

In a Nutshell

October 9, 2026

I am in the midst of preparing for a month of renewal leave in November. Before that time away begins, we have Harvest Festival coming up! Get your stretchy pants ready! I have pillows from Iris Ashley in my trunk for the auction, a cold brew machine for the "this and that table" or the auction that day, and a list that grows as I try to tackle my to-dos. If you haven't seen the quilts, check out Facebook or the gorgeous state flower one in the Fellowship Hall. We have such gifted quilters!

In November, while I am on renewal leave, you will be in the good care of Rev. Para Drake. Rev. Drake is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church in our NC Conference. She was ordained in 1999 in our conference. Para has served as a pastor and as a chaplain. She'll be preaching and overseeing pastoral care in my place for the month. We'll have Methodist Home for Children Sunday on November 8th, Laity Sunday on Nov. 22, and our traditional Hanging on Service November 29.

In the coming days, we'll carry on with our Sunday night Bible study on the Armor of God. It's not too late to join! We'll have our charge conference this Sunday. Harvest Festival preparations are underway. See Pat Beck or Stephanie Harris if you still need a spot to plug into for that day. Trunk or Treat is around the corner, this year on October 31. In the midst of this busy time of year, remember to show compassion to yourselves, to keep on showing compassion to one another and loving your neighbor, and slow down some to enjoy the beauty God gives us in this particular season of the year. Slow down to pay attention and name where you see God at work in your life in this season.

God gives us seasons in life, reminding us through the wisdom of Ecclesiastes that "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There are seasons when we are called to be diligent, seasons when we are called to celebrate, even seasons of grief and seasons of new life. I pray that even in the midst of this busy time of October, fall might usher in some time to pray while walking with the crunch of falling leaves under your feet. See your breath on cold autumn mornings. Sip that hot apple cider to remember to taste and see that the Lord is good.

I continue to give thanks for the gift of our Walnut Grove church, for each of you being part of this church family, and the ministries we are called to by serving the Lord together in our community. It is a gift that God calls us to share ministry together and discover God's presence together along the way. Let's enter this season with grateful hearts and eyes ready to see the goodness of God all around us. *Let's not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!* (Galatians 6:9) May God continue to do great things through this faithful church.

With much gratitude for you,

Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Exodus 32:1-14

Sermon Title: *An Untamed God*

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

Thank you for your generosity and support for the Food Pantry at OCIM (Orange Congregations in Missions). On August 31 and on September 8 our church donated 213 pounds and 111 pounds of food. Our total for the year is 2583 pounds of food since January.

There is still a need for canned fruits, apple sauce, pork & beans, canned potatoes, jars of spaghetti sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise, and personal items such as shampoo and dishwashing soap.

Once again thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry of Orange Congregations in Missions (OCIM).

~Brenda and Jimmy Berry

Sunday Night Gatherings

Our Sunday Night Gatherings have started back up and we need your support! There are several opportunities left to serve our Walnut Grove families too! All proceeds from our Sunday night meals go into our Sunday night meal fund. Receipts for the Sunday night meal submitted to the church office using the reimbursement form will be reimbursed from the Sunday night fund. Sunday school classes, committees, and other groups are welcome to sign up. We need your help! Use the sign-up genius link below to help us fill up the meal calendar.

[**Sign Up to Cook Meals for our Fall Sunday Night Gatherings**](#)

Sunday Night Fellowship
October 4, 11, 18 & November 1, 8 & 15
Dinner 5:15-6:00pm
Nursery/KidsKrew/Youth/Bible Study
6:00-7:00pm
**No dinner October 25*
Walnut Grove UMC
7215 Walnut Grove Church Road
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541



SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: ARMOR OF GOD

RESERVE YOUR BOOK TODAY FOR \$10 EACH

STUDY RUNS FOR 6 WEEKS

STARTS SUNDAY, OCT. 4.

DATES INCLUDE OCTOBER 4, 15, 22

AND NOV. 1, 8, & 15

FROM 6 - 7 PM

PLEASE SIGN UP TO ORDER YOUR BOOK BY EMAILING
LDUNLAP@NCCUMC.ORG

Join us for our fall Bible Study! For this particular study, the book has sections for you to write in, so the book will be yours to keep. Each book costs \$10. If the cost is a hindrance, please let Pastor Laura know, and we'll make it available for free.

