

Light

For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

~ 2 Corinthians 4: 6

It is Transfiguration Sunday this week. We hear of the transfiguration of Jesus on a mountain top. Peter, James and John witnessed this. They saw their teacher changed; they saw Elijah and Moses speaking with him; they heard the voice of God, as at Jesus's baptism, call Jesus *beloved*.

Let's paraphrase and break the above verse down a bit.

God,
who proclaimed
Light will shine out of darkness,
has shined holy light in the depths of our hearts
in order to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
that we can see coming from the face of Jesus Christ.

At the moment of his transfiguration, as well as at every moment of his ministry, we are given knowledge of the glory of God by looking into the face of Jesus. God has worked in our hearts to encourage our receptivity to this astounding fact so that we can know and follow God through this gift of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

May we gaze into the face of Jesus and know God, and may we let God change us into true disciples who follow the Way that leads to life.

Thanks be to God.

~ Lindy Thompson

Pray

God, we are given a fresh chance to see you in Jesus and decide to follow. Be in our hearts; be seen in our actions; give us the fortitude to do your will in this world. We thank you and we love you. Amen.

~Shared by Leigh McFalls

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Ash Wednesday Feb. 14

On Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00pm we will have our annual Ash Wednesday service. Please come and receive the ashes as we observe the beginning of Lent.

OCIM Update

Walnut Grove United Methodist Church OCIM food donations for January, 2024 were **390.8 pounds**. On February 5, Walnut Grove UMC donated **197 pounds of food and personal items**.

For **Sunday, February 11**, we will be collecting cans of non-perishable food items or \$1.00 for OCIM (Orange Congregations in Missions) **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**. Place cans of foods in plastic containers at the back of the church plus there will be Stew Pots on flower stands for dollar donations. If a check is written, please write OCIM -food pantry in the memo section of the check. Thank you so much for your support of the OCIM missions project.

~Brenda Berry

From the Missions Committee

Coming up February 11th, 2024, while many watch football in the evening with snacks and parties filled with appetizing foods, we are aware many in our community go each and every day without knowing where their next meal will come from. This includes children and elderly here in Orange County too. Through the work of OCIM, we invite you to make a dent in helping our understocked local community food pantry by a) bringing a nonperishable item to church and/or b) donating above your tithes and offerings to OCIM. Please make sure monies and checks are clearly marked. Thank you for showing Christ's love and touching the lives of so many in Jesus' name!

THINK BEYOND THE BOWL!

What if every person in your congregation or organization watching the Big Game donated just \$1 or 1 can of food?

TACKLE HUNGER
with the
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

February 11, 2024



Valentine's Dinner

You are invited to Walnut Grove's Valentine Celebration on Saturday night, February 10th. The doors open at 5:30pm and the meal starts at 6:00. The cost of the meal is by donation. The menu is grilled chicken, baked potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert. There will be entertainment and great fellowship. We will have a friendly competition as individuals decorate their own table and guests vote on their favorite theme. Please contact Tina Walker (919-619-1971), Judy Butler (919-971-5689) or Lorraine Hines (919-619-1090) to let us know as soon as possible if you can come. We still have a few spots left if you wish to decorate a table. All proceeds go to Rise Against Hunger.

We need **YOU** to decorate a table for our

Valentine's Dinner

on February 10th at 5:30pm

*Proceeds will benefit
Walnut Grove's next*



HOW TO SIGN UP

*Fill out the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or
text/call Judy Butler at 919-971-5689*

THE FINE PRINT

Each table needs a name/theme (does not have to be Valentine's Day!).

Tables need to be decorated by 3pm on Feb. 10th.

The table creator is responsible for: decorating, setup and cleanup of the table.

The table creator provides a place setting for 8 including: plates, glasses, and silverware.

Dessert plates will be provided. Off white table cloths are available.

!!!CONTEST for the favorite table!!!

Mary Martha Busy Ladies

Hello friends, I hope everyone is doing well.

Mary Martha Busy Ladies will meet on Wednesday, February 14th I know, it is Valentine's Day or, as I like to call it - Let's Eat A Lot of Chocolate Day. This is a potluck meeting. We'll gather around 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall, set up for lunch, eat and fellowship around 11:30am. Afterwards, we will have a short meeting to do some planning for the year. Bring your ideas and thoughts about MMBL for 2024! Hope to see you!



~Pat and Sue

2024 Mowing Schedule

We are in the deep freeze of winter at this writing, but soon Spring will arrive and the grass will begin to grow! If you are interested in signing up to mow the church yard, please contact Cheryl Humphrey at cherylhumphreydesign@gmail.com or text 919-730-9365 by 3/15/24. The cemetery and old parsonage yard are mowed professionally so this is just the areas around the church and fellowship hall. We begin the first weekend of April and mow weekly through the last weekend in October. You will need to provide your own mower, weed eater and blower, if used. Thanks for helping to keep our beloved Walnut Grove beautiful!

Sunday Nights Return in February

We need you! Help fix a meal or serve as a leader of Kids Krew one night during our return to Sunday Night Fun! We need all hands on deck to make our Sunday nights work well. Go in with some friends, a class, a committee- we need servants' hearts! Thank you for signing up to help! We start back Feb. 18th and go to March 17th! Don't miss out!

