

In a Nutshell September 4, 2026

Last week Dolly Parton died. This week another great Southerner died, author Wendell Berry. Living to the age of 92, Kentucky native, Wendell Berry as a Christian wore many hats including environmental activist, philosopher, and writer. Considered by many as "America's most prominent modern champion of agrarian ideals," I confess I have not read much of Berry except a few beautiful poems. Here is the opening and the ending to one of his poems called *Grace*.

The woods is shining this morning.
Red, gold and green, the leaves... – *opening*

Running or walking, the way
is the same. Be still. Be still.
"He moves your bones, and the way is clear. – *final part*

I think this poem will be a guiding word come November when I take a month of renewal leave. One of Wendell Berry's works will be on my reading list. If you have books, to recommend, please reach out. I'm going to try and compile a realistic achievable list and, sometime soon, work towards what that time away might look like for me. You will be in good hands for the month, as was shared in Sunday school assembly last week.

Through Berry's work, we remember to give thanks for the beauty of creation at work around us. May we chase sunsets after a busy day of work and school. May we laugh when our cars suffer from the lasting effect of those fuzzy white and black mammals we miss as we're talking in the car. May that baby deer with its protective mother on the side of the road, stay put when we drive by.

I pray wherever we go in our daily journeys, we slow down in the busyness of it all to remember God made us. God loves us. This beautiful earth here in northern Orange County shines brightly with God's presence. One of the gifts Berry reminds us of is that God's grace has been with us all along. Let's pay attention to where we see God at work!

For more on why to read Wendell Berry - [why-read-wendell-berry](#)

~Pastor Laura

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon Title: *Gathered*

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

Harvest Festival News

Thank you to everyone who participated in the chicken cook day on Saturday. A few of our men came Friday evening to get out a couple of pots and burners to get them prepared for the main event on Saturday. Chicken cooking, cutting/shredding, weighing and freezing moved along in record time and we finished before noon. Next cook day is scheduled for September 19th.

Cook days have been scheduled. Our men will gather this Friday evening to check out burners and clean pots. Chicken will be cooked on Saturday August 29th. All are invited to join in the fun. We need at least 40 to help with the chicken. If you are wanting to help with chicken cut up please arrive at 8 am with your favorite knife and cutting board. Beef and Pork will be cooked on September 19th at 8 am. Potatoes, onions, and kitchen prep on October 16th. Please mark your calendars.

Brenda and Luann have begun the ordering process for all the products that are needed. This includes, meats, spices, paper goods, etc. We are so happy that Bill Cole has agreed to cook BBQ for us again this year!

We had a very successful advertising campaign last year. Stephanie heads this up and Kara Roberts will be joining her this year. She has done a great job with labels for the stew, flyers, signs and contacting local newspapers and social media. As you can see there is a lot to be done. If you have an idea for advertising, please let her know.

One of our best advertisements is you. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. It takes a lot of hands and voices to make our Harvest Festival successful.

Pat Beck, 919-812-8737

The T-shirt sale is still going on. Deadline for ordering shirts is September 6th. Let Stephanie know if you are having any problems with ordering. All proceeds from the shirt sale go to support our Walnut Grove Youth.

<https://T-Shirt-Order-Form>



HARVEST FESTIVAL
T-Shirt Orders

Two red t-shirts are shown. The front of the shirt has a small logo. The back of the shirt has a circular logo with the text "BEST STEW EVER" at the top, "EST. 1942" on the sides, and "WALNUT GROVE UMC HARVEST FESTIVAL" at the bottom.

Show your support!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
our Walnut Grove UMC youth!

SHORT SLEEVE

- Youth sizes - Adult: Small - XL \$15.00
- 2XL-3XL \$20.00

LONG SLEEVE

- Youth sizes - Adult: Small - XL \$20.00
- 2XL-3XL \$25.00

PAY IN ADVANCE IS PREFERRED OR AT PICKUP.

Make checks payable to **Walnut Grove UMC** with HF tshirts in the memo line.

Cash is Accepted!

ORDER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 6

GIVE ORDER AND MONEY TO:

- Pat
- Stephanie
- Church Office

Walnut Grove UMC

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](#)

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!

Legacy Building Center

Spread the word! Sunday, September 27, we will celebrate Legacy Building Sunday with Rev. Lynn Benson, Director of Legacy Giving at the NC United Methodist Foundation preaching in Sunday worship and offering a free estate/wills workshop following church. Free lunch and childcare will be provided.