Harvest Festival News

The Harvest Festival needs help from everyone to be successful! This year we are short a few men. The men are our heavy lifters and if not for our men we would not have a Harvest Festival. Our Church members are getting older; therefore, it takes more of us to lend a hand. Help is needed from 10-12 men on Thursday, Friday, and the day of the Harvest Festival which is Oct. 17th. The 12 stew pots weigh on an average of 300 lbs each. The pots have to be moved around, cleaned and put away. Tables and chairs need to be put out and tents set up. Over 1,000 quarts of stew will need to be moved from the packing area to the take-out tent. A group will go to Bill Coles to pick up BBQ and bring it back to the Church to be packed. Then at the end of the day the clean-up begins. Everything has to go back to where it belongs. This is just a sampling of things to be done. A schedule for the three days of activities will be sent out soon.

Ladies, I am not leaving you out. There is plenty of fun to go around. If you want to help and don't know where to go or what to do, please give me a call.

Why do we have the Harvest Festival? Our beautiful Church building is 84 years old and our fellowship hall is 28 years old. As with our own homes there is maintenance. Sometimes we get away with a repair but sometimes it wears out, gets old and has to be replaced. Here the roofs are bigger, the space to be heated/cooled is larger requiring a larger HVAC system. The flooring covers more sq. ft. Just imagine how much paint it would take to paint these buildings. The cost associated with any of these items is huge. The Harvest Festival proceeds are not part of the general fund. These proceeds are the Trustee's

budget for the coming year. This is why we have the Harvest Festival. The trustees of our Church are responsible for all of the buildings, including the parsonage, modular and the Church grounds. On their list for the coming year are painting projects and finishing the deck on the modular, just to name a few. As members of the UMC we faithfully participate in its ministries by prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

T shirts have arrived and are being sorted. If you still need to pay for a shirt you can do that when you pick it up.

As always, a monetary donation to the Harvest Festival is appreciated as well.

Schedule of events for Harvest Festival 2026

Thursday October 15, 2026

5:30 pm

Men: Pot and Gas set up

Men move items from the barn

-Dessert racks, buckets, tables, outside sink, Large trays, etc

Start the set up tent for onion and potato peelers

Friday, October 16, 2026

7:15 am...Men start potato peeling

8:00 am ...Potato prep

Lunch provided... need drinks/tea

Move meat/broth and other ingredients from freezer

3:30ish go to Bill Coles to help get meat on grill

Set up Fellowship Hall

- dessert area

-set up tables

Saturday October 17, 2026

5-5:30 am group to go to Bill Coles to help with meat

5:30 am meat and broth cooking begins

7 am stew stirrers arrive

8:30 am set up tents/tables/chairs outside as needed

9 am stew cool down and packers arrive

10 am start hushpuppy oil

11:30 start sale

Miscellaneous things to be done

Cut desserts and package (Lorraine H)

