

Walnut
Grove



Good Newsletter

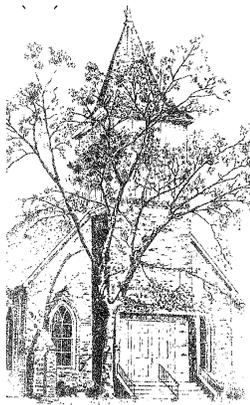
August
2016

Walnut Grove

United Methodist Church
1335 Walnut Grove Rd.
Roebuck, SC 29376

Pastor.....Rev. Chris Snelgrove
Administrative Council Chair....Mike Hooker
Lay Leader.....Alan Gray
Council on Ministries Chair...Cyndy Morgan
Trustees Chair.....Brenda Hooker
Choir Director/Organist.....Ann Duncan
Pianist.....Beth Jennings
Secretary.....Becky Gray
Child Development Director....Kathy Green
Child Development Center.....595-4805
Church Office.....576-2204
Parsonage.....595-8880
web address: www.wgumconline.org
Visit us on Facebook
Daniel and Lee Healy, webmasters
Email: wgumc@bellsouth.net
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Touching Lives
Building Faith
Through the Power
of God's Love

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." Matthew 25:24-25

I can imagine you've heard the following old parable:

A man was walking along a deserted beach at sunset. As he walked he could see a young boy in the distance, as he drew nearer he noticed that the boy kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things into the ocean. As the man approached even closer, he was able to see that the boy was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time he was throwing them back into the water.

The man asked the boy what he was doing, the boy replied, "I am throwing these washed up starfish back into the ocean, or else they will die through lack of oxygen. "But", said the man, "You can't possibly save them all, there are thousands on this beach, and this must be happening on hundreds of beaches along the coast. You can't possibly make a difference."

The boy looked down, frowning for a moment; then bent down to pick up another starfish, smiling as he threw it back into the sea. He replied, "I made a huge difference to that one!" (adapted from *The Star Thrower*, by Loren Eiseley 1907 – 1977).



While on vacation this past week, I had the opportunity to once again stand with my feet in the vast ocean and be reminded of some simple truths: first, I am a very, very, small individual speck on the face of this planet. Second, I am connected to creation. I am not insignificant - my life matters. Third, God has shown the sacred value of every human being by sending his Son to redeem us through the cross. Fourth, if I truly believe these things, I must respond in a faithful, consistent way.

But how? What should I do? I concluded that God had already shown me this years ago, and God reminded me that he had reaffirmed it this past spring in the midst of my prayers for the United Methodist Church with this persistent word: "Be Steady. Do what I put in front of you. Do it in the power of my Spirit."

This searching has largely been spurred by the crisis of covenant over human sexuality and God's Word we UM Christians are currently facing. We had been discussing it in our Sunday evening worship. You might imagine the sense of confirmation, then, when I read the following online: "Statement from North Alabama Cabinet: Hold Steady" (<http://www.umcna.org/home/>).

And that is what each of us must do. It is what God requires of us in uncertain times. We don't want to be that unfaithful servant who, out of fear, did nothing with the talent entrusted to him.

I am committed to keeping you informed because it would be shameful for such a momentous crisis to come upon our UM congregations and they be largely unaware there has even been a struggle.

We should all be encouraged! It is not as if we live like those with no hope (Eph. 2:12, 1 Thess. 4:13). There is an opportunity here to see God renew the United Methodist Church. We must simply be prepared at all times to give a reason for our hope, and continue to do each day what God puts before us.

I have posted the following Pastoral communications from our Bishops on the church bulletin board, and they will also be placed on the Walnut Grove website and Facebook page. (SEE Page 2 for complete list.)

Pastor Chris

Church News

August 2016

- *Starting this month off is our One-Day Bible Camp, "Gone Fishing". The theme is, of course, fishing - particularly fishing for people. There will be all the usual Vacation Bible School components: study, snacks/lunch, activities, games, crafts, etc. The lessons are planned for ages Pre-K through age 12, and will be from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids, and/or relatives' kids for a great day of fun and learning.*



- *Our Men's Ministries group, with help from the UMW, is ready to spring into action with their second fundraiser for local family missions. On Saturday, August 27, they will host a BBQ meal complete with entertainment. Tickets will be available from the men of the church or the church office. It will be a great evening for a worthy cause.*

List of websites from Pastor's Page:
<http://www.umcsc.org> Council of Bishops President Addresses Western Jurisdiction Episcopal Election Results
<http://sejunc.org> A Pastoral Letter from the Southeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops to the United Methodists in the Southeastern Jurisdiction
<http://www.umcsc.org> A Pastoral Letter to South Carolina United Methodists from Bishop Holston
<http://www.umcsc.org> The Special Commission On A Way Forward
<http://www.umcna.org> Statement from North Alabama Cabinet: Hold Steady

A month of Sundays

"August is like the Sunday of summer," an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week — a chance to sleep in, do "nothing," relax and play — then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed "August is like the Sunday of summer." God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

—Heidi Mann

The Master Puzzler

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because "in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God "can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?)."

Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle's edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the "Master Puzzler" take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, "GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!" (17:14, *The Message*).



Does anyone need fill-dirt? We need to remove the dirt in the back corner of the cemetery. It is available - call Brenda Hooker, Mac Rutland, or the church office for info.

Schedule of Worship

(From The Revised Common Lectionary in the United Methodist Book of Worship)

August 7

Luke 12:32-40
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

August 14

Luke 12:49-56
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 5:1-7

August 21

Luke 13:10-17
Hebrews 12:18-29
Psalms 71:1-6
Jeremiah 1:4-10

August 28

Luke 14:1,7-14
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Psalms 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 2:4-13



Child Development Center

It seems like summer is on a fast track now - only a couple of weeks left before school starts. By August 12, everyone will be back at WGUMC CDC. It will be a full house with all age levels, including after-school at capacity. One exception is our 4K class; we have a few openings there, and encourage anyone with family or friends looking for an excellent preschool, to take advantage of this opportunity.

We have been truly blessed with a large assortment of items from Jake's family. We thank them for their generosity. We also want to thank the Roebuck Fire Department for hosting an awesome visit for our little ones.



NEVER FEAR!

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God, who always looks after you.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.

What plants grow in DIR ₁

The opposite of play WO ₂ K

One-of-a-kind ₃ NIQUE

A hug and a KI ₄ S

Sour TAR ₅

To speak very loudly YE ₆ L

Immediately N ₇ W

Bees live in a HI ₈ E

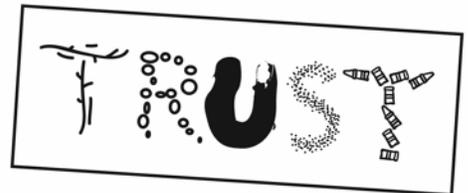
A dandelion is this W ₉ ED

I ₁ ₂ ₃ ₄ ₅ in your unfailing ₆ ₇ ₈ ₉ ;
my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, unique, kiss, tart, yell, now, hive, weed.
I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

TRUST POSTER

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.



What you need:

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

What you do:

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3"-high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.



The big event for children this month will be our One-day Bible Camp on August 6. This is for ages 3 - 12; the older youth will have their own special outing for a bowling date on Sunday afternoon, August 7.

The older youth will also be going on a weekend retreat to Look Up Lodge in September. Please contact Mandi Cox or Cyndy Morgan for information.