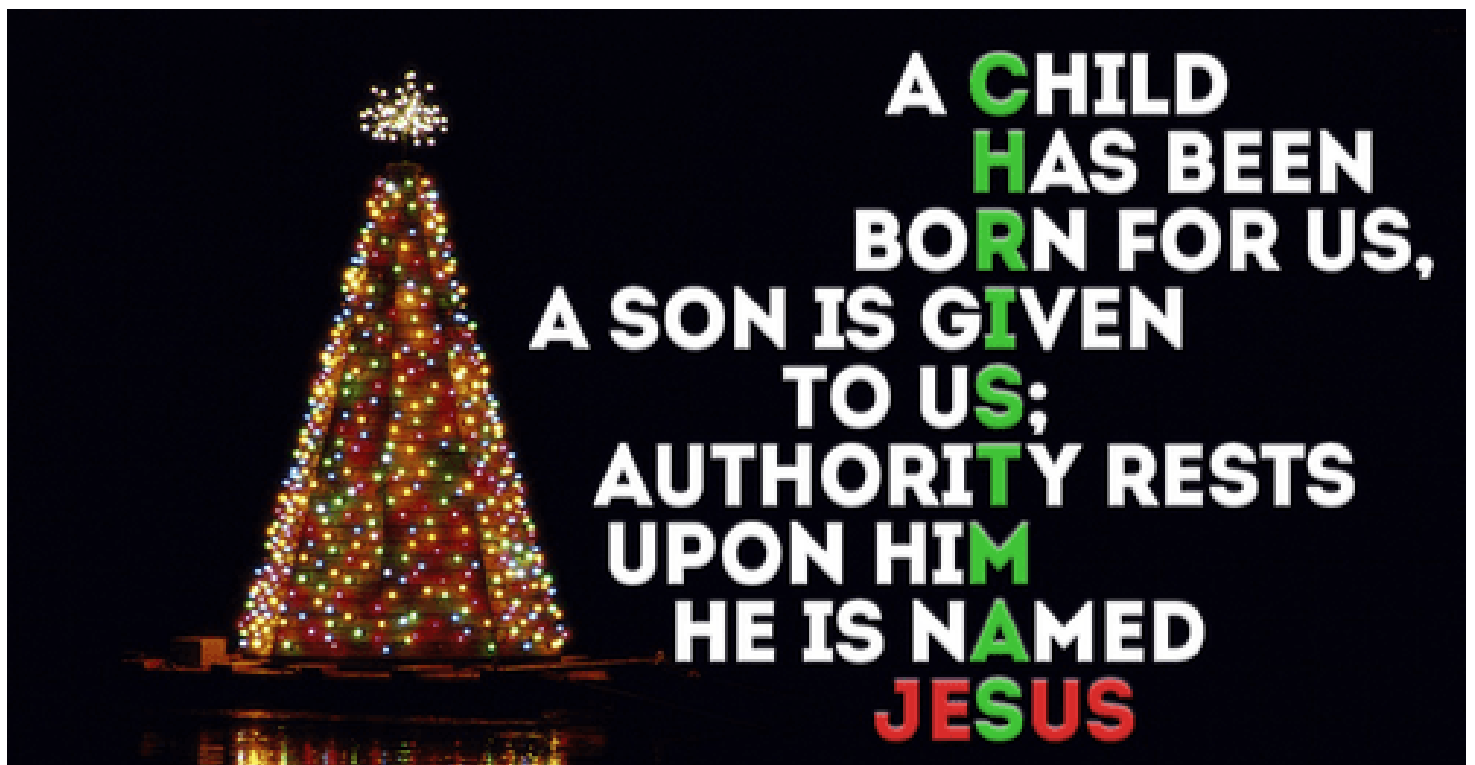


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Walnut Grove UMC The Nuggets

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DECEMBER 2020

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Calendar of Events



12/6	10:30am Online Worship
12/13	10:30am Online Worship
12/20	10:30am Online Worship
12/24	Christmas Eve Services TBD
12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY
12/27	10:30am Online Worship



From The Pastor's Desk

In 1872 the poet Christina Rossetti wrote a poem that only appeared after her death. About thirty years later the poem was set to music and titled "A Christmas Carol." Today, we know it as "In the Bleak Midwinter", one of my favorite Christmas carols.

But there's a fascinating back-story to this beloved Christmas carol. Rossetti was a devoted follower of Christ who for many years volunteered at the St. Mary Magdalene "house of charity," a refuge for women coming out of a life of prostitution. In the Victorian Era of her day, economic forces often caused women to eke out a living by selling their bodies. Some of the "women" were only twelve years old. Rossetti's efforts in offering Christ and helping find better jobs for these marginalized women came through in some of her poems.

For instance, this Christmas carol pictures a Savior who entered our world of suffering and brokenness—a world much like "the bleak mid-winter" of Rossetti's native England. "Heaven cannot hold ... nor earth sustain" Jesus, and yet "a stable-place" and "a manger full of hay" sufficed for him.

In light of Christ's great power and love, Rossetti's poem asks:

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?*

This question would have weighed heavily on women struggling to come out of a life of prostitution. With their broken lives, what could they possibly give to Jesus, especially since "Heaven cannot hold him"?

According to Rossetti's poem, there is one thing that all of us can give Christ—no matter who we are. She wrote:

*If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.*

Regardless of our tainted past or our present struggles, there is one gift that Christ wants more than anything—our hearts. No matter who you are or where you've been you can give him your heart.