Tape floor in

fellowship hall for

traffic flow

put up Directional

signs

put out parking lot

cones

move boxes from

Barn/modular to take-

out tent

Fill up BBQ sauce

bottles to sell

Thank You for your

continued support of

our Church,

Pat Beck and

Stephanie Smith

919-812-8737



Walnut Grove UMC
**HARVEST
FESTIVAL**

**Saturday
October 17th**

***This & That pre-priced table
10:30-1:30**

***Lunch & Take Out: 11:30**

***Live Auction: 1:30**

**BBQ: \$12.00 lb.
Stew: \$12.00 qt.**

**LUNCH PLATES INCLUDE:
BBQ, STEW, SLAW, HUSHPUPIES,
DRINK AND A DESSERT**

**ADULT PLATE: \$15.00
CHILD'S PLATE: \$6.00
8YRS AND YOUNGER**

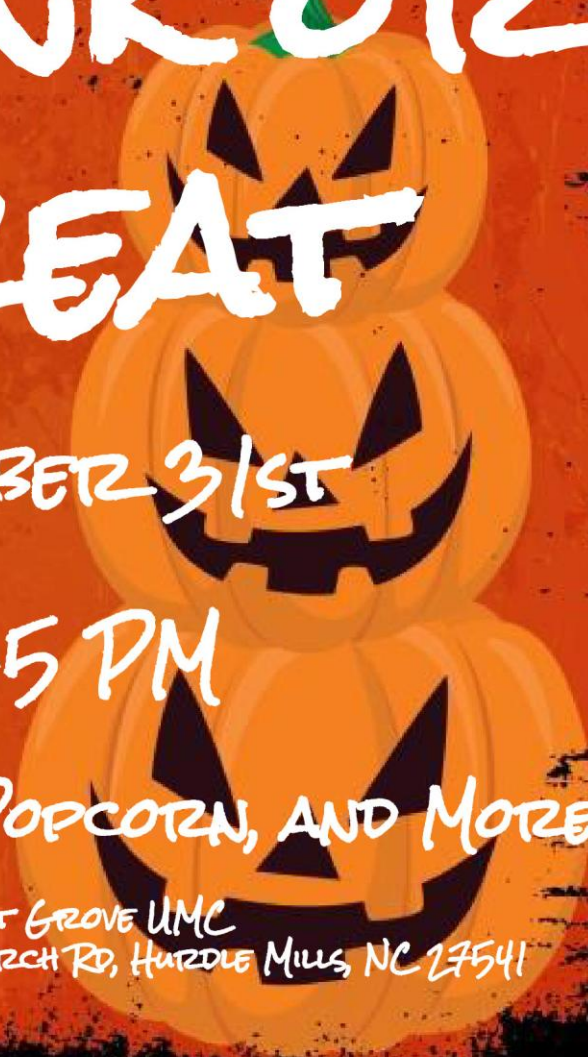
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
7215 Walnut Grove Church Road**



Here is a sneak peek at our quilts that will be available in the auction. Thank you to our quilters who work hard each year to have these ready to sell.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Three orange jack-o'-lanterns with carved faces are stacked vertically in the center of the poster. The top pumpkin has triangular eyes and a jagged mouth. The middle pumpkin has triangular eyes and a wide, toothy grin. The bottom pumpkin has triangular eyes and a wide, toothy grin. The background is a dark, textured orange and black.

OCTOBER 31ST

3-5 PM

GAMES, CANDY, POPCORN, AND MORE!

WALNUT GROVE UMC
7215 WALNUT GROVE CHURCH RD, HURDLE MILLS NC 27541



Walnut Grove
United Methodist Church



Gathered in Grace

WOMEN'S GROUP

Thursday, November 5, 2026

Two Gatherings — Choose the Time That Works for You

10:00 a.m.

or

7:00 p.m.

A Gathering of Gratitude

Our November gathering will focus on
GRATITUDE — taking time to recognize
God's blessings, encourage one another,
and give thanks together.



**Please bring two or more
canned goods for OCIM**

*(you can get credit for your
Sunday School class).*

Light snacks will be provided.

