In a Nutshell December 19, 2025

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

~Shared by Leigh McFalls ~ Madeleine L'Engle

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed from December 24th until January 5th. There will not be a Nutshell for the next two weeks. In case of emergency, you may contact Rev. Laura Dunlap at 919-255-4160 or ldunlap@nccumc.org.

"Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, and prosperity!!

~WGUMC Staff

2026 Nominations and Lay Leadership Report

See Attachment

Budget News as of December 17, 2025

Year to Date Income: $ 259,120.58
Year to Date Expenses: $ 289,829.09
Difference: $ (30,708.51)

Dear Walnut Grove Church Family,

We're reminded of the words from Paul to the church in Philippi, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God." Wow, thank you! Your powerful witness of Christian faithfulness through your extravagant generosity over the past few weeks is transformative.

As you know, as of November 30 we were behind $64,868.31 in our general fund. Thanks to generous givers like you stepping up, we have been working steadily to close that gap. Through our Giving Day Challenge, we raised close to $8,000 for the general fund. Along with special gifts, weekly offerings, mailed checks, and online giving, we are making significant progress. As of December 17, we are now behind $30,708.51. A few opportunities still remain to give.

Let's keep giving generously as we celebrate this good news! Gifts made online, by mail, or during worship through our weekly offerings support this life-changing work of making disciples at Walnut Grove UMC. We still have three worship opportunities left this year to support our church ministries. Your offerings on December 21, Christmas Eve, and December 28 will all go directly to support the 2025 general fund. Each act of giving brings our baptismal vows to life, one faithful step at a time. We praise God for the privilege of giving back a portion of the blessings God has so generously given us. Together, let us make this an amazing year by supporting ministry at Walnut Grove UMC!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Louella Rutledge, Finance Chair

Rev. Laura Dunlap, Pastor of Walnut Grove UMC

Music Ministry Update

Can you believe that Christmas is less than a week away?

Hallelujah Kid's Christmas Program – December 21st during 10:30am service

The Hallelujah Kids will present the Christmas musical play, "The Mystery of the Missing Manger" this Sunday. This energetic group is set to decorate the church for Christmas. They've got the Christmas tree, the lights, the ornaments, the wreath, the presents and even some extra costumes, but there's one thing missing. They can't find the manger!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th

We will have our annual Christmas Eve service with candle lighting and communion. There will be one service at 7:00pm.

4th Sunday Christmas Songs and Stories on Sunday, December 28th

On Sunday, December 28th, during the 10:30am worship service we will be singing some of your favorite Christmas carols and telling the backstory behind each one. Please join us for this special time of worship.

For more information, contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317 or **leighmcfalls@gmail.com.**

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. 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

- Paul Beck, with health issues. He is a member of Walnut Grove UMC.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She is the director of Seeds of Life 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.
- Neil Donnelly with health issues.
- 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.
- Katherine Huey, with health issues. She is Rick Huey's mom.
- 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
- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, both with health issues. They are members of Walnut Grove UMC.
- 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.

Quilts - Sunday, December 28th

Tim Bissell from New York City, NY who has Parkinson's Disease. He is a friend of Emma Beckham.

Callum Parker, from Burlington, NC is a newborn baby boy who is having health issues. He is the son of Davis and Kirsten Paker and grandson of Jay Parker and Donna P. Davis.

(The prayer quilts will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday, December 28th. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer before or after the service.)

Birthdays

Friday 12/19 – Caitlin Compton
Saturday 12/20 – Stephanie Smith, Jackson Mariette, Abigail Blankenship
Sunday 12/21 – Dezarae Coleman
Monday 12/22 – Betty McCullock, David Young
Wednesday 12/24 – Dathene Hawkins
Thursday 12/25 – Barry Parker
Friday 12/26 – Kennedy Dunlap
Saturday 12/27 – Sarah Lockamy, Scott Read, Laura Harris
Sunday 12/28 – Billy Hall
Monday 12/29 – Pam Kimrey, Jennifer Noah
Tuesday 12/30 – Barry Walker, Charles Davis
Wednesday 12/31 – Charlotte James, Jake Berry, Joe Bumgarner, Barry Roberts, Phil Wimberly
Thursday 1/1 – Roger McFalls, Callie Durham
Friday 1/2 – Iris Ashley, Lora Cunningham
Saturday 1/3 – David Jones
Sunday 1/4 – James Walker
Monday 1/5 – Jacob Blankenship, Linda Lovitte, Jessica Pope
Tuesday 1/6 – Cari Humphrey, John Lee, Rodney Overcash
Wednesday 1/7 – Max Kemnitz, Gracie Hall
Thursday 1/8 – Timmy Parker
Friday 1/9 – Tom Rutledge, Brenda Jones, Sharon Dement
Saturday 1/10 – Jason Berry, John Ducker

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

December 21st

Acolytes: Ellen Johnson/Max Kemnitz
Ushers: Mike Roberts/Krystal Robinson
Greeters: Pat Beck/Jenny Blalock
Financial Rep: Emma Beckham
Nursery: Pam Kimrey/Courtney Humphrey/Grayson Nading
Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

December 24th

Acolytes: Toni Shaw/Wyatt James
Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith
Financial Rep: Tyler Smith
Communion Servers: Barry & Cheryl L Parker
Greeters: Tyler & Stephanie Smith
Scripture: Mike Roberts
Open/Close: Roger McFalls

December 28th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Ellen Johnson
Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe
Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cheryl L Parker/Aubrey Nading
Financial Rep: Tyler Smith
Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe
Scripture: Mike Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

January 4th

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Kinsleigh Dillard
Ushers: Kennedy Dunlap/Jenny Blalock
Nursery: Faith Parker/Cheryl S Parker
Communion Servers: Kara and Mike Roberts
Greeters: Chris & Cathy Boling
Scripture: Emma Beckham
Trustee Open/Close:
Financial Rep:

January 11th

Acolytes: Isabella Conway/Gracie Hall
Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry
Nursery: Stephanie Smith/Krystal Robinson
Trustee Open/Close:
Greeters: Shirley Clayton/Debby Donnelly
Scripture: Grace Dunlap
Financial Rep:

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

Saturday, December 20 — 9:30am Hallelujah Kids Final Rehearsal
Birthday party for Jesus following rehearsal

Sunday, December 21 — 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
Children's Program "The Mystery of the Missing Manger"

Wednesday, December 24 — 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Sunday, December 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service – Christmas songs and stories
Wednesday, December 31	6:00-8:00pm New Year's Eve at the Grove

Thurs-Sat., January 1-3	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, January 4	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Take down Advent decorations
Tuesday, January 6	7:00pm Men's Group
Wed., January 7	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, January 11	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 6:00-7:00pm Youth online safety training (Tyler Smith)
Wed., January 14	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sun, January16-18	Youth Winter Retreat
Sunday, January 18	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Tuesday, January 20	7:00pm Men's Group
Wed., January 21	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, January 25	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Wed., January 28	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., January 30-31	Walnut Grove Crafters

See You Sunday!!