

During the Easter season, our hearts naturally turn to the empty tomb and the victory of Christ over death. Yet, the story of resurrection did not begin on Easter morning; it has been woven into God's story since the very beginning. When we look at the Old Testament, we see that Easter is not a surprise ending but the fulfillment of a long and faithful promise.

From the opening chapters of Genesis, God is already at work bringing life out of death. After the fall in Genesis 3, when sin enters the world, and everything seems lost, God speaks a word of hope: the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head. Even in judgment, there is promise; God will restore what has been broken. Easter is the ultimate fulfillment of that promise, where Christ defeats sin and death once and for all.

The story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22 gives us another glimpse. Abraham is asked to offer his beloved son, yet God provides a substitute. This moment points forward to a greater provision, God Himself providing the Lamb. What Abraham could not ultimately do, God does fully in Jesus. Easter reminds us that God does not require sacrifice from us without also making a way of redemption for us.

The Exodus story is also deeply connected to Easter. The Israelites are freed from slavery through the blood of the Passover lamb, and they pass from death into life as they cross the Red Sea. This act of deliverance becomes the defining story of God's people. In the same way, Easter is our greater Exodus; through Christ, we are freed from the bondage of sin and brought into new life.

Even the prophets speak into this hope. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37) paints a powerful image of God breathing life into what is dead. What seems beyond hope is not beyond God. This vision finds its fullest meaning in the resurrection, where God raises Jesus from the grave and promises new life to all who belong to Him.

As we reflect during this Easter season, the Old Testament invites us to trust in God's faithfulness. Again and again, God brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and redemption out of brokenness. Easter is the clearest and most powerful expression of that truth.

Reflection:

Where in your life do you feel like you are standing in a "valley of dry bones"? How might God be inviting you to trust in His power to bring new life?

Prayer:

Faithful God, thank You for being a God who keeps Your promises. From the beginning, you have been working to bring life out of death. Help me to trust in the power of the resurrection in my own life. Breathe new life into the places that feel broken or weary and draw me closer to You this Easter season. Amen.

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: Psalm 16:1-8, John 10:7-10

Sermon Title: Adverbial Faith: Living Abundant

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

Office Schedule

I will be out of the office and away from email from April 20th 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

Potluck Breakfast with the Interns



🌸☀️ **Potluck Breakfast** ☀️🌸
Honoring Our Interns
Sunday, April 19th at 8:30 AM
📍 Walnut Grove Fellowship Hall

Join us for a joyful morning as we celebrate and honor our amazing interns, **Emily** and **Alejandro**! 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 Emily and Alejandro

Enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and a time of appreciation together!

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Blessing of the Animals

Blessing of the Animals

Join us for a special time of blessing for
our beloved pets and animals.

Sunday, April 19th

4:00 PM

Meet at the Flag Pole

*Bring your pets (leashed or safely contained)
for a brief outdoor blessing service.*

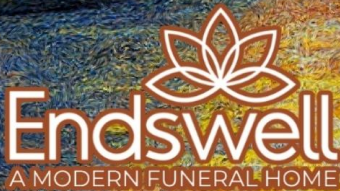
All are welcome!



"All God's creatures, great and small..."

OBITUARY WRITING WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY: SARA WILLIAMS



MAY 28
6PM

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

Methodist Women's Update

It's been a joy and blessing to share together in our recent women's Permission to Pause Retreat and last Monday for our women's follow up gathering. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, ideas, and dreams for the future. We are in the works of planning new things. Details will be coming soon! Stay tuned -
Pastor Laura

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 April 15, 2026

Year to Date Income: \$ 60,516.12

Year to Date Expenses: \$ 98,221.00

Difference: \$ (37,704.88)

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 2,888.83

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 25,941.18

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

- 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 to whom we gave a prayer quilt is in need of prayer because of 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.

Prayer Update

You've been praying for Locklynn Gribble and her family for quite a while now. We sent her a prayer quilt in February. Please don't stop the prayers, but I thought I'd share a happy update.

Locklynn was born on January 10th despite not being due until mid-April. She and her family live in Statesville and she spent her first 3 months in the NICU. She came home this week and joined her 2 older sisters, mom and dad. She weighs almost 8 pounds. (Her happy grandmother graduated with Lorraine, Margaret Anne, Pam, Marian and myself.)

~Judy Butler

Send A Card

Shirley Clayton (Thinking of You), 7510 Country Lane, Rougemont, NC 27572

Quilts

Eugenia Roland from Hillsborough, who is having health issues. Eugenia is an aunt of Jeanne Crabtree and Marian Houck.

G.A. Roland from Hillsborough who is having health issues. GA is an uncle of Jeanne Crabtree and Marian Houck.

Emily Phenice from Durham who has served as a Duke Intern. Praying the Lord will bless her as she continues her journey in ministry serving others.

Alejandro Rivas Alva from Durham who has served as a Duke Intern and will graduate in May. Praying the Lord will bless him as he continues his journey in ministry serving others.

(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.)

From The Mailbox

Brenda Berry and Prayers & Squares,

Thank you for the quilt. So many prayers were sent my way and I felt blessed by every one. My doctors said I was a miracle patient and I'm sure the prayers were a big part. Thank you for thinking of me,
Kitty Hawkins

Birthdays

Friday 4/17 – Daniel Overcash, Daniel Rath

Sunday 4/19 –Tina Walker, Amanda Dodson, Lori Berry

Tuesday 4/21 – Nick Campbell

Thursday 4/23 – Keith Hawkins

Friday 4/24 – Hannah Milton Nguyen

Saturday 4/25 – David Pope

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 19th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Russell Whitaker

Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Ushers: Margaret Anne Dow/Grace Dunlap

Scripture: Mike Roberts

Nursery: Margaret Williams/Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

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

Mowing Schedule

April 18- Johnny & Shirley Clayton
April 25 - Chris Boling

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

Sunday, April 19	8:30am Potluck Breakfast for interns' last day 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Wed., April 22	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
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 – Youth/Graduate Sunday

See You Sunday!!