

DECEMBER 2020

NEWS FROM GRESHAM UMC

December

Florence Howery Roddy

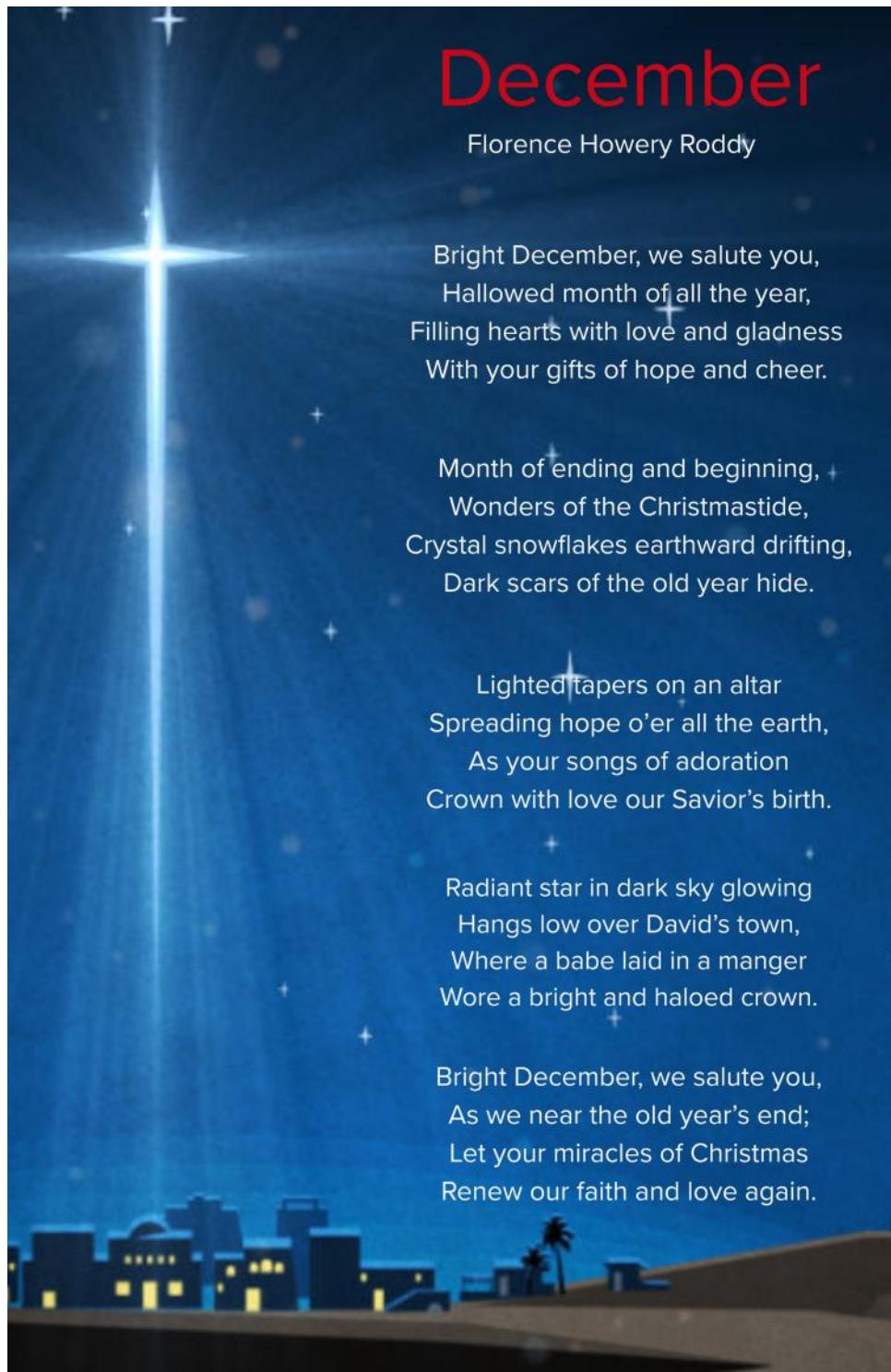
Bright December, we salute you,
Hallowed month of all the year,
Filling hearts with love and gladness
With your gifts of hope and cheer.

Month of ending and beginning,
Wonders of the Christmastide,
Crystal snowflakes earthward drifting,
Dark scars of the old year hide.

Lighted tapers on an altar
Spreading hope o'er all the earth,
As your songs of adoration
Crown with love our Savior's birth.

Radiant star in dark sky glowing
Hangs low over David's town,
Where a babe laid in a manger
Wore a bright and haloed crown.

Bright December, we salute you,
As we near the old year's end;
Let your miracles of Christmas
Renew our faith and love again.



