

A Perfect Father's Love

*"I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live."
Psalm 116:1-2*

Our psalm from the lectionary this week strikes a different note in light of Father's Day. While Psalm 116 doesn't specifically mention God acting as a father, the psalmist describes what we might imagine to be the best dad ever. This father hears his child's voice and takes time to listen to their needs. God "inclines his ear" like a father squatting down to meet the eye level of his toddler, lowering himself to become a safe, open place for his child.

Psalm 116 continues to describe how God has dramatically rescued the speaker from tears, stumbling, and death (vs. 8). The psalmist is so grateful that they begin to question, "What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (vs. 9) It's a question many of us ask: what can I do for the Dad who's done everything?

Of course, there are a multitude of things we could "do" for God, many of which Psalm 116 goes on to list. But ultimately, our actions are empty if we don't first accept the simple fact that God loves us. This week's New Testament passage, Romans 5:8, reminds us that, "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Paul says this reconciles us to God, which means there's nothing more we have to do to make things right with God. Like a perfect father, God wants our lives to be motivated by love, not by shame, pride, perfectionism, or other painful emotions that some of us may feel about our earthly fathers.

No matter what emotion Father's Day elicits in us, joy, anger, confusion or grief, we can take it to God, the perfect Father who hears our voice and listens to us closely.

– Lauren W. Birch

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Harvest Festival Meeting

Everyone is invited to come and present your ideas on our Harvest Festival Tradition at Walnut Grove or consider other options on **June 29th at 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to participate in this meeting.

Music Ministry Update

The time is here! This Sunday 7 children, youth and their 3 chaperones will be loading up at 9:30am to attend Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska Assembly located near Waynesville, NC. They will be participating in worship services, choir rehearsals, concerts, drama and liturgical dance seminars, along with lots of fun activities like swimming, hiking, etc. They will be returning the following Friday afternoon. Please keep this group in your prayers as they experience the many forms of worship.

Volunteer(s) Needed

We are looking for a teacher for our K-2 Sunday school class here at Walnut Grove! This active ministry involves sharing the love of Jesus Christ and building a foundation in our children's lives that will last for a lifetime. Much of our love of learning foundational Bible stories comes from our days in Sunday school. I bet we all remember with fondness teachers we had growing up who shared just how much Jesus loves us. With our growing number of children at church, we will soon have more children moving up from the nursery to children's Sunday school soon. This presents a good challenge! We will need to split the class and make both classes age appropriate so they can learn at their own level and pace. There is a big difference between a kindergartner and a fifth grader as we know. We need your help! If you are interested in helping either on a rotation (once or twice a month for example) or becoming the stationary teacher who shares in this important work of faith formation, reach out to Phil Hines, our Sunday school superintendent. Also, if you know someone who would be great to serve in this way, encourage them to talk to Phil as we grow together in Christ!

Haw River UMC Summer Camp

June 26-July 1

If any kids ages 8-16 are looking for a fun sleep-away camp experience, join us for this memorable, spirit-filled experience. For more information visit: <https://hawriverumc.org/church-camp/>

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Rev. Laure Kalau

Pastor, Haw River UMC

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 Anne Campbell in the loss of her mother
- Peggy Bledsoe, health issues. She is Dan Bledsoe's mom.

- Sandy Combs, health issues. She is the mother of Kim Combs.
- Linda Sheppard
- Jennifer Brewer, sarcoma, Emma Beckham's niece
- Pat Sykes
- Frances Walters
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Send A Card

The family of Anne Campbell (Sympathy), 501 Lost Way, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 6/16 – Aaron Gross, Adam Huskins, James Sparks, Ashley Reynolds

Saturday 6/17 – Lula Daniel, Austin Elliott, Lisa Pope, Courtney Humphrey

Sunday 6/18 – Cathy Chapman, Clara Parker, Jenna Read, Bethni Lee

Tuesday 6/20 – Phillip Sparks

Wednesday 6/21 – Johnny Clayton, Tracy Coleman, Emily McCulloch, Michelle Perkins

Thursday 6/22 – Wyatt Wagoner, Lou Rutledge

Friday 6/23 – Pat Beck

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

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[Website!](#)

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Serving in Worship

June 18th

Acolytes: Gracie Hall/Eleanor Whitaker

Greeters: Patty Maseth/Laurie Rogers

Ushers: Cathy & Chris Boling

Nursery: Faith Parker/Pam Kimrey

Scripture Reader: Cheryl L. Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Sharyn Gates

June 25th

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Wyatt James

Greeters: Barry & Cheryl L. Parker

Ushers: Mike Roberts/Jenny Blalock

Nursery: Stephanie Smith/Dale Smithson

Scripture Reader: Ashley Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Jacob Blankenship

Mowing Schedule

June 17 – Barry Walker

June 24 – Johnny & Shirley Clayton

July 8 – Phil Hines

July 22 – Bruce Richardson

July 1 – Clay Parker

July 15 – Jimmy Berry

July 29 – Todd Harris

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, June 18	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service – Father's Day
Sun – Fri, June 18-23	Lake Junaluska Music Week
Tuesday, June 20	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Thursday, June 22	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Fri-Sat, June 23-24	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, June 25	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Monday, June 26	7:00pm Covenant Council
Tuesday, June 27	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, June 28	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, June 29	9:30am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house 7:00pm Harvest Festival Meeting

See You Sunday!!