

# In a Nutshell

# July 3, 2026

## **Serving Joyfully: Reflections from the 2026 Annual Conference**

From June 18–20, Rev. Dunlap and I had the privilege of representing Walnut Grove UMC at the North Carolina Annual Conference in Greenville, NC. Gathering with over 1000 other United Methodists under the theme **“Serve Joyfully”**—a core part of our UMC vision statement—it was a powerful reminder of the connectional spirit that unites us. Led by Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton, our days were filled with inspiring worship, education, and holy conferencing as we made Spirit-led decisions to shape the mission of our church.

The conference combines essential business with worship, celebrations, and learning about our ministries and communities. On the legislative floor, we addressed 11 resolutions submitted for this session, ranging from topics such as gun violence, the impacts of AI, and support of prison ministries. We also received and reviewed reports from the Council on Finance & Administration, the Insurance Committee, the Board of Pension, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave, and the Board of Trustees. These reports were approved by the body with wide support, ensuring stable stewardship for our collective, connectional ministries moving forward.

We celebrated several special moments with worship, presentations, and music. These included the federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe, the 70th anniversary of ordination of women in the Methodist Church, and Juneteenth. We also learned about the process of moving into full communion (e.g. recognizing each other’s ordinations, baptisms, etc) with the Episcopal Church in America, which is expected in 2027.

We recognized our clergy who are moving ahead in the ordination process, those who retired this year, and those who passed away over the last year.

I always enjoy the reunions with former Walnut Grove pastors and field education students who have moved on in ministry to other parts of North Carolina.

If you have questions about the Annual Conference, feel free to contact me. If you are interested in attending the conference, I’d also love to nominate you for that role in future years.

Wesley Tilley

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# Faith, Freedom, and Gratitude

As we gather to celebrate Independence Day and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we are reminded of the many blessings we enjoy as Americans — freedom, opportunity, and the ability to worship openly and faithfully.

For Christians, this celebration is more than fireworks and history. It is a time to reflect on God's hand throughout generations and to give thanks for the freedoms that allow us to share the Gospel, gather in fellowship, and serve our communities in Christ's name.

Scripture reminds us in Psalm 33:12, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."* While no nation is perfect, we are grateful for those who came before us with courage, sacrifice, and hope for a better future. Their dedication reminds us that freedom is never free — and neither is the grace we receive through Jesus Christ.

As followers of Christ, we are called not only to celebrate liberty, but also to live faithfully within it. May we use our freedom to love our neighbors, care for those in need, pray for our leaders, and shine the light of Christ in a world that desperately needs hope.

This July 4th, as we commemorate 250 years of American history, let us also renew our commitment to God, family, church, and community. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the blessings we enjoy and with prayer for the future of our nation.

God Bless America, and may God continue to guide us in faith, unity, and love.

~Kim Combs

## **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship**

Scripture for Sunday: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon Title: *Being Yoked*

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](#)**

Summer Arts Camp For Kids

Walnut Grove UMC

July 27-30th

9am - 12pm



# SUMMER ARTS CAMP



K-5TH  
GRADE

\$20 PER CHILD



Scan to register or email [office@walnutgroveumc.org](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org)

## OCIM Update

VBS had 59 lbs. of food and other items donated and WGUMC had 152 lbs. Total donations so far for 2026 is 1520.5 lbs. Thank you for all the contributions.

### **OCIM's current needs:**

saltine crackers, mayonnaise, cans of chicken noodle soup, mixed vegetables, green peas, and pork-n-beans, jars of pasta sauce (any variety), and apple sauce.

As you can see from the pictures, the shelves are very low. On Monday (June 15th), Jimmy and Brenda purchased 181 lbs. of food using OCIM donated money. Thank you so much for your support of OCIM and our community.



## 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.



## 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

- 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. Mike Sykes and Pat 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.
- Sam Woods, 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.
- 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.**

### Quilts

Amanda Vaughan from Banner Elk, NC who was involved in a head-on collision. She is a friend of Jillian Denny (daughter of Phil and Lorraine Hines.)

Lois Broadwater from Richmond, VA. She is recovering from an illness. Lois is a cousin of Emma Beckham.

(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 7/3 – Ricky Creech, Ron Gerbracht

Saturday 7/4 – Ty Clayton, Austin Dillard, Jamie Freeland, Renna Baker, Jeff Houck

Sunday 7/5 – Rusty Wagoner

Wednesday 7/8 – Kara Roberts

Friday 7/10 – Collin Beck, Julie Waker, Bennett Lockamy

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](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org) so we can update our records.

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

## **Serving in Worship**

### **July 5th**

Acolytes: Wyatt James/Kinsleigh Dillard

Greeters: Patty Maseth/

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Brenda Berry

Nursery: Krystal Robinson/Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

Financial Rep: Brenda Berry

Communion Servers: Scott & Cheryl Humphrey

### **July 12th**

Acolytes: Ellen Johnson/Michael Roberts

Greeters: Clay & Cheryl S Parker

Ushers: Stacey Spake/Pat Beck

Scripture: Cheryl Humphrey

Nursery: Cathy Boling/Debby Donnelly/Grayson Nading

Trustee Open/Close: Michael James

Financial Rep: Ashley James

## **Mowing Schedule**

July 4- Chris Boling

July 11- Scott Humphrey

July 18 - Jimmy Berry

July 25 - Bruce Richardson

**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

Saturday, July 4

## **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Sunday, July 5

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

Tuesday, July 7

7:00pm Methodist Men

Sunday, July 12

9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
10:45am Children's Church

Monday, July 13

6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting

Tuesday, July 14

7:00pm Building Committee meeting

Wednesday, July 15

6:30pm Worship Band  
7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, July 19

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

Mon-Fri, July 20-24

Local Missions Week for Youth

Tuesday, July 21

7:00pm Methodist Men

Wednesday, July 22

6:30pm Worship Band  
7:00pm Worship Choir

Fri-Sat., July 24-25

Youth Yard Sale

Sunday, July 26

9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
10:45am Children's Church

Mon-Thurs, July 27-30

9am-12pm Summer Arts Camp for Kids

Wednesday, July 29

6:30pm Worship Band  
7:00pm Worship Choir

Fri-Sat., July 31-Aug 1

Walnut Grove Crafters

See You Sunday!!