

I remember times in my life where my prayers felt like half-finished sentences. I would start strong, then my mind would drift. Some nights I would fall asleep mid-thought. Some mornings I rushed right past God like I was too busy for him. I knew better, but my heart felt tired and my faith felt quiet.

And still, God stayed close.

I brought Him scraps, and He brought me shelter. I didn't have the words, but He gave me what words cannot buy. He steadied me in conversations that could have gone sideways. He redirected plans that would have drained me. He placed calm over me like a blanket on days I was carrying too much and pretending I wasn't.

What humbles me most is this: God did not love me more when I was "doing it right." He didn't wait for my polished prayers before he answered. He didn't punish my forgetfulness with distance. His faithfulness did not rise and fall with my performance. It flowed from His character.

Looking back, I can see His fingerprints on moments I thought were random. A delay that saved me. A disappointment that protected me. A door that stayed shut until I was finally grateful it never opened. He was providing in places I never thought to request and guarding me from things I never noticed.

Prayer still matters, but this reminds me why grace is called grace. I'm not held by my consistency. I'm held by His mercy. And when my grip was weak, His never was.

May I never stop being amazed at a God who keeps caring, even when I keep stumbling. Amen.

~Shared by Kim Combs

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Title: *The Power Of The Holy Spirit*

As we look ahead to Sunday, I encourage you to read the scripture ahead of time as part of your devotional time and preparation for Sunday. One passage of scripture can easily take us in many directions. Use the sermon title to help guide your reflections. Spend time in Lectio Divina with the scripture as part of your daily devotions. There are lots of videos on YouTube on how to participate in Lectio Divina. Here is a meditative video that is instructive to be a resource to you –

Meditative How To - Lectio Divina

OCIM Update

May 31 is our next 5th Sunday and Sunday School Opening.

The following items are needed for the OCIM food pantry: dry beans, cans of fruit, mayonnaise, mustard, jelly, peanut butter, diced tomatoes,

They are also in need of toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet paper.

Thank you for all you do for OCIM.



The poster features a watercolor background with pink and purple flowers and green leaves. At the top, the text 'Worship with us in May' is written in a mix of purple, green, and pink fonts. Below this, there are two icons: a purple circle with a white cross and an open book, and a green circle with a white church icon. To the right of these icons are the times: 'Sunday School: 9:30am' and 'Worship: 10:30am'. A central line of text reads 'Join us each Sunday as we celebrate, worship, and grow together.' Below this are five event descriptions, each with a circular icon: a church, three children, a grill, a dove in flames, and a blue Trinity knot. At the bottom, there is a purple cross icon and the text 'Walnut Grove UMC' in a purple script font, followed by 'All are welcome – come as you are!' with a small pink heart.

Worship with us in May

 Sunday School: 9:30am |  Worship: 10:30am

Join us each Sunday as we celebrate, worship, and grow together.

 **May 3 – Homecoming Sunday**
Worship as we welcome back Rev. Gordon Christen and his family.
Stay for lunch after service and bring a covered dish to share!

 **May 10 – Children's Sunday (Mother's Day)**
A special service led by our children! They will sing, serve as liturgists, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

 **May 17 – Celebration Sunday**
Honoring Lauren Welch Birch, our beloved Minister of Discipleship.
This will be Lauren's last Sunday at Walnut Grove.
Join us after worship for a cookout with hotdogs & hamburgers.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share as we celebrate Lauren, Andrew, and Lenora.

 **May 24 – Pentecost Sunday**
Wear RED to celebrate!
We will also honor our graduates and give thanks for the gift of this milestone in their lives.

 **May 31 – Trinity Sunday**
Fifth Sunday Fellowship!
Join us for one combined Sunday School class at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall for a fun time of learning together!

 **Walnut Grove UMC**
All are welcome – come as you are! ♥

Graduation Recognition

Please join us on Sunday as we celebrate our graduates.

Tucker Brian Dillard

Orange High School

UNC Wilmington, major in Business with minor in Data Sciences.

Parents: Brian and Erin Dillard

Grandparents: Tom and Lou Rutledge

Layne Morgan Harris

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Biological Science,

Minors in Wildlife Science and

Environmental Science from North Carolina State University

Parent names: Todd and Laura Harris

Grandparents: Paul and Pat Beck

Tithes and Offerings

We now have five 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 "My Church" mobile app. Click GIVE in the lower right corner.
5. Use our Vanco QR Code, which you can find on the back of the Sunday bulletins or right here in the weekly *In A Nutshell*.

