

You Are Never Alone

*"do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." — Isaiah 41:10*

There are moments in life when loneliness feels overwhelming. Sometimes people are all around us, yet our hearts still feel empty and unseen. Other times we face struggles quietly, carrying burdens no one else fully understands. In those moments, it is easy to wonder if anyone truly sees us or cares.

But God's Word reminds us of a beautiful truth: you are never alone.

The Lord walks beside you in every season — in joy, in grief, in uncertainty, and in waiting. He does not leave when life becomes difficult. He does not grow tired of listening to your prayers. Even in silence, He is near.

When you lie awake at night worried about tomorrow, God is there. When you feel forgotten, He remembers you. When you feel weak, He offers strength. His presence is not based on your feelings; it is based on His faithful promise.

Jesus Himself understands loneliness. He experienced rejection, sorrow, and suffering, yet He promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). That promise still stands today. You may not always see the path ahead clearly, but you never walk it by yourself. God goes before you, walks beside you, and holds you securely in His hands.

Today, rest in this truth: you are deeply loved, fully known, and never abandoned.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for being with me at all times. When I feel lonely, afraid, or discouraged, remind me of Your presence. Help me trust that You are walking beside me even when I cannot feel it. Fill my heart with peace and comfort, and help me remember that I am never alone because You are always near. Amen.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Sermon Title: *Reply All*

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

Potluck Breakfast With Our Intern – August 2nd



Our summer intern, Douglas, will conclude his time with us on Sunday, August 9. We are grateful for his ministry this summer, and we invite you to join us as he brings the morning message on his final Sunday.

Please plan to join us for a special Potluck Breakfast honoring Douglas on Sunday, August 2 at 8:30am. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship together and personally thank Douglas for his time with our church. We hope everyone can come and help us make this a memorable send-off as we wish him God's blessings in the future. This event is open to everyone – we would love for you to come and be part of this special gathering.

What to Bring:

A breakfast item to share
A card for Douglas

Sunday Night Gatherings

It will be time to start back Sunday night fall activities before you know it! I created a survey to help us plan accordingly. Please take a few minutes to fill it out. If you have questions or comments, let me know! -Pastor Laura

Survey for Sunday Night Bible Study

OCIM Update

OCIM needs for this week are toilet paper, toothbrushes, bars of soap, toothpaste, and deodorant. Also, canned foods are always needed.

A total of 2016 pounds has been delivered by Walnut Grove since January! Thank you for all the contributions to support OCIM and our community.

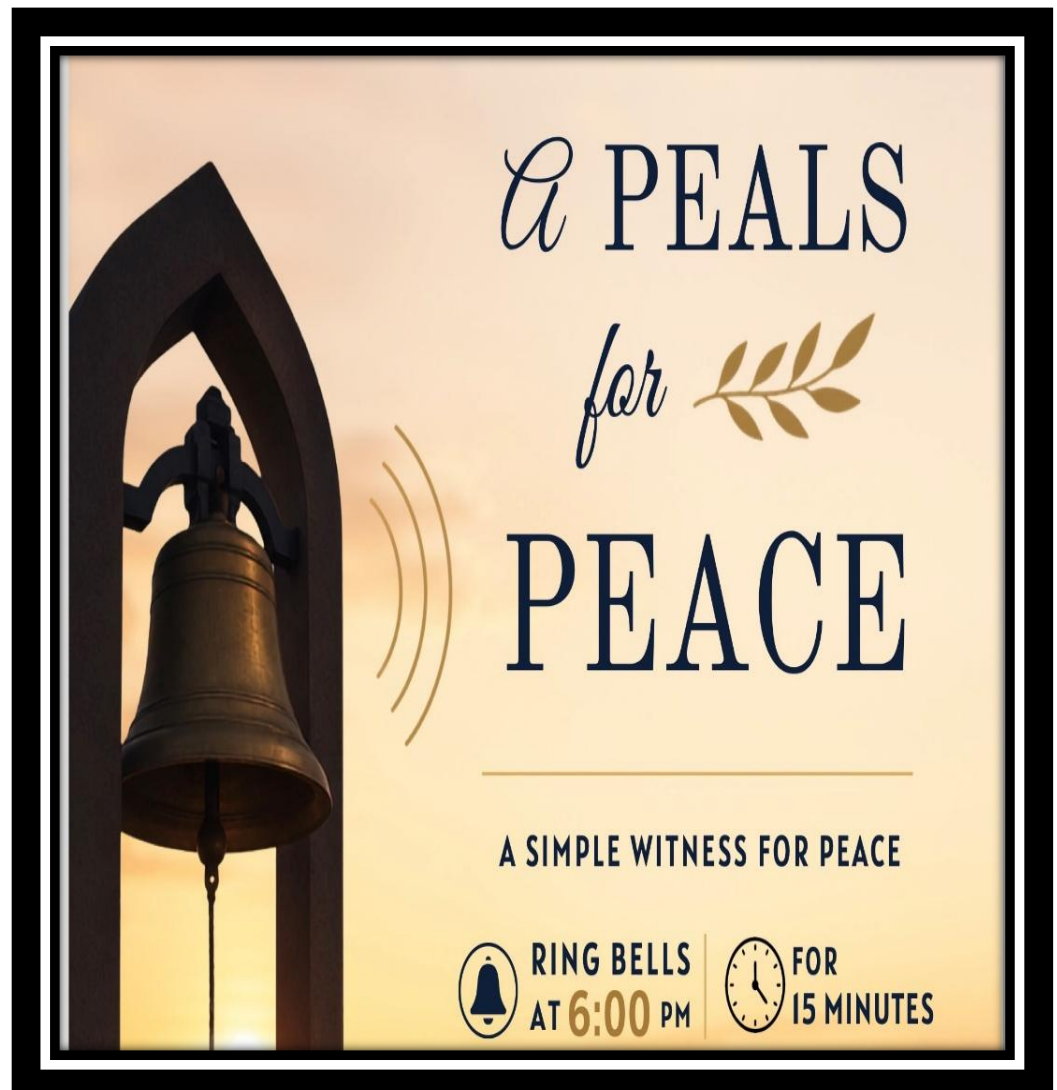
Save The Date – Charge Conference -- Sunday, October 11!