FROM OUR PASTOR

Dr. Steve Lewis

We are in the season of Advent, a time of hope, love, joy and peace. Christmas commercials have started and radio stations are playing endless Christmas songs. People are putting up Christmas trees and hanging lights on their houses. We are all trying to have as normal a Christmas season as possible during a difficult time in our history.

This year, we stand in need of these foundational elements of our Christian faith: hope, love, joy and peace. In the sermon on the first Sunday of Advent, I said if you stand in need of hope, reach out to us for support. If you can share hope, then find ways to share.

If you need hope, please get in touch. Or, if you know someone who needs hope, please let us know. We are all experiencing the anxiety of this cultural crisis. So let us help one another and walk together through the struggles before us.

This is a season of hope and sharing. As a church, we have continued to reach out with our meal programs and gift cards. I hope you will continue to support the food card program and help families this Christmas. We will be working with two schools this year; both have been part of the food card program: Hartley and Hollydale elementary schools.

While we all seek hope, love, joy and peace, let us also be givers of these foundational elements of our faith.

~ *Steve*



The Sunday following Christmas has traditionally included a special Blessing of the Toys. Since we are using an online format for worship, we invite you to send in your favorite picture of yourself (or beloved friends or family members) with a favorite toy. You can also include a few sentences about the toy or a memory associated with it.

Please email your photo and description to
worship@greshamumc.com

by December 22nd, so Trista can incorporate it into our blessing time and special worship service the Sunday after Christmas.

A Shifting of Seasons: Awakening Hope



This is such a precious time of year! I have long loved the transition between Thanksgiving and Advent. As a child, it seemed magical to move from the clean-up of Thanksgiving dinner, with all of the aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and in-laws into a swiftly introduced hush the following morning. Although there was a greatly anticipated movement into and out of the attic by my father and elder siblings, just as fast as the movement began, it stopped.

Out of the mysterious shadows of musty air came the big boxes holding the trimmings of Christmastide. The first box to be opened in our household tradition was always the creche, the nativity scene. Before any of the latch hook creations that would hang above the fireplace and macaroni ornaments hand-crafted for the tree, that very special box with our most precious gift was carefully unwrapped and placed in the center of the house, right next to the kitchen.

The season of Advent has just begun. We each have our own special way to honor this shifting of seasons. I wonder what your traditions were in your childhood years. Did you celebrate Advent? What

marked the transition from Autumn to Wintertime for you, inside your home and out? Did you have special traditions with your children or nephews or nieces or someone younger than you who you called "family"? What is your favorite memory of this time of year?

Consider writing me a letter to tell me your stories. I would love to hear from you!

Remember, Steve and I are always simply a phone call away, if ever you want to talk or to share some of your memories. This is a special time of year, and yet, we are all walking through some rather different and challenging times. We care for you deeply and wish you all blessings upon this shifting of seasons.

May the hope of the coming Light rekindle in your heart today.

~ Trista Wynne

We are excited to share with you an Advent Journey through the Voices of Gresham UMC!

This year ~ 2020 ~ has been a challenging one in many ways, Our ability to be together in person has been, for everyone's physical wellbeing, postponed. So, we have been working to connect with one another in other ways. Our collection of the Voices of Advent is one of these ways to connect—coming to you each morning via email during



We have been delighted to receive your reflections, stories, devotions, poems, prayers, and creative expressions through the visual arts over the last month. Our Worship Team, with special leadership by Lydia Henry, has devoted much time and energy to bringing all of your contributions together, and our beloved Jackie Scott has been invaluable in the creation and distribution of this Advent resources.

Thank you to all who have contributed your Voices! It is a joy and a blessing to share in this season together, even when we must be physically apart. We are sending out a daily email to those of you who receive our Constant Contacts. For those of you who receive your newsletter via USPS, you will receive a weekly printed copy in lieu of your weekly devotional material.

GIVING TREE EXPRESS



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Christmas is coming, and your Mission Team has found a way to serve families in our community again this season.

BUT THIS IS 2020 — so you know things will be a little different. Our first concern is to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. Having all of us out shopping for gift items isn't the wisest thing to do.

So here's the plan...

Instead of selecting gift tags from the Giving Tree, we are asking each of you to consider how much you usually spend on those special gifts. Instead of shopping, we are asking you to write a check in that amount and send it to the church as soon as you are able.

Make your check out to GUMC and show "Giving Tree" in the memo field.

As the money is received, we will purchase gift cards that will be distributed to local schools. The school administrators will distribute our gift cards based on household size and family needs. This will also allow the parents to use our gift cards to purchase what their children truly need. Our goal is to have all the gift cards to the schools by December 10th.

In addition, our Mission Team will put together some Christmas stockings filled with candy and small stocking stuffers, which will be shared with community agencies.

We realize that many of you will be disappointed in this change for 2020. But please know that your generous participation will have a huge impact for the families we are helping. Thank you for caring for your community.

