

You may be in the midst of organizing, cleaning, and sneezing as we enter into the season of spring. Spring is my favorite season, watching everything grow, bloom, and come back to life. It's fitting that Easter comes the Sunday after the first full moon of Easter, with resurrection in the air.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at resurrection stories through the lectionary texts. The sermon series, "Casting Off," will focus on needs we have to cast off in efforts to grow. We know pruning helps bring back life. We may be pruning physically and spiritually.

I invite us to consider what we need to let go of in this season of spring cleaning. What do we need to let go of that weighs us down spiritually, that keeps us up at night? Are there burdens we need to release to our Lord?

Casting off is a reference to fishing as we are fishers in our discipleship found in Matthew 4:18-20. Casting off is also a reference to knitting as the Psalmist reminds us we are knit in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). We will learn together how the biblical stories relate to our own journeys being "cast off." Join us in worship and Sunday school as we grow together in Christ!

~Pastor Laura

## **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Mary Martha Busy Ladies**

Mary Martha Busy Ladies will meet on Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30 a.m. for a devotion and short meeting. At 11:00am we will leave for Bennett Pointe Grill, 4625 Hillsborough Road in Durham for lunch. Please make your own carpooling arrangements if you'd like to ride with other people.

### **Evangelism Workshop**

Calling one, calling all to a workshop on Evangelism from 4-5pm on Sunday, April 14th, in the church fellowship hall. This workshop is open to all who would like to learn more about relational evangelism. It will be led by our Duke intern, Lauren Birch. Come ready to listen, learn, and grow in your skills of sharing God's goodness in our daily lives. This workshop will be great for the one who is well versed and for anyone who is wanting to learn and grow. See you April 14th!

### **OCIM Update**

Current needs in the OCIM food pantry: cereals, peanut butter, snack bars, and jelly. Thank you for all your donations and your continued support of the Food Pantry.

## **Rise Against Hunger**

The Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event on April 21st is quickly approaching, and we still need volunteers to sign up to help with the event. This event is open to anyone ages 5 and up, so ask your friends, family, neighbors, mailman, grocery store clerk, civic group, anyone you think would like to participate!! The set-up shift is full, but we have plenty of room for the event itself. Please see the link below to register to volunteer and/or donate to this worthy cause.

To make things a little more fun, I asked Mary Emma Roberts and Grace Dunlap to design a T-shirt for our event. To ensure you get your T-shirt in time for the event, the order must be in by April 6th. Any orders received after the 6th are not guaranteed to arrive before the event. You can e-mail me your order at [jolindaswiggett@gmail.com](mailto:jolindaswiggett@gmail.com) or text/call me at 919-302-0110. The shirts are for anyone who would like a shirt, participant or not. Please see the attached order form for sizes, colors and prices.



***Walnut Grove UMC  
Sunday, April 21st  
2 - 4 PM***

***Scan to  
register  
and  
donate!***



***Help us package  
10,000 meals  
to fight global hunger!***

**or go to:**

[events.riseagainsthunger.org/WalnutGrove24](https://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WalnutGrove24)

## Orange Cooperative Parish Seeds of Faith Retreat April 20



## Come join us for a family retreat day at Camp Chestnut Ridge on April 20!

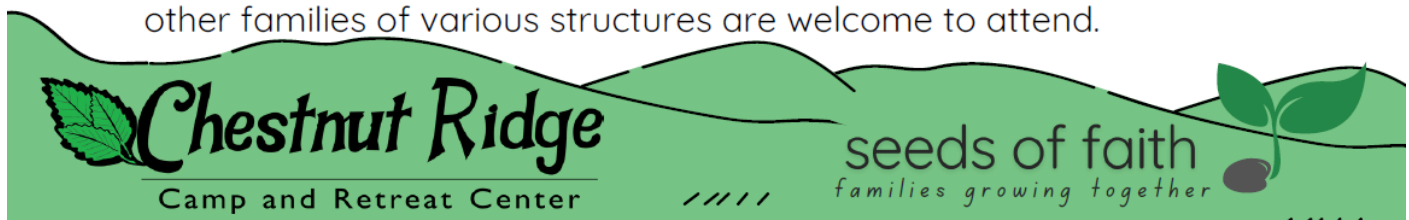
This free event includes:

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner at camp.
- Teaching by Dr. Fred Edie of Duke Divinity School on “Taking Worship Home”
- Family fun activities around camp, including archery and canoeing.
- Family worship at the lakeside chapel.



Who is this event for?

- Families who are active in their local church, but would like to learn new resources and practices to try at home.
- Families who aren't sure where they fall on the faith spectrum.
- Parents and Caregivers who would like to meet other parents/caregivers to build new friendships and support one another.
- Two parent or Single parent families, grandparents caring for grandkids, foster families, LGBTQIA+ families, multi-generational homes, families with neurodivergent or disabled family members, and other families of various structures are welcome to attend.