For Volunteering for Kids Krew- Lessons will be provided

[Kids Krew](#)

For Meals

[Meals for Sunday Nights](#)

Music Ministry Update

Easter Music

February is here and rehearsals for Easter and other special music have begun. Easter Sunday is March 31st this year and the Worship Choir will be presenting the musical "Is He Worthy" during the 10:30am worship service. We practice on Wednesdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 4:30pm, starting on February 18th if you would like to join us.

Lake Junaluska

We still have 2 spaces left to attend Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska Assembly near Waynesville, NC. Children (rising 4th graders and up), youth and adults are eligible to attend. We will leave on Sunday, June 23rd, and return on Friday, June 28th.

For more information contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317 for more information.

Newly Forming Evangelism Team

Are you interested in evangelism? Want to reach out to others and visitors we have at church? Want to help with follow-up when we have guests and share ideas to help us to continue to grow? Please see Pastor Laura. We are hoping to form a team soon and would love for you to be a part of this new work!

The Church Needs YOU!

Do you have an interest in serving within the church? We would love to have you! The nursery needs volunteers to watch children during the 10:30 service, Sunday Nights Together (6:00pm when in session) and at various times during church events.

We also need volunteers during worship to greet, usher, read scripture and serve communion. To sign up or if you have questions, let the church office or Stephanie Smith know. Once signed up, Stephanie will give you a quick tutorial.

Faith Formation at Camp Chestnut Ridge

We all long to nurture our children in the faith and see them deepen in their walk with Jesus Christ. Every Monday night starting on Feb. 12th, there will be a gathering with a free meal, fellowship, and faith formation for your family or a family you might want to invite nearby. Families are asked to commit from February until the end of the school year on Monday nights for this gathering at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and reach out to Meg Hoffman at meg@campchestnutridge.org if you have questions.

For more information, check out: <https://www.campchestnutridge.org/seedsofffaith> for details.

NC Conference

Friends,

There are many opportunities to learn and grow through our connection as United Methodists. I invite you to take time to look at some of the resources offered in the NC Conference. Also, we give thanks for the missions grant that we have received thanks to our connectional nature. We will have the exact amount shared sometime in the spring. Beloved, we give thanks for our connection, our sister churches in the OCP, and our joy and serving Christ together!

See attachment for more information.

Prayers

You are invited to join us on this journey of prayer in 2024 as we strengthen our prayer lives together each and every day. We know the power of prayer in our lives and in our world. God continues to heal, perform miracles, and offer grace and mercy in unexpected ways. We give thanks for the ways the Holy Spirit moves among us. We'll have a new list each month with prayer prompts for us each to grow in our intercessory prayers and broaden our circles to those we might not consider in our daily prayers. Use this list, pass it on, and let it guide you closer to others and to God in 2024!

February Prayers

- 
- Feb. 1st- Widows/ Widowers
 - Feb. 2nd- Survivors of War
 - Feb. 3rd – Our Children Doing Mission Work for OCIM
 - Feb. 4th- Nourishment for our souls with Holy Communion
 - Feb. 5th- Deepen in our faith
 - Feb. 6th- For God to open our eyes
 - Feb. 7th – For God to open our ears
 - Feb. 8th- For God to open our hearts
 - Feb. 9th- For the work of our Trustees Committee
 - Feb. 10th- For Our Valentine's Dinner
 - Feb. 11th- For our SPRC
 - Feb. 12th- For our Fellowship Committee
 - Feb. 13th – For our Worship Committee
 - Feb. 14th- For God to renew a right spirit within us as we enter Lent (Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM)
 - Feb. 15th- For Missions Committee
 - Feb. 16th- For Our Music Director
 - Feb. 17th- For Our Organist
 - Feb. 18th – Survivors of Domestic Abuse
 - Feb. 19th – School Principals and Vice-Principals
 - Feb. 20th – Those working in sweat shops around the world
 - Feb. 21st- Repent of our greed and consumeristic tendencies
 - Feb. 22nd- Our quilters
 - Feb. 23- Those receiving quilts
 - Feb. 24th- Sabbath rest
 - Feb. 25th- our children
 - Feb. 26th- caregivers
 - Feb. 27th- those without reliable transportation
 - Feb. 28th- Our police officers

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 January 31, 2024

Year to Date Income - \$ 15,123.68

Year to Date Expenses - \$ 14,492.58

Difference - \$ 631.10

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 67,201.70

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 8,065.58

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Wahome Mwangi - serious condition
- Bob Atz who has bladder cancer/lymphoma. Friend of Emma Beckham
- Family of Katinka Bates (who recently passed away)
- Debbie Smith who recently had back surgery. She is Tyler Smith's mom
- Herring Family (Linda and husband Dortch), Dortch has been in Duke Hospital for several weeks with dementia while they try to find him a permanent facility to go to. Dortch is Jane Sparks' brother-in-law.
- Betty Sue Hyder (cancer treatments), Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Quilts

Susan Gray from Timberlake, NC who will have back surgery on February 13th. Susan is Faydean Cannada's sister.

Heather Perry from Efland, NC who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin treatments soon. Quilt requested by Betsy N. Parker.

(The prayer quilts will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over the quilts before and after the service.)

Wednesday, February 14 11:00am Mary Martha Busy Ladies
6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
Worship Choir (following Ash Wednesday Service)

Sunday, February 18 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
5:30pm Dinner
6:00-7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery

Wednesday, February 21 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)

Friday-Sat., Feb. 23-24 Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, February 25 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)
5:30pm Dinner
6:00-7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery

Wednesday, February 28 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir
7:30pm Worship Choir (Easter)

See You Sunday!!