



# In a Nutshell

Important happenings at Walnut Grove  
and all around the United Methodist Church

**Winter at The Grove:** As a hymn sung last month reminds us, "Love came down at Christmas." We at Walnut Grove are now at work growing into the beautiful gift of God's love in Jesus Christ and have plenty of opportunities for everyone to participate.

**Sunday Worship Services (8:30 & 11)** - We have launched into a season of Love, exploring each Sunday varieties of ways we can love like Jesus. The sermons will incorporate Gary Chapman's "The Five Love Languages," helping us to see how each of us understand that we are loved; in turn, we then learn how to love others in ways that truly "speak to them." Feel free to secure a copy of the book - excellent read and addition to your library - for Chapman's in-depth explanations and examples. We will be applying the principles to the many different ways we practice God's *AGAPE* love in all our relationships. Last Sunday we examined the language of *gifts*. Here's what's ahead:

**Jan. 24** - *Words of Affirmation* - Pastor Hunter preaching

**Jan. 31** - *Quality Time* - Ministerial Intern, LaDonna Farrish preaching

**Feb. 7** - *Acts of Service* - Pastor Laure preaching

**Feb. 14** - *Physical Touch* - Pastor Hunter preaching

Each week's homework will be to actively practice how to bless others by "speaking their language!"

**WINTER WEDNESDAYS ARE WONDERFUL !!!** Our Wednesday evening Supper, Bible Study, Children and Youth activities and choir practice start back up **TONIGHT** ! Dinner begins at 5:45pm - tonight's dinner of spaghetti and salad (provided by Betsy Parker) will benefit the 2016 Appalachia Service Project team, so thank you for your generous donations. (Eating for Missions - gotta love it!)

At 6:30, we show the video segment of this week's *Covenant* Bible study (as the children and youth head off to their programs), then break out into small discussion groups on the video. Sanctuary Choir practice begins at 7:30 - this is a perfect time to join in!

### **OTHER HAPPENINGS:**

**Lent is just around the corner!** - (Much different from the *lint* in your pockets!) As old as Christianity itself, the 40 days (plus Sundays) prior to Easter have been a time for believers to undergo a deep self-examination of their growth and performance as a Disciple of the Lord Jesus. Each week's worship will invite the congregation into Jesus' invitation to take up our Cross and follow Him - the healthiest form of self-denial. This season begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until the dawn of Easter Morning.

**MARDI GRAS Dinner** - "Fat Tuesday" Pancake supper, a Church-wide event helping our youth raise funds for ASP. 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - regular Wednesday evening 5:45pm dinner in fellowship Hall, 7:00pm Worship service in the Sanctuary (nursery provided). The Ash Wednesday service is a call to repentance and invitation to "holiness" - the pursuit of a life driven by Spirit-filled devotion to God and discipleship that transforms the world. (All other programs suspended this week only.)

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY ISN'T A HOLIDAY!** But that doesn't mean we can't invest some "holiness" into it! While much of the world will be indulging in unholy activities (sadly, the Super bowl is annually the largest day in America for human trafficking, not to mention alcohol-related incidents and more), we believe the Church can make the most of this day in 2 ways: through fellowship with other believers, and by employing some "love your neighbor" tactics in the midst of it all. We invite you to adopt ***Soup-er Bowl of Caring*** attitude. That is to say, for as much as you might spend on snacks, drinks, subs, dips, etc. on yourself, either make the same monetary donation to the OCIM or purchase an equal value of soup to donate to OCIM. We'll make it easy for you: designate a Special offering (Souper Bowl of Caring) and drop it in the offering plate between now and Feb. 7, or bring your canned soup and crackers to the Church to be delivered to OCIM.

Join in fellowship around the game: The UMYF and families will be gathering at 6:00pm. Specific details TBA. Call Amanda Dodson for more info. (919-618-9559)

The Young Adults (College age and up) will be gathering at the Parsonage (2618 Hawkins Rd.) at 6:30. Feel free to add your favorite munchies or beverage to the mix! Call Pastor Hunter for more info. (919-741-3706)

## **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **LOCAL CHURCH TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

The Corridor District UMC will be hosting two days of workshops in two different locations, with course offerings differing each event. These workshops (free!) are designed to equip local church servants for the most

effective ministry possible. To see more information and to register, please go online to: **corridordistrictnc.org** and scroll down to the "Training Workshops" link.

Saturday, January 30 Workshops at Orange UMC 9a - 1p:

*Effective Meetings*, led by Rev. Dr. Tom Greener,

*Faith-Sharing*, led by Rev. Kathy Kirkpatrick and Rev. Kong Namkung,

*Healthy Pastor-Parish Relations*, led by Rev. Jessie Larkins and Rev. Jesse Brunson

Sunday, February 7 Workshops at Mt. Sylvan UMC 2p - 6p:

*Aligning and Streamlining Leadership Structure For Effective and Fruitful Ministry*  
led by Dr. Christine Harman

*Communications: External and Internal*, led by Maggie Ivancic and Jacob Blount

*Rethinking Sunday School*, led by Mitzi Johnson and Wallace Johnson

*Sustainable Financial Management and Planning*, led by Rev. Reggie Ponder

**ALSO:** keep up with all that's happening in and around the district by visiting **corridordistrictnc.org**, and around the conference by visiting **nccumc.org**.