

We are wrapping up the good work of Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. We still have a few spots left to fill. If you are wanting to serve, please let me know. It's made me think about our collective gifts and as we enter a gift giving season, how we share our gifts all year long. I'm thinking of gifts like encouragement, patience, joy, hope, strength, comfort, and wisdom. Paul, of course speaks about gifts in scripture. In several spots throughout the epistles, we read about the importance of gifts and fruit: Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Corinthians 12. After 1 Corinthians 12 wraps up, we read, "Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way."

I want us to be eager to share our gifts! Centered in love, what if we all longed for the best in each other? Imagine God's fruitfulness at work making us whole, making us stronger, making us witnesses to God's goodness and giftedness at hand as the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. It is a joy when you find your niche in ministry. Some of us are good at leading, some at following, though we all are called to follow Jesus. We see the power of a body that seeks to move its many parts to glorify God.

Keep the work of this committee in prayer. Whether we serve on a committee with our gifts or serve this body and our world with our spiritual gifts, the Holy Spirit is at work. Call out when you see God at work in someone. Let's be empowered to build each other up! Encourage and name in gratefulness what we might not see in ourselves. Let's pay attention to the Holy Spirit. Find tangible ways to show God's love. Remember God has great things in store for the good people of Walnut Grove UMC! May we share our gifts with hearts open to receive what God has yet to reveal. In Jesus' name, Amen.

~Pastor Laura

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night for Daylight Savings Time.

Sunday Night Gatherings

We are approaching our final Sunday Night Gatherings in 2023. We need your help! We have a couple of empty spots for meals and plenty of opportunities to serve in 2024. Please consider signing up to help us finish this year well and start 2024 with grateful hearts.

[Link to Sign Up for Sunday Night Meals](#)

Mary Martha Busy Ladies November Meeting

We will gather at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8th, to prepare meals for delivery to our senior partners. Desserts are needed.

Harvest Festival 2023

We're planning a follow up meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and record specifics, talk about what areas we could improve upon and what worked well, plus make some notes while it's mostly fresh on our minds.

I want to thank you all for everything you did to make this years' Harvest Festival the success that it was. I appreciate all of you.

If you can't make the meeting but have something to offer, feel free to submit it to someone who's coming, or me! Everyone is invited!

Cheryl S. Parker

HF Team 23

919-451-0321

Music Ministry Update

How about getting to sing some Christmas music in November? The Worship Choir (adults) will start rehearsals this Sunday at 4:30pm for our annual Christmas presentation. This year's music is titled, "The Celebration of Christmas" and includes a mix of hymns, contemporary songs, and narration to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 10:30am worship service. If you would like to get in on a short-term commitment, this is for you! (Of course, you're welcome to join us on Sunday mornings too.)

The Hallelujah Kids (K through 5th grade) will also start rehearsals this Sunday at 6:00pm (during the KidsKrew time) for their annual Christmas presentation. Their music is titled, "Sleepover at the Stable" and includes songs and a play about the animals in the stable the night Jesus was born. It will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 24th at the 10:30am worship service. Also, if you have a 3 or 4 year old who would like to take part, let Leigh know.

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

Charge Conference News

Mark your calendar for November 29th from 7:30-8:30 for our annual charge conference! We will be hosting it this year at Walnut Grove UMC with our sister church, Pleasant Green UMC, also having their charge conference at Walnut Grove. Hope to see you there!

Local School Needs at Pathways Elementary

Winter Clothing (all sizes)

Smaller boys' /girls' shoes

Water Bottles

Individually Wrapped Snacks

Individually Wrapped Candy

Thank you for helping those in need in our community. You can drop these items off at church and we will get them to the school!

Food Pantry Needs

Good Morning! In talking with Kim at the Food Pantry yesterday, the pantry is indeed of the following items:

- a. Personal care products such as toothbrushes, bars of bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant,
- b. Canned fruits, vegetables, and mayonnaise

For the month of October, Walnut Grove donated 156.4 pounds. Any items that we can gather together will be greatly appreciated. Thank you,
Brenda Berry

Cedar Grove UMC's Harvest Festival

If you still have the Harvest Festival love and/or want to support our sister church down the road, mark your calendar for Cedar Grove UMC's upcoming Harvest Festival. Who doesn't enjoy a little taste of Thanksgiving earlier in the month?



Lunch With Lauren

Consider taking our intern this year out to lunch after church. Lauren can learn more about the ministries and life of Walnut Grove through your sharing stories and food together. You can sign up on one of the available Sundays by clicking the link below. Thank you for supporting all that she is doing for the church and her call to ministry.

[Meal Time with Lauren](#)

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 October 31, 2023

Year to Date Income - \$ 166,786.50

Year to Date Expenses - \$ 184,687.84

Difference - \$ 17,901.34

Harvest Festival Fund Balance: \$ 72,743.67 (note this figure does not include Harvest Festival expenses that have yet to be paid)

Matthew 25:35 Fund Balance: \$ 9,852.77

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Family of Allen Tidwell who passed away
- Beth Roberts, who was recently in a bad car accident. She is the daughter of Billie Roberts
- Families of Jenny Fritz. Friend of Heidi Gerbracht
- Billy Addison from Erwin, NC who has been diagnosed with mouth cancer. Cheryl Humphrey is asking for prayers for Billy.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

From The Mailbox

What a wonderful and blessed day the 21st of October Walnut Grove's Harvest Festival was for the Ashley's, Henry and Iris. Coming home to all the love that was shown us. Seeing everyone we had not seen in so long. It was wonderful to see so many there for the festival. It was like the old days of the Harvest Festival. Everyone did a wonderful job in carrying it out.

Thank all of our church family for a wonderful day. With all our love for all.

Henry and Iris Ashley

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 11/3 – Tommy Clayton, Richard McColman, Mike Parker, Debbie Wagoner

Saturday 11/4 – John Sherron

Sunday 11/5 – Betsy Porterfield Parker

Wednesday 11/8 – Randy Elliott, Bailey Rath, Holt Comer, Meg Merritt

Thursday 11/9 – Jane Clapp

Friday 11/10 – Austin Glenn, Cameron Pope, David Markle

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!](#)

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

Serving in Worship

November 5th

Acolytes: Isaac Conway/Corbin Smith
Greeters: Chris & Cathy Boling
Ushers: Pat Beck/Margaret Anne Dow
Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Mary Emma Roberts
Scripture Reader: Lorraine Parker
Communion Servers: Mike & Kara Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Sharyn Gates
PM Nursery: Lorraine Hines/Cathy Boling

November 12th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Isabella Conway
Greeters: Grace Dunlap/Margaret Anne Dow
Ushers: Jenny Blalock/Mike Roberts
Nursery: Dale Smithson/Katie Whitaker
Scripture: Mary Emma Roberts
Trustee Open/Close: Jacob Blankenship
PM Nursery: Mandy Kemnitz/Cheryl L. Parker

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, November 5	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery
Tuesday, November 7	7:00pm Covenant Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 8	10:00am Mary Martha Busy Ladies 6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Friday-Sunday, Nov 10-12	Pilgrimage

Sunday, November 12 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir
5:30pm Dinner
6:00pm KidsKrew, Bible Study, Nursery – (No Youth)

Monday, November 13 7:00pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 14 7:00pm Harvest Festival Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 15 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Sunday, November 19 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir
5:30pm Dinner
6:00pm KidsKrew, Youth, Bible Study, Nursery



Thursday, November 23

Sunday, November 26 9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
10:45am Children's Church
4:30pm Christmas Worship Choir
5:30pm Hallelujah Kids Play Practice

Wednesday, Nov. 29 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!