Youth Fellowship News

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Check #</u>
10/24/2020	Ending Balance			\$3616.51	



General Fund News

Worship/Poinsettia Update

Due to an increase in active covid cases in Hardin County, all worship services at Walnut Grove UMC will be online until further notice. This situation will be closely monitored by Pastor Doug and the Administrative Council and we will update the congregation as changes arise.

All poinsettia orders have been cancelled and the finance team will be reaching out to everyone who placed orders to return checks and money.

Beginning Balance - \$12,410.04

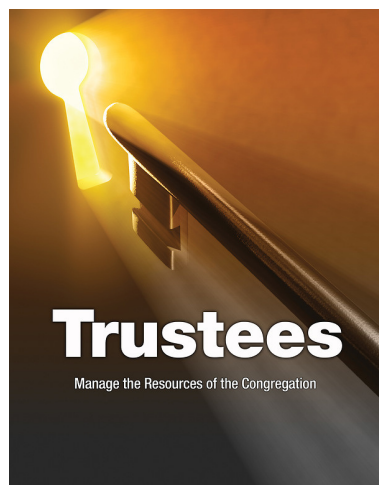
Deposits - + \$ 9,984.19

\$22,394.23

Checks paid out -\$12,823.27

Ending Balance - \$ 9,570.96

Memorial fund - \$ 11,518.47



This year the trustees have been very active in maintaining the church's properties. A new porch was added to the parsonage, the parking lot was repaired, as well as work days. Because of this, the trustees have used most of their funds. But their work is not done.

The parsonage needs a new roof and we are wanting to move the pastor's study from the annex to the church building, which will require building a wall. We are planning a fund raiser to help raise funds (more information will follow about this), but we are projecting that this fundraiser will not raise the necessary funds. If you would like to give a give over and above your regular giving to the church, it would be so much appreciated. Clearly mark your gifts "Trustee Fund." Thank you for your support!

With the Coronavirus surging once again, with even more vengeance than before, we are all wondering what Thanksgiving and Christmas are going to look like this year. It will definitely be different than years past. Questions are still swirling in our minds: Will we be able to gather for the holiday celebrations? What will Christmas Eve services look like – or will we even be able to have Christmas eve services this year? Questions like these, and a myriad of others, cause us to have a great deal of anxiety and maybe even fear.



As I write this, I am sitting in my home, quarantined, after being exposed to the virus. I will admit, I am experiencing a certain level of anxiety; but as I think about the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons, I am taking comfort in the Advent messages of hope, love, joy and peace.

During this season, the theme of our worship will be, "I Believe Even When...". It is so easy for us to despair and worry, whether it is about the pandemic, our jobs, our finances, or other events unfolding in our country. But Advent is a time for renewed hope that God is still in control...even when. And this belief instills within us hope, love, joy and peace.

So I would like to invite you to worship with us – whether in person or online – as we celebrate the advent of Christ's birth in 2020, that your faith may be renewed.

November 29: *I Believe in the Sun*

December 6: *I Believe in Love*

December 13: *I Believe in God*

December 20: *I Believe in the Light*

December 27: *Believe this: The Time Has Come*



For the last couple years, the Walnut Grove Church has taken received a special mission offering on the fifth Sunday of the month.

With November having 5 Sundays, we will be taking a mission offering for Josh McPherson. Josh is part of H2O -- a new church ministry on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Josh shared his heart and calling with the church on October 18. You may bring your offering to the church and mark it clearly "Fifth Sunday Offering," mail it the church, or give online designating it as "mission offering."



12/1	Lanny Dillon	12/18	Jallison Wilson
12/2	Aaron Sheldon	12/19	Jack Rensing
12/3	Darren Reese	12/20	Josh Grappy
12/3	Charles Rodabaugh	12/20	Lori Wilson
12/4	Tim Crowe	12/22	Perry Sheldon
12/5	Dana Oates	12/22	Holly Wilson
12/5	Chris Wedertz	12/25	Delaney Potter
12/6	Chelsey Trusty	12/25	Holly Ruhlen
12/7	Kyle Koehler	12/26	Chase Doll
12/7	Nelson Kritzler	12/26	Kay Doll
12/7	Connie Steele	12/26	Rune Frater
12/8	Robert Steiner	12/26	Cooper McBride
12/10	Don Doll	12/27	Tenley Heckman
12/10	Colton Rodabaugh	12/28	Megan Frisbee
12/12	Rowe Garmon	12/29	Judi Cronley
12/12	Kurt Sheldon	12/29	Preston Wykes
12/13	Kama Leigh Arn	12/30	Amanda Schutz
12/14	Jeff Doll	12/30	Boyd Stewart
12/15	Carolyn Lambert	12/31	Haylee Hoyt
12/15	Melissa Rall	12/31	Mary Humphrey
12/16	Kathy Bash	12/31	Joshua Kindell
12/16	Cynthia Sheldon	12/31	Trevor McCall
12/16	Haley Waller	12/31	Eugene Oates
12/18	Jordan Doll	12/31	Austin Potter



12/5	Justin & Chelsea Beale
12/6	Chanda & Mark Garmon
12/8	David & Kathy Bash
12/9	Dean & Jill Appleton
12/10	Michael & Christine Bacon
12/10	Theron & Anne Gammon
12/31	Ed & Bev Bahr
12/31	Tracy & David Spencer