Budget News as of May 12, 2026

Year to Date Income: \$ 79,662.37

Year to Date Expenses: \$ 122,812.21

Difference: \$ (43,149.84)

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 2,888.83

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 25,820.66

Vanco QR Code

As we continually adapt to the gift of technology, Walnut Grove now has a Vanco QR code provided on the back of the bulletin and in the Nutshell for online giving. Simply hold your phone or tablet's camera over the code for the link to Vanco. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Rev. Mike Sykes health concerns
- Kathy Matthews recovering from a fall. She is a friend of Kim McColman.
- Gene Parker who has ongoing health concerns and was recently discharged from the hospital. His wife, Kay Parker, is a member of WGIMC.
- Family of Dorothy Young. She was Amy Holleman's mother.
- Kim Lester who is having brain surgery. She is a friend of Leigh McFalls.
- Jaxson Bates injured in a traffic accident. He is a friend of Mary Emma Roberts.
- Barb Atz from Hopwood, PA who recently had triple by-pass surgery. She is a friend of Emma Beckham.
- Scott Moore, diagnosed with leukemia. He is the brother-in-law of Emma Beckham.
- Merrill Messick, who is Beverly Huey's father and Mary Dietz, her aunt.
- Sam Woods, who is facing health issues.
- Wayne Berry, who is facing health issues.
- Wayne Dewberry, who is facing surgery after a recent fall.
- Scott Hackler with cancer diagnosis. He is a friend of Jolinda Swiggett.
- Angela Lloyd from Efland, NC who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Angela is the wife of Craig Lloyd and is the sister-in-law of Cheryl Humphrey.
- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, particularly JoAnn at this time, but both have health issues. They are members of our church family.
- Lynwood Lovitte, who is a member of our church family.
- Jessy Privette from Wendell has been diagnosed with cancer. Jesse is the girlfriend of Jeffrey James, who is the son of Anita James and brother of Michael James.
- Rick Johnson with health issues. He is friends with Judy Butler and many other church members.
- David Leonard having complications from surgery. He is the dad of a friend of Faith Parker.
- Leo Brooks Populorum (7 Months old), from Pittsboro, has very serious health issues. Leo is the grandson of John and Judy Guibert who are friends of Beverly Huey.
- Ben Lloyd, Cheryl Humphrey's father, with serious health issues.
- Gilbert Lee in Prince George, VA, who recently had surgery for cancer. He is Richard Lee's father
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

Prayer is powerful and we love praying for one another! If you have a request on the prayer list, we would be grateful for any updates needed. This helps us know how to continue praying and when requests may be removed or celebrated. Please let us know how we can best pray for you and your loved ones.

Send A Card

Amy and Tony Holleman (Thinking of You), 158 NE 8th Street, Oak Island, NC 28465

Quilt

John Hougum from Hurdle Mills who is being treated for lung cancer. John is the brother of Sonja Tilley and brother-in-law of Wesely Tilley.

Quilt Square for the 2026 Graduate

Tucker Brian Dillard, son of Brian and Erin Dillard graduating from Orange High School. He is the grandson of Lou and Tom Rutledge. He will receive a quilt square to take with him as he moves on to his next adventure in life. He will be attending UNC Wilmington, major in Business with minor in Data Sciences. We wish for him God's speed wherever the road of life takes him.

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

Birthdays

Friday 5/22 – Luke Long

Saturday 5/23 – Keegan Walker

Sunday 5/24 – Brenda Painter, Spencer Walker, Jason Conway

Monday 5/25 – David Berry, Jr.

Wednesday 5/27 – Alan Horton

Thursday 5/28 – Stacy Beneville

Friday 5/29 – Chance Murray

Saturday 5/30 – Susan Rimmer

Sunday 5/31 – Kim Horton

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](#)

Serving in Worship

May 24th

Acolytes: Samantha Johnson/Max Kemnitz

Greeters: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Ushers: Cari & Courtney Humphrey

Scripture: Lorraine Parker

Nursery: Cheryl S Parker/Faith Parker

Financial Rep: Ashley James

Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth

May 31st

Acolytes: Callie Smith/Eleanor Whitaker

Greeters: Youth TBD

Ushers: Youth TBD

Scripture: Youth TBD

Nursery: Judy Butler/Debby Donnelly

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

Trustee Open/Close: Daniel Johnson

Mowing Schedule

May 23 - Todd Harris

May 30 - Mike Parker

June 06 - Clay Parker

June 13 - Barry Walker

June 20 - Phil Hines

June 27- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

NOTE: If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify Kim of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 24	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service and Graduate Recognition 10:45am Children's Church
Tuesday, May 26	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, May 27	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., May 29-30	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, May 31	9:00am Doughnuts/Coffee for everyone!! (provided by Methodist Men) 9:30am Sunday School Opening - Joint Sunday School (Adults) 10:30am Worship Service
Monday, June 1	11am Membership Committee meeting
Wednesday, June 3	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, June 7	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Tuesday, June 9	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, June 10	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, June 14	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church

Sun-Wed, June 14-17	5:15 - 6:00pm Dinner 6:00 – 7:30pm - Vacation Bible School
Wednesday, June 17	7:30pm Worship Band and Worship Choir
Sunday, June 21	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Sun-Fri, June 21-26	Children @ Lake Junaluska
Tues-Fri, June 23-26	Youth @ Breakaway
Tuesday, June 23	7:00pm Methodist Men
Fri-Sat., June 26-27	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, June 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Monday, June 29	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting

See You Sunday!!