

Psalm 19:14

Take a deep breath. Inhale. Exhale. Gently close your eyes or soften your gaze. Wait. Now you cannot read the Nutshell! How are we going to do this? Therein lies our challenge. We have much to accomplish, much to complete as productive people, yet we also need to pause and reflect.

Reflection is essential to our well-being and to our integrity as people of faith. Too often we find ourselves reacting quickly, accepting something as fact when it may not be. It's easy to fail to take the time to process what we have heard. Yet praise be to God, from whom all blessings flow, that even in the midst of a world saturated in misinformation, in the face of challenges close to our hearts and those we encounter through our devices, we remember that it is God's peace we seek and claim for our lives.

Resurrection living reminds us that sin has been put to death, even as we give thanks for moments of confession. We take time to go to God in prayer, seeking forgiveness for our sinfulness to restore us once again. This is one reason we have included the prayer of confession during this Eastertide: to remind us to breathe in the presence of the God who loves us, claims us, forgives us, and calls us to lives of renewed faithfulness.

Understanding what a faithful witness resembles and what it doesn't matters. May our lives reflect God's goodness as we reflect on the goodness and righteousness of our Lord. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in God's sight. Prayerfully, our daily rhythms point others back to the One who redeems us, restores us, and calls us to live shaped by truth, grace, and resurrection power. Lord, empower us to pause, be reflective and live in your light. Amen.

Pastor Laura Dunlap

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Mark 12:28-34, Leviticus 19:9-18

Sermon Title: Love Boldly

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](#)

OBITUARY WRITING WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY: SARA WILLIAMS



MAY 28
6PM

Office Schedule

I will be out of the office and away from until May 4th on vacation. I will respond to emails upon my return on Monday, May 4th. Should you need immediate support, please email Pastor Laura at ldunlap@nccumc.org. Your message will be replied to as soon as possible. ~Kim Combs

Operation Christmas Child

Our 2026 Operation Christmas Child project is officially underway, and we're excited to begin collecting 200 shoeboxes for girls and boys in two age groups: 2-4 and 5-7.

We would love your help in making this mission possible. If you're able, please consider donating items from the list linked below — and feel free to share the link with friends, family, or anyone who may want to join in. Every contribution, big or small, brings joy to a child on Christmas.

All items purchased through the list will ship directly to my home, and the address is already preloaded for your convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our list for the big packing day at the church, please let me know. We truly cannot reach our goal without your support.

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist>

Thank you for helping us spread love and hope,
Kimberly Gilbert & Jeanne Crabtree

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*.

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. You may also access the link on our website for convenient giving. Alternatively, cash or check contributions continue to be accepted through our tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Daniel and Janey White, parents of Tyler White who died tragically in a car accident.
- Teresa Milton, recent surgery.
- Bob and Jeanne Burner, parents of Erica Nading, who are facing health issues.
- Wayne Dewberry, who is facing surgery after a recent fall.
- Shirley Clayton, recovering from surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- 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.
- Jean Mangum with health issues. She is a member of our church family.
- Jay Mangum with serious health issues. He is Jean Mangum's son.
- Jeanne Crabtree health issues resulting from a fall. She is a member of our church family.
- Katherine (Kitty) Robinson Hawkins from Hurdle Mills who is having health issues, she has been released from the hospital. She is the wife of Lathan Hawkins and friend of Judy Parker.
- 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.
- Carolyn White, complications due to extended chemotherapy treatments.
- Rick Johnson with health issues. He is friends with Judy Butler and many other church members.
- Paul Beck, with health issues. He is a member of Walnut Grove UMC.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She's the director of Seeds of Faith at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

- David Leonard having complications from surgery. He is the dad of a friend of Faith Parker.
- Timmy Parker with serious health issues. He is Barry Parker's brother
- Worth Miller with serious health issues. He is a friend and neighbor of Jimmy and Brenda Berry.
- Helen Miller with serious health issues. She is the aunt of Pat Beck's brother-in-law.
- 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
- Jerry Forrester, bilateral lung cancer
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker
- Debbie Langdale diagnosed with stage 5 kidney disease, waiting for transplant. Friend of John and Brooke Sherron
- Kelly Schoch, with brain cancer. She is co-worker of Erica Nading
- 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.

Quilts

Lisa Wilkerson from Hillsborough who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She is the wife of Paul Wilkerson and cousin-in-law of Wesley Tilley.

Brenda Thomas from Hillsborough who has health issues. She is a friend of Erin and Tucker Dillard.

Scott Hackler from Efland has been diagnosed with colon and liver cancer. He is a friend of Jolinda Swiggett.

Dr. Ron Gerbe from Wrightsville Beach who has been diagnosed with colon cancer. He is a retired ENT doctor from Chapel Hill. Friend of Gaye Walker.

Ann Marie Clayton from Roxboro, NC who is having knee replacement surgery. Ann Marie is a sister-in-law of Judy 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 before or after the service.)

Birthdays

Friday 4/24 – Hannah Milton Nguyen

Saturday 4/25 – David Pope

Tuesday 4/28 – Wesley Tilley, Angela Alger-Walker

Wednesday 4/29 – Ed Powell, Gary Spake

Friday 5/1 – Betsy Parker, Emma Beckham

Saturday 5/2 – Michelle Latta

Sunday 5/3 – Brenda Sykes
Monday 5/4 – Sue Powell, Carolyn Tidwell
Tuesday 5/5 – Brenda Berry, Jarrett Roemmich
Wednesday 5/6 – Russell Whitaker, Melissa Campbell, Ryan Campbell, Taylor Guy
Thursday 5/7 – Corbin Smith
Friday 5/8 – Jamie Dean
Saturday 5/9 – Worth Sparks, Sheldon

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

April 26th

Acolytes: Eleanor Whitaker/Corbin Smith
Greeters: Chris & Cathy Boling
Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry
Scripture: Mary Emma Roberts
Nursery: Stephanie Smith/Grace Dunlap
Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey
Financial Rep: Rick Huey

May 3rd

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Kinsleigh Dillard
Greeters: Shirley Clayton/Debby Donnelly
Ushers: Chris & Cathy Boling
Scripture: Lorraine Parker
Nursery: Sharyn Gates/Courtney Humphrey/Aubrey Nading
Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton
Financial Rep: Lou Rutledge

May 10th

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Ellen Johnson
Greeters: Grace Dunlap/Kennedy Dunlap
Ushers: Kids Sunday
Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-17
Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Cathy Boling
Trustee Open/Close: Gary Spake
Financial Rep: Ashley James

Mowing Schedule

April 25 - Chris Boling
May 9 - Jimmy Berry May 16 - Bruce Richardson
May 23 - Todd Harris May 30 - Mike Parker

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 Happenings

Fri-Sat., April 24-25	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, April 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 3:00pm SPRC meeting 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Tuesday, April 28	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wed., April 29	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, May 3	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am HOMECOMING
Sunday, May 10	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service - Mother's Day – Kids Sunday
Tuesday, May 12	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, May 13	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, May 17	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Wednesday, May 20	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, May 24	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 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 – Graduate Sunday

See You Sunday!!