Charge Conference is Sunday, October 11th at 3:00pm. Walnut Grove UMC will be hosting this year. This is open to all members of the church! Please join us as we continue to grow together in Christ!

A Peals For Peace

On Monday, August 3, at 6PM, our church bells will ring for 15 minutes in solidarity with other places of faith throughout the country with a movement in solidarity with the NC Council of Churches to share a message of peace for our world. This message of peace speaks to the need for peace in our world, in our community and state, in our homes, and in our lives.

Each first Monday of the month at 6 PM until September will be a time to pause, listen, and pray. Then starting Monday, September 7, bells will ring weekly on Monday evenings until November 2nd. In a world often scarred by violence, division, and suffering, God calls us to be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). May God bring healing through this A Peals for Peace.



Backpack Blessings



SUNDAY 8/23
AT 10:30AM

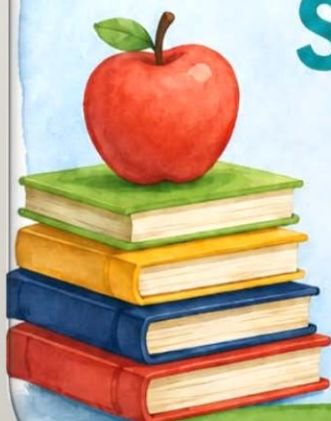
Please bring your school backpack during children's time to keep at the altar for blessings during the service.



LOOKING AHEAD!

SUNDAY 8/30
— AT 9:30AM —

During Sunday School opening we will recognize children and youth moving to their new Sunday School class.



New year. New adventures. God is with you!





Annual Mother-Child Retreat **REGISTER!**

[HTTPS://WWW.ULTRACAMP.COM/INFO/SESSIONDETAIL.ASPX?](https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?IDCAMP=623&CAMPCODE=DLC&IDSESSION=583286)

