In a Nutshell December 12, 2025

Happy Advent, everyone! This Sunday, we will light the Joy candle on the Advent wreath. This is the pink candle, the one that I have always felt should have been love. This candle is the second-lightest candle on the wreath, with the Christ candle, which we will light on Christmas Eve, being the lightest candle on the wreath. After my final, for theology, my friends and I were talking about this, and two of us were on the same page that this candle should be love. We should be the last one on the wreath, but some of my friends explained to us why it was joy, and why it was not love, as well as the purpose of the candles' color. The purple candle symbolizes the somber and reflective nature of this period as we prepare to commemorate the birth of Jesus. The pink candle symbolizes joy and anticipation as Christmas approaches. Pink represents joy or triumph, and this candle marks a transition in the season of Advent from repentance to celebration. You would think, by this logic, that pink would be last, but it is not; it is the purple candle representing Love. Love is the central message of the scriptures, and while love can be happy and joyful, love can also bring us a lot of pain. We end on Love because God is Love. Ephesians 3:16-19 says, " I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."(NRSV) With the anticipation for Christ the Savior to come, it is only fitting that on the last Sunday before his birth, we remember the love of Christ and the life to come.

Emily Phenice

Duke Intern

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Angel Tree Update

An email went out earlier in the week from our Angel Tree Coordinator, Jolinda Swiggett. We have three 8 year old girls this year named Egypt, Jakayla, and Jaala to bring Christmas cheer to, along with of the girl's 16 year old brothers named Jaiden. I hung the angels on the tree this afternoon, so if you're in the area you can stop in and pick one out; there are about 20. One of the girls also had Food Lion gift cards listed. I did not make angels for the gift cards; if you're in Food Lion and would like to pick one up, mark the amount on it and just bring it in and put it on the tree. These gifts are due back on Dec. 18th. Remember…you can put these gifts in gift bags or unwrapped boxes, and attach the Angel to the outside. If you purchase clothes, please include a gift receipt. Please reach out to Jolinda for more details at 919-302-0110. Let's help these kids have a very Merry Christmas!!

~ Jolinda Swiggett

Music Ministry Update

Can you believe that Christmas is less than 2 weeks away?

Worship Choir Music Program – This Sunday during 10:30am service

The Worship Choir will present the musical, “A Child Is Born...All Is Well” on Sunday, December 14th. The songs and readings will take you back to the moment when everything changed...the moment that brought hope, peace, joy and love into our world...the moment the world could finally say, "A Child Is Born...All Is Well". You are invited to join us as we rejoice and celebrate His birth once again.

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" on Sunday, December 21st. 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.**

Youth Christmas Party

All youth are invited to the Youth Christmas Party. It will be in the church fellowship hall on Sunday, December 14 from 6-7:30pm. You are welcome to bring a friend or friends that are youth age. Please RSVP by Sunday morning (Dec. 14) so we have enough food for that night. We will have pizza, salad, a hot chocolate bar, gingerbread decorating competition and a few minute to win it games. Bring a $5-$10 gift for white elephant game as well.

JOIN US FOR ADVENT SOUP-SINGING

Thurs. Nov. 18

5:30 PM

Eno House, 903 Eno Street, Hillsborough NC

Bring an ingredient for veggie soup

We'll sing songs of love and resistance while it simmers

No prior experience with soup or singing needed

All are welcome!

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.

Send A Card

Paul Beck (Thinking of You), 6137 Dawn Drive, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Birthdays

Friday 12/12 – Ricky Triplett
Saturday 12/13 – Gardner Latta
Monday 12/15 – Mary Blalock
Tuesday 12/16 – Joyce Brown, Grant Berry, Angie Comer
Wednesday 12/17 – Tammy Guy, Ellie Wimberly
Thursday 12/18 – Heather Cole
Friday 12/19 – Caitlin Compton
Saturday 12/20 – Stephanie Smith, Jackson Mariette, Abigail Blankenship

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 14th

Acolytes: Samantha Johnson/Magnus Kemnitz
Ushers: Barry & Cheryl L Parker
Nursery: Debbie Donnelly/Sharyn Gates
Greeters: Phil & Lorraine Hines
Financial Rep: Lou Rutledge
Trustee Open/Close: Mike Roberts

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/Faith Parker
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

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 13	9:30am – Worship Choir Final Rehearsal (Christmas)
Sunday, December 14	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service – Worship Choir Program "All is Well" 4:45pm Hallelujah Kids 6:00pm - 7:00pm Youth Christmas party
Tuesday, December 16	7:00pm Men's Group
Wednesday, December 17	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
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!!