To learn more valuable reasons
to have a will, please join us as the
United Methodist Foundation leads an

ESTATE/WILLS

Workshop

While knowing your state's laws is key,
you don't have to be an expert to write your will.

Rev. Lynn B. Benson, Director of Legacy Giving from your United Methodist Foundation, will lead this workshop as you begin to craft your wishes into a legal document. A local estate planning attorney and CPA will be included in the Q&A panel discussion during the workshop.

LAST WILL
AND
TESTAMENT

**WHEN:**

Sunday, September 27
11:45–1:10 PM

**WHERE:**

Walnut Grove UMC
7215 Walnut Grove Church Rd
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

**COST:**

FREE

**WHAT:**

A light meal and
beverages will be offered

REGISTRATION:

Please register by contacting the church
office by **Thursday, September 25, at 11 AM.**



Email the church office at
office@walnutgroveumc.com



Sign up on the bulletin board
in the fellowship hall



Call the church office at
(919) 732-5722



THE UNITED METHODIST
FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CAROLINA

For more information, please contact
office@walnutgroveumc.com.

A Peals For Peace



Starting Monday, July 6, 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.

NCCUMC Corridor District Book Study



Building Beloved Community

NCCUMC CORRIDOR DISTRICT
BOOK STUDY

***Building Beloved Community:
The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny***
by The United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Find a Group Near You

Durham - Wednesdays at 12pm at Epworth UMC

Orange - Thursdays at 6:30pm Eno House Hillsborough

Alamance - Sundays 3:00pm FUMC Graham

Online - Mondays at 6:30pm

[HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/1W31Q](https://shorturl.at/1w31q)



Walnut Grove
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Women's Gathering



Thursday, September 10, 2026

Hygiene Kits for UMCOR ♡



You have your choice of times
to participate:

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

We will have light snacks and a great time to fellowship with each other as we assemble hygiene kits for UMCOR. Materials for kits and snacks will be provided.

OUR GOAL IS
60 KITS!



SERVING
OTHERS



SHARING
GOD'S LOVE



MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



nccumc.org/disaster/kits/hygiene/



Greetings,



Calling all Youth, Women & Men!
September 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Now is the time to help with Walnut Grove UMC's 2026 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. as we ramp up our Shoebox Project for 2026. Calling all Youth, Women & Men! If you're interested in becoming more familiar with the shoebox packing process, please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall that evening. Please RSVP to Jeanne Crabtree at jeanne.crabtree630@gmail.com OR text/call (919) 302-6924.

If you are unable to participate during this evening, we can certainly use all donations (whether monetary to cover shipping of the shoeboxes) or donations for items to be included in the shoeboxes. Items that are needed are: No. 2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, index cards, chunky erasers, small notepads and coloring books (that will lay flat in a shoebox), kid's socks, kid's undies, bandanas, playing cards, dominos, slinkys, yo-yos, kid's flipflops, combs, brushes, wash cloths, small stuffed animals, hair bows and ribbons.

The black Operation Christmas Child Collection Box will be placed in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to donate any items, please leave them in the Collection Box before Sept 1st.

If you have questions and/or would like to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project, please contact us.

Jeanne Crabtree & Kimberly Gilbert
Co-Chairs



A vibrant poster for a 'Kids Night Out' event. The background is dark blue with colorful stars and confetti. At the top, a bowling pin and a purple bowling ball are on the left, and a slice of pepperoni pizza is on the right. The text 'WALNUT GROVE' is in white, 'KIDS' is in large, colorful letters (green, blue, orange, purple), and '(K-5TH GRADE)' is in white on a pink banner. Below this, 'NIGHT OUT!' is in large white letters. A banner below that says 'BOWLING & PIZZA' in green and yellow, with 'AT PALACE POINTE' in blue below it. A yellow banner with a blue bowling ball icon on the left and a yellow star on the right contains the date and time: 'SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20' and '5:30 - 7:00 PM'. Below this, a white box with a blue border contains three items: a clock icon with 'PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 5:15 to leave shortly after.', a car icon with 'We will leave Palace Pointe by 7:00 and will be in contact regarding arrival time back to Walnut Grove.', and a people icon with 'Parents are welcome to attend, but not required.' To the right of this box is an illustration of a bowling pin and a pink bowling ball. At the bottom, a green banner contains a speech bubble icon with 'Let Stephanie know if your child(ren) will be attending! 919-812-8901' and a green star icon with 'We do ask for a \$10.00 donation to help cover cost.'