IDCAMP=623&CAMPCODE=DLC&IDSESSION=583286

SEPTEMBER
11TH-13TH

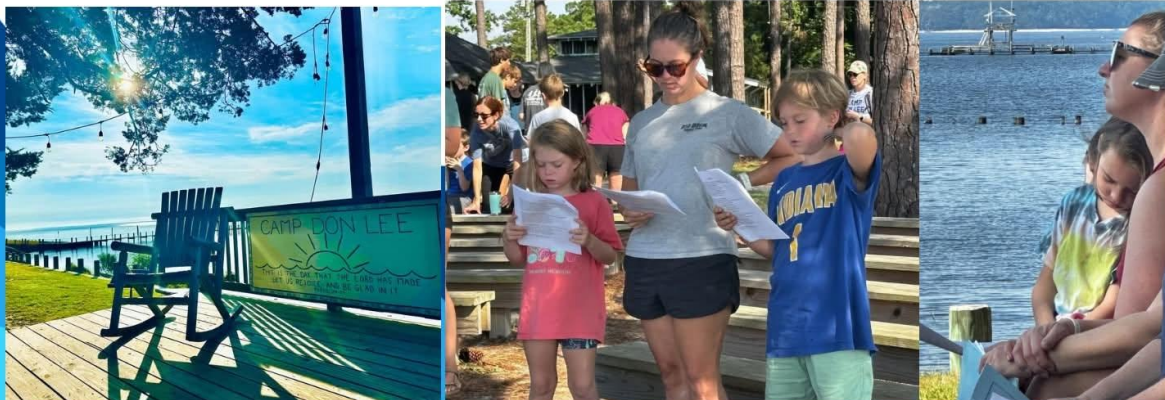
THE NORTH CAROLINA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS HOSTING A MOTHER/CHILD RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP DON LEE! THIS WEEKEND IS FULL OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! THERE WILL BE FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS GEARED TOWARD YOU AND YOUR CHILD. CAMP PROGRAMMING WILL INCLUDE SAILING, CANOEING, ARCHERY, CRAFTS, AND OF COURSE S'MORES!

DATE: SEPT 11-13

ARRIVAL - 5:30PM FRIDAY (PLEASE EAT DINNER BEFORE ARRIVAL)

DEPARTURE - 10AM SUNDAY (AFTER BREAKFAST AND WORSHIP)

FEES: \$132 FOR ADULTS OVER 18, \$100 FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH 6-17.



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. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Pat Beck, recovering from surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- Carol Gerbracht, recovering from surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- Herbert Cates, recovering from car accident and other health concerns. He is a member of our church family.
- JoAnn Cates with health issues. She is a member of our church family.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She's the director of Seeds of Faith at Camp Chestnut Ridge.
- John Hougom from Hurdle Mills, who is being treated for lung cancer. John is the brother of Sonja Tilley and brother-in-law of Wesley Tilley.
- Rev. Pat Sykes and Rev. Mike Sykes with 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.
- Jaxson Bates injured in a traffic accident. He is a friend of Mary Emma Roberts.
- 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.
- Wayne Dewberry, who is facing surgery after a recent fall.
- Scott Hackler with cancer diagnosis. He is a friend of Jolinda Swiggett.
- Linwood 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

Rev. Pat and Rev. Mike Sykes (Thinking of You), 2928 Longpine Road, Burlington, NC 27215

Quilt

Rev. Mike Sykes from Burlington who has serious health issues. He is a former pastor of Walnut Grove.

(The prayer quilt 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 7/31 – Mike Clayton, Evan Dement

Sunday 8/2 –Paul Beck, Jeff Clayton

Monday 8/3 – Jennifer Woods, Barbara Parker

Wednesday 8/5 – RJ Roemmich

Friday 8/7 –Nicholas Hengsterman

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

August 2nd

Acolytes: Samantha Johnson/Kinsleigh Dillard

Greeters: Pat Beck/Jenny Blalock

Ushers: Chris & Cathy Boling

Scripture: Lorraine Parker

Nursery: Pam Kimrey/Cheryl S Parker/Kennedy Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Dan Bledsoe

Financial Rep: Ashley James

Communion Servers: Daniel & Patricia Johnson

August 9th

Acolytes: Gracie Hall/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Ushers: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Scripture: Mary Emma Roberts

Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cheryl L Parker/Michael Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

Mowing Schedule

August 1- Todd Harris

August 8 - Mike Parker

August 22 - Barry Walker

August 15 - Clay Parker

August 29 - Phil Hines

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

Fri-Sat., July 31-Aug 1

Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, August 2

8:30am Breakfast With The Intern

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

Sunday, August 9

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

10:45am Children's Church

Wednesday, August 12

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, August 16

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

2:00pm Finance Committee meeting

3:00pm SPRC meeting

Monday, August 17

6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting

Wednesday, August 19

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

Fri-Sat., August 21-22	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, August 23	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service Back to School Sunday (bring your backpacks) 10:45am Children's Church
Wednesday, August 26	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday., August 29	8:00am–noon Harvest Festival chicken cook day
Sunday, August 30	9:00am Doughnuts/Coffee for everyone!! (provided by Methodist Men) 9:30am Sunday School Opening/Student recognition Joint Sunday School Adults 10:30am Worship Service - 5th Sunday SongFest Time TBD Youth pool party/celebration

See You Sunday!!