## **Prayers**

You are invited to join us on this journey of prayer in 2024 as we strengthen our prayer lives together each and every day. We know the power of prayer in our lives and in our world. God continues to heal, perform miracles, and offer grace and mercy in unexpected ways. We give thanks for the ways the Holy Spirit moves among us. We'll have a new list each month with prayer prompts for us each to grow in our intercessory prayers and broaden our circles to those we might not consider in our daily prayers. Use this list, pass it on, and let it guide you closer to others and to God in 2024!



## *April Prayers*

**April 1- To be Easter people even after  
Easter Sunday**

**April 2 - those with tremendous stress**

**April 3 -General Conference Lay Delegates**

**April 4- General Conference - Clergy Delegates**

**April 5- Mary Marthas**

**April 6-Preschool Aged Children**

**April 7- Children in K-2**

**April 8- Children in 3-5 Grades**

**April 9- Middle Schoolers**

**April 10th- College Students**

**April 11th- Our Administrative Assistant, Kim**

**April 12-Ushers**

**April 13th - Greeters on Sunday Mornings**

**April 14th- OCIM**

**April 15th- sister OCP churches**

**April 16th-Church Musicians**

**April 17th- Sunday School Teachers**

**April 18th- Nursing Homes**

**April 19th - Nurses**

**April 20th- Lauren, our Intern**

**April 21- Rise Against Hunger Event**

**April 22- All of Creation**

**April 23- Those with dementia**

**April 24-General Conference**

**April 25 - Our Quilters**

**April 26- Our Crafters**

**April 27- Wisdom**

**April 28- Perseverance**

**April 29- Humility**

**April 30th- Miracles**



## **Tithes and Offerings**

We have four 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 online giving app "Vanco Mobile".

## **Budget News as of March 31, 2024**

Year to Date Income - \$ 57,596.71

Year to Date Expenses - \$ 71,501.41

Difference - \$ 13,904.70

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 7,422.15

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 58,615.50

## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **Prayer List**

- Timmy Parker with very serious health issues. He is the brother of Barry Parker and uncle of James Parker.
- Jerry Smith with serious health issues.
- Bailey Thornton with serious health issues. He is a relative of Barbara Hawkins.
- Sandy Combs with serious health issues. She is Kim Combs' mother.
- Betty Sue Hyder (health issues). Margaret Williams' sister and Sharyn Gates' aunt
- Wahome Mwangi - serious condition
- Debbie Smith who recently had back surgery. She is Tyler Smith's mom
- Herring Family (Linda and husband Dortch), Dortch has been in Duke Hospital for several weeks with dementia while they try to find him a permanent facility to go to. Dortch is Jane Sparks' brother-in-law.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

### **Quilts**

Mike McGrail from Hagerstown, MD who has had a heart attack and diagnosed with Leukemia. He is a friend of Linda Alger, Angela Walker's mother.

Stedman Sugg from High Point who is a young man who is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He is married with 3 small children. He is a good friend of Michael Powell who is the son of Sue and Ed Powell.

Timmy Parker with very serious health issues. Timmy is the brother of Barry Parker and James Parker's uncle.

(The prayer quilts will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over the quilts before and after the service.)

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

Friday 4/5 – Martha Bordeaux

Saturday 4/6 – Brandi Oakley

Sunday 4/7 – Vaughn Compton, Jerry Smith

Monday 4/8 – Alan Campbell

Tuesday 4/9 – Chris Berry, David Porterfield, Ken Vuolo, Kasi Wahlers Robinson, Alec Dement

Wednesday 4/10 – Johnny Overcash, Bibiana Parker

Friday 4/12 – Sara Markle

Saturday 4/13 – Meghan Berry, Joyce Roberts, Jeff Smith

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](#)

[Sign UpHere! For Online Sign-Up](#)

## **Serving in Worship**

### **April 7th**

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Grayson Nading

Greeters: Courtney Humphrey/Jenny Blalock

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Ava Lee/Laurie Rogers

Scripture: Lorraine Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Jacob Blankenship

Communion Servers: Courtney Humphrey/Grace Dunlap

### **April 14th**

Acolytes: Magnus Kemnitz/Isabella Conway

Greeters: Mary Emma Roberts/Pat Beck

Ushers: Jenny Blalock/Courtney Humphrey

Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Grace Dunlap

Scripture: Cheryl Humphrey

Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

## **Mowing Schedule**

April 6 – Scott Humphrey

April 13 – Barry Walker

April 20 – Johnny & Shirley Clayton

April 27 - Chris Boling

**NOTE:** If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify the church secretary of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

## **Upcoming Happenings**

Sunday, April 7	9:30am Sunday School Opening 10:30am Worship Service
Monday, April 8	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Wednesday, April 10	11:30am Mary Martha Busy Ladies – Bennett Pointe Grill 6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, April 14	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children’s Church 4:00pm Evangelism Workshop in fellowship hall
Wednesday, April 17	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, April 21	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00 – 4:00pm Rise Against Hunger
Wednesday, April 24	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Friday-Sat., April 26-27	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, April 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children’s Church

See You Sunday!!