WALNUT GROVE
KIDS
(K-5TH GRADE)
NIGHT OUT!
BOWLING & PIZZA
AT PALACE POINTE

 **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
5:30 - 7:00 PM 

 PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH AT **5:15**
to leave shortly after.

 We will leave Palace Pointe by 7:00 and will be in
contact regarding arrival time back to Walnut Grove.

 Parents are welcome to attend,
but not required.



 Let Stephanie know if your
child(ren) will be attending!
919-812-8901

We do ask for a
\$10.00
donation to
help cover cost. 

Pull Tabs For Ronald McDonald House

I am collecting **ALL PULL TABS** (drinks, cat food, vegetables/fruit cans-etc.), for the Ronald McDonald house. A collection bag is hung on the fellowship hall bulletin board, with their explanation of the purpose. Thanks for contributing.

~Carol Gerbracht

PULL TOGETHER

COLLECT POP TABS FOR SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN
www.RMHCtriangle.org

Pull Together!
Collect pop tabs to support seriously ill children and their families!

WHAT?
Collect the tabs from aluminum beverage or food cans in any container, such as a two-liter drink bottle or milk jug. RMHC can also provide a special branded sticker to help you promote the program. When full, deliver your container to one of our Ronald McDonald Houses. Any time or place in any American Legion Post in NC by recycling. Easy!

WHY?
Families of sick and injured children are not charged to stay at Ronald McDonald Houses. However, the actual cost to host a family for one night is about \$500. The pop-tab recycling program is one way friends generate much-needed revenue to help cover these expenses to support families.

WHO?
Anyone can collect pop tabs! It's a great way for schools, clubs, groups, churches, and companies to get involved.

Fun Facts

Ping-Pong Can	1/3 lb	5,300 tabs
2 liter bottle	1.75 lb	2,800 tabs
Gallon milk jug	3 lbs	4,900 tabs
Coop quarter ton	24 lbs	38,400 tabs
34 gallon trash can	20 lbs	32,000 tabs

One million tabs laid end-to-end would measure 25 miles!

Drop off:

Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill
301 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Ronald McDonald House of Durham
506 Alexander Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Triangle
Contact Chapel@RMHCtriangle.org or Durham@RMHCtriangle.org, or visit RMHCtriangle.org to learn more!

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 August 31, 2026

Year to Date Income: \$ 149,547.31

Year to Date Expenses: \$ 202,686.17

Difference: \$ (53,138.86)

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 2,094.86

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 12,231.95

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

- Lou Rutledge surgery. She is a member of our church family.
- Tom Rutledge, in the hospital with serious 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.
- Pat Beck, 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Quilt

Peter Laurence from Milton, Delaware who has stage 4 Pancreatic cancer. He 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.)

Birthdays

Saturday 9/5 – Sylvia Overby

Monday 9/7 – Aubrey Nading, Grayson Nading

Tuesday 9/8 – Cheryl Jones

Thursday 9/10 – Tyler Smith, Courtney Ray, Staci Hengsterman

Saturday 9/12 – Jeannie 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

September 6th

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Corbin Smith
Greeters: Debby Donnelly/Kennedy Dunlap
Ushers: Grace Dunlap/Toni Shaw
Scripture: Lorraine Parker
Nursery: Pam Kimrey/Mary Emma Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Michael James
Communion Servers: Barry & Cheryl L Parker
Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

September 13th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Gracie Hall
Greeters: Margaret Anne Dow/Beverly Huey
Ushers: Kennedy Dunlap/Krystal Robinson
Scripture: Mike Roberts
Nursery: Debby Donnelly/Grace Dunlap
Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth
Financial Rep: Ashley James

Mowing Schedule

September 5- Johnny & Shirley Clayton	September 12 - Chris Boling
September 19 - Scott Humphrey	September 26 - Jimmy Berry

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, September 6	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Monday, September 7	Office closed for Labor Day
Wed., September 9	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, September 10	10:00am-12:00pm Women's Gathering – Hygiene kits 7:00-8:00pm Women's Gathering – Hygiene kits

Sunday, September 13	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church Grandparents & Games – 5:30-6:00pm Dinner 6:00-7:00pm Games
Monday, September 14	6:00-8:00pm Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project
Wed, September 16	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Saturday, September 19	8:00am-noon Harvest Festival beef/pork cook day
Sunday, September 20	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Finance Committee meeting 3:00pm SPRC meeting 5:15pm Youth gathering
Monday, September 21	7:00pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, September 22	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting
Wed, September 23	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., September 25-26	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, September 27	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church Legacy Building Center following church service United Methodist Foundation (Lunch & presentation)
Wed, September 30	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!