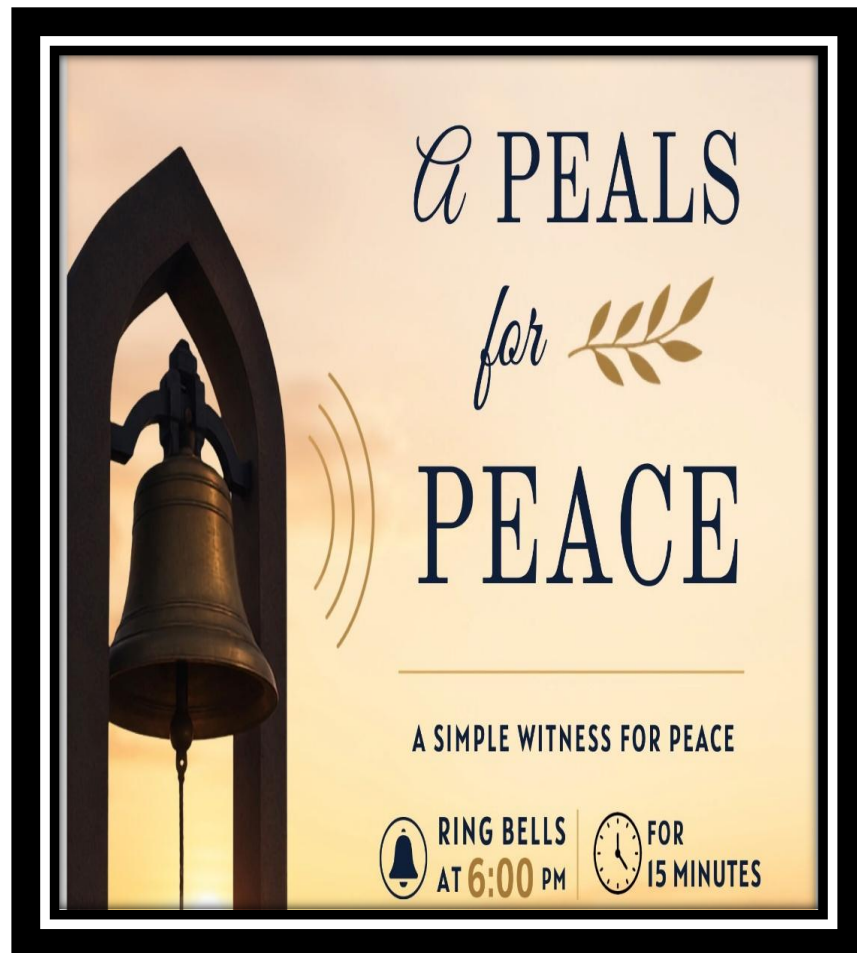
RSVP by 10/31 to Sue Powell

at suepowell0504@gmail.com
text or call 919-819-0344



A Peals for Peace

Monday evenings at 6:00pm through November 2nd churches around the country will continue to ring bells for 15 minutes. Our church bells will also 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. This is to be a time to pause, listen, and pray. 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.



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 September 30, 2026

Year to Date Income: \$ 174,828.81

Year to Date Expenses: \$ 222,793.73

Difference: \$ (47,964.92)

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 1,625.30

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 5,919.23

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

- Betsy Feifs with pancreatic cancer and is in critical condition. She is Margaret Anne Dow's daughter, Katy's mother-in-law.
- Tommy Dunlow, who was involved in an LP tank explosion. He is in UNC Burn unit and is facing a long recovery. He is a friend of John Sherron.
- Frances Walters with health issues
- Sebastian Anderson with health issues
- Timmy Parker with health issues. He is Barry Parker's brother.
- Tom Rutledge, in rehab with health issues. He is a member of our church family.
- Jean Mangum, recovering from a fall. She is a member of our church family.
- Rodney Overcash who is having health issues. He is Jolinda Overcash Swiggett's brother.
- Herbert Cates, 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
- 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.
- 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.
- Leo Brooks Populorum 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.

Prayer Quilt

Joy Ann Neal from Albany, GA who is having health issues. She is a friend of Emma Beckham

(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.)

From The Mailbox

Dear Members of the Prayers & Squares Ministry,

Thank you so very much for my beautiful prayer quilt. I will treasure this beautiful quilt and keep it close to me thru this journey. My surgery went well. Please continue to pray for me and my family as I heal. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Harvest Festival. Thank you again to everyone that has prayed for me and made me this special quilt of love!

*Special thanks to Laura, the minister, she is such a wonderful person.

Love in Christ,

Katie Ashley (Iris & Henry Ashley's granddaughter)

Birthdays

Friday 10/9 – Erica Nading

Saturday 10/10 – Ken Cecil

Sunday 10/11 – Cheryl Humphrey, Jolinda Swiggett, Linda Reynolds, Eddie Rutledge, Leila Compton

Tuesday 10/13 – Isabella Conway, Ava Lee, Tabitha Long

Wednesday 10/4 – Pat Thacker, Levy Beneville, Christi Hawkins

Thursday 10/15 – Linwood Lovitte, Allyson Cecil, Tyler White, Griffin Davis

Friday 10/16 – Dave Gibbs

Saturday 10/17 – James Parker, William Berry, Jr., Kaitlin Burton

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

October 11th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Anita James/Krystal Robinson

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Brenda Berry

Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Cheryl S Parker

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

PM Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Leigh McFalls

October 18th

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Samantha Johnson

Greeters: Ashley Parker/Patty Maseth

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Scripture: Judy Butler

Nursery: Cathy Boling/Stephanie Smith/Kennedy Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

PM Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Cathy Boling

Mowing Schedule

October 10 - Todd Harris

October 17 - Mike Parker

October 24 - Clay Parker

October 31- Barry Walker

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, October 11

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

10:45am Children's Church

3:00pm Charge Conference

5:15pm Dinner

6:00pm KidsKrew/Youth/Bible Study

Wed, October 14

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

Friday, October 16

8:00am Harvest Festival potato & onion prep

Saturday, October 17



Sunday, October 18

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Service

5:15pm Dinner

6:00pm KidsKrew/Youth/Bible Study

Wed, October 21

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

Fri-Sat., October 23-24

Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, October 25 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
3:00pm SPRC Meeting

Wed, October 28 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Saturday, October 31 3:00-5:00pm Trunk or Treat



See You Sunday!!