways to participate:

- 1) Pick up a box from the Operation Christmas Child Table in the fellowship for your family to purchase items and fill. Each box will have a label inside for you to place on the box and check which sex/age child your box goes to. Return your shoebox to a container located underneath the table on or before October 1, 2023. The shipping and administrative cost is \$10 per box. Please follow the directions on the label for donations. Please put the portion of the label regarding shipping costs inside/top of box. **DO NOT BURY IT DOWN IN THE BOX!!!!** If you pick up a box to be filled, PLEASE write your name and contact information on the sign up sheet on OCC table so that an inventory can be kept.
- 2) Purchase items from lists provided in the weekly e-mail and e-Nutshell. There will large boxes underneath the OCC table for you to leave those items as you bring them in. The sooner the better as shoeboxes will be filled as we receive appropriate items!
- 3) If you prefer not to shop and would like to contribute funds, you may give those funds directly to me and I will do the shopping for you. If you have a specific area that you prefer your funds to be used, please let me know.
- 4) You may put money in the offering plate on any Sunday morning. Be sure to designate it for Operation Christmas Child Project. Those funds will be used to buy any additional items needed to fill boxes and/or for shipping costs.
- 5) And, most of all, please remember to **say a prayer** for the children who will receive these shoeboxes.

Suggested Items for Each Box:

- 1) "WOW" ITEMS such as soccer balls (deflated) with pump; dolls; stuffed animals or shoes (Note, each box should contain one WOW item!)
- 2) TOYS such as toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, cards, or dominos

- 3) TOILITRIES such as tooth brushes, combs, brushes, soap (individually wrapped!), stick deodorant, wash cloths
- 4) SCHOOL SUPPLIES such as pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring books, picture books, solar calculators
- 5) ACCESSORIES such as socks, sunglasses, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), caps, t-shirts, underwear

Do Not Include:

Candy, toothpaste, gum, seeds, food, liquids, lotions, aerosol cans, glass containers, breakable items, scary or war-related items, or used or damaged items!

Please feel free to contact me at (919)302-6924/cell, (919) 732-4959/home or e-mail at:

jcrabtree@centurylink.net

BLESSINGS!

Jeanne A. Crabtree, Project Leader

Sister Church Announcement

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 as we 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 Efland-Cedar Grove Road (10 minutes north of Efland)
Cedar Grove, NC 27231

Contact Pastor Monica: mbeacham@nccumc.org

RefugeeMinistry - Welcome Circles Information:

See Attached Info Sheet

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

- Paul Beck, recovering from a fall
- Cheryl Humphrey, recovering from surgery
- Cindy Sherron, recovering from a fall
- 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

Chris and Katy Feifs (Gift of new life), welcoming baby boy Stone Andris Feifs, 246 Redrock Drive, Burlington, VT 05401. Katy is the daughter of Margaret Anne Dow.

Paul Beck (Thinking of You), 6137 Dawn Drive, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Quilt

Larry Colie from Chapel Hill (White Cross Community) who has throat cancer. Larry is a friend of Barry Parker.

(The quilt will be in the Fellowship Hall. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over them.)

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 9/29 – Marcia Compton, Sara Beth Campbell

Saturday 9/30 – Amy Holleman, Amy Parker, Greg Wright

Sunday 10/1 – Ann Creech, Zachary Daniel, Mandy Kemnitz, Chuck Rodgers, Duane Tilley

Monday 10/2 – Tommy Blalock, Julia Treis

Tuesday 10/3 – John Randolph Oakley

Wednesday 10/4 – Michael Burton, Jr., Cody Berezny, Logan Horton

Thursday 10/5 – Ashley Parker

Friday 10/6 – Audrey Whitaker

Saturday 10/7 – Judy Parker, Katy Dow Feifs, Daniel Bledsoe, Michael McCulloch, Rob Smith

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

October 1st

Acolytes: Max Kemnitz/Corbin Smith
Greeters: Dale Smithson/Laurie Rogers
Ushers: Cheryl & Scott Humphrey
Nursery: Cheryl S. Parker/Judy Butler
Scripture Reader: Lorraine Parker
Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton
PM Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Leigh McFalls

October 8th

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Michael Roberts
Greeters: Tyler & Stephanie Smith
Ushers: Patty Maseth/Faith Parker
Nursery: Mary Emma Roberts/Cathy Boling
Scripture Reader: Cheryl Humphrey
Trustee Open/Close: Jimmy Berry
PM Nursery: Leigh McFalls/Cathy Boling

Mowing Schedule

September 30 – Bruce Richardson
October 7 – Todd Harris
October 14 – Mike Parker
October 21 – (Volunteer Needed)
October 28 – Scott 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, October 1	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Laity Sunday/Methodist Home for Children 1K/1Kid after church 4:00pm Fellowship Committee meeting 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wednesday, October 4	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, October 7	TarWheels BikeFest will be using the parking lot

Sunday, October 8	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wednesday, October 11	Mary Martha Busy Ladies 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, October 14	Harvest Festival Cook Day 2
Sunday, October 15	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wednesday, October 18	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Friday, October 20	Harvest Festival – Preparation and Peeling
Saturday, October 21	Harvest Festival
Sunday, October 22	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Wednesday, October 25	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat, October 27-28	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, October 29	9:30am Sunday School Opening Joint Sunday School (Adults) 10:30am SONGFEST Service Trunk or Treat & Hot Dog Dinner

See You Sunday!!