

In a Nutshell

July 14, 2023

We are familiar with the term, "the dog days of summer." It's a specific time frame from July 3rd to August 11th when we typically have the hottest days of the year. It's a time frame of forty days and originally dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times with the time frame being more of a month from July 24th to August 24th.

For some, summertime means longer days and a slower pace of life. It's a great time as to be reflective, to spend time in nature soaking up God's creation, and for us at Walnut Grove in the summer of 2023 to enjoy the gift of the Psalms as we have over these past few weeks. We're dedicating six weeks to our summer sermon series, "Summer in the Psalms."

With this gift of poetic prayer, we find the Psalms give us language to pray when we don't know how to pray. We receive this gift of words to convey what we're thinking or feeling with a whole host and range in emotions.

Dr. Howell in his book, "The Beautiful Work of Learning to Pray," shares:

The psalms are brutally honest, and they can help us know ourselves honestly, and to pray honestly before God. And yet the Psalms, and the rest of the Bible, stretch us beyond the kind of praying that forever gets stuck into "me and my concerns." The Bible lures us out of our own small world and into God's huge world. We begin to know God's worries, to feel God's pain for people beyond our small circle."

I invite us to live into the rhythm of the slowness we find in these dog days of summer. Meditate on God's scripture with the pace that causes you to experience the living water like a faucet that is barely dripping, focusing on one drop at a time. This Sunday we will be looking at Psalm 121 in worship. Find a psalm that speaks to your heart and mind. May God continue to speak to us in this prayer poetry together.

– Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VBS Update

Join us for Vacation Bible School and help us "Shine Jesus' light!" Sunday, July 16-Wednesday, July 19th from 5:30-7:30. Dinner is served at 5:30 and each night the program runs from 6:00-7:30. Wednesday night, we will have ice cream at 7:30 as well. Kids from nursery age to rising fifth graders are welcome to attend. No preregistration is necessary. Please contact Ashley Parker (ashleymorganparker@gmail.com or 919-475-5211) with any questions or to volunteer for this year's phenomenal fun-filled VBS experience.

Mary Martha Busy Ladies - Next Meeting: Thursday July 20th

We will meet at church at 10:30 a.m. for a short meeting. The devotion will be provided by Iris Tilley. We will leave the church (carpooling) for The Homestead Steak House, 205 Frank Timberlake Road, Timberlake, NC 27583, by 11:00 a.m. to be there by the 11:30 a.m. reservation time. It is important that we reserve for an accurate number of people attending. We will have our own room. The meal is \$15.00 (buffet) and includes the meal, a drink and the tip. RSVP by July 12th to Sue Powell at 919-819-0344 or suepowell0504@gmail.com

Fifth Sunday Opportunities – Penny Push

9:30am - Sunday School Opening followed by Joint Adult SS class

10:30am - Songfest during Worship

We are off to a strong start with our Penny Push! This spare change fundraising drive will take the place of the usual 5th Sunday canned food drive for OCIM donations, and the winning Sunday School class will get to claim the Samaritan Class of the Month banner. As of this week, we have raised \$22.06 total for donation to OCIM. The Women's Sunday School class meeting in the parlor is our biggest contributor so far, having raised \$16.42 of that total. Do you have a cupholder full of nickels from trips to the convenience store? A coffee can with loose change in the back of your closet? A couch whose cushions haven't been thoroughly searched in years? Bring in your change on Sunday and see if the class of your choice can take the lead!

Music Ministry Update

On Sunday, July 30th we will have the 5th Sunday Songfest. A number of songs have been requested and plans are underway to sing as many as possible. Song Request sheets are on the music stand outside the door to the choir room in the Fellowship Hall if you need to add a song. We will have an opportunity to exercise our singing voices during the 10:30 Songfest Worship Service with songs that have been requested by you.



Hey Orange Cooperative Parish!

Pack some love for our Literacy Camp students! They're working hard this summer, so let's help them start the school year off right with the supplies they need to succeed! Our students are K-2 students, and we would love good-quality, new donations of:

Crayons and washable markers

Colored pencils

Wide-ruled composition notebooks and paper

#2 pencils, erasers, and sharpeners

Kid-sized headphones

Kid scissors

Washable glue sticks

Hand sanitizer

Dry-erase markers for the classroom

Donations are needed by July 16th!

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".

Budget News as of end of second quarter

Year to Date Income - \$ 95,443.22

Year to Date Expenses - \$ 108,264.67

Difference - \$12,821.45

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Lou Rutledge and family in the passing of her mom.
- 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

Lou Rutledge (Passing of her mother), 3723 Acorn Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278

James Parker (Thinking of you), 3804 Laws Store Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Message from Mary W. Blalock

Mary W. Blalock would like to greatly thank the church and those who sent her sympathy cards and prayers at the loss of her brother, Carl Wall.

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 7/14 – Allison Wright

Saturday 7/15 – Tammy Owens

Sunday 7/16 – Aaron Casteel, Jett Gilmore

Monday 7/17 – Bob Patten

Wednesday 7/19 – Hannah Gibbs, Kayla Burton

Thursday 7/20 – Kailey Latta

Saturday 7/22 – Jessica Young, Frank Simmons, Bryan Guy, Charles 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!](#)

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Serving in Worship

July 16th

Acolytes: Corbin Smith/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Mary Emma Roberts/Dale Smithson

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Scripture Reader: Grace Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Laura Dunlap

July 23rd

Acolytes: Kennedy Dunlap/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Ushers: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Nursery: Grace Dunlap/Katie Whitaker

Scripture Reader: Kara Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

Mowing Schedule

July 15 – Jimmy Berry

July 22 – Bruce Richardson

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, July 16	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Sun – Wed. July 16 – 19	Vacation Bible School (5:30pm Dinner, 6:00-7:30 Program)
Tuesday, July 18	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, July 19	6:30pm Worship Choir
Thursday, July 20	10:30am Mary Martha Busy Ladies meeting 11:30am Lunch at the Homestead, RSVP by July 12th w/Sue
Thursday, July 20	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Fri-Sat, July 21-22	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, July 23	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Tuesday, July 25	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house

Wednesday, July 26

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

Thursday, July 27

11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house

Sunday, July 30

9:30am Sunday School Opening

Joint Sunday School (Adults)

10:30am SONGFEST Service

See You Sunday!!