Merry Christmas!

Mission Team

December

BIRTHDAYS

Jm Fellers
Marlan Rohlena
Robert Potter
Emily Aalbers
Andrew Walton
Matthew Wynne
Tricia Jenner
James Bonham
Patty Strathern
Abbie Barash
Janet Guyette
Betty Larsen
Truman Grandey
Orletta Goering
Betty Hall
Joey Madrigal
Beth Trautman
Laurie Monnes Anderson
Glen White
Lynn Stafford
Kathy Stafford

ANNIVERSARIES

Rob & Freda Emmons
Paul & JoDell Ricker
Kurt & Judy Englestad
Robert & Carol Potter
Steve & Renee Lewis
Dick & Diane Getchell
Joel & Cindy Mumford
Brad & Anne Stokkeland

HYMNS OF THE FAITH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

*O come, though Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust Thou brought us forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!*

The origins of this plaintive carol date to medieval times. In the 800s, a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas Vespers from December 17 to 23. Each of these hymns began with the word O and were called the “Great” or “O” Antiphons (the word antiphon means “psalm” or “anthem”). These hymns were apparently restructured into verse form in the 1100s and finally published in Latin in 1710.

In the mid-1800s, they were discovered by an English minister named John Mason Neale, who wove together segments of them to produce the first draft of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” which was published in 1851. Neal’s original version said, “Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel.”

Neale is a man worth knowing. He was born in London on January 24, 1818, the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He attended Cambridge University and proved to be a brilliant student and prize-winning poet. While there, Neale was influenced by the Oxford Movement and became attracted to Roman Catholicism. In 1841, he was ordained into the Anglican ministry, but his poor health and Catholic leanings prevented him from gaining a parish ministry.

Neale was appointed instead as the director of Sackville College, a home for old men. (Sackville College, started by Robert Sackville, Earl of Dorset, in the early 1600s as a home for the elderly, is still going strong today in East Grinstead, Sussex.) This was the perfect job for Neale, for he was a compassionate man with a great heart for the needy, but he was also a scholar needing time for research and writing.

As a high church traditionalist, Neale disliked the hymns of Isaac Watts and longed to return Christianity to the liturgical dignity of church history. He was an outspoken advocate of returning church buildings to their former glory. He campaigned, for example, against certain types of stoves that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of English churches. He also worked hard to translate ancient Greek and Latin Hymns into English.

In today’s hymnals, we find Neale and Watts side by side, the old differences having been forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude to John Mason Neale every time we sing one of his Christmas Carols: “Good King Wenceslas,” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “Good Christian Men, Rejoice,” and his Palm Sunday hymn, “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.”

NEWS FROM

Reconciling Ministries Team



Thanks to all who gave to NAFY!!!

Since the Reconciling Ministries Team was unable to have its Inclusive Thanksgiving Dinner this year, we hosted a supply drive for New Avenues for Youth, calling on members of the congregation to give hygiene products, masks, food items, etc.

New Avenues for Youth is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and intervention of youth homelessness, which greatly serves the youth in the LGBTQIA+ community who are experiencing homelessness.

I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love shown by the congregation during this drive. Extra boxes had to be used and three boxes worth of supplies were dropped off to a very appreciative NAFY staff person on November 20. Even as the boxes were being carried in, three packages of thoughtfully, individually packaged cloth masks, toothbrushes and other products were handed out to youth in need.

Your contributions began to spread kindness, care and God's love within moments after they even left my car. This was just one moment that reminded me why I chose to make GUMC my spiritual home.

Blessings to you all!

Brittany, RMT Chairperson

2021 RMT Book Study Group

Brittany Allen (she/her), chairperson of the RMT, will be hosting a Queer Theology book study open to all in the congregation, starting in January. Dates and times will be determined to best fit all participants' schedules. Depending on schedules of participants, we would meet once a week and each book would be a two-month study. You are welcome to participate in one, two or all of the studies.

Please contact Brittany at britvictoria93@gmail.com before December 18 if you are interesting participating.

- **January & February:** "Our Strangely Warmed Hearts" Coming Out into God's Call" by UMC bishop Karen Oliveto. (\$17.99) "The first openly lesbian bishop in the United Methodist Church writes about how LGBTQ people impact church and society in the year's bestselling book. The author uses personal stories, first-person statements by others and clear explanations to reveal how LGBTQ Methodists find grace and live out their faith despite a denomination that has sometimes denies them. Chapters also cover the history of the LGBTQ liberation movement and Methodist positions on homosexuality." ("[Top 30 LGBTQ Christian books of 2018](#)")
- **March & April:** "Queer Theology : Beyond Apologetics" by Linn Marie Tonstad. (\$22) "Going beyond arguments for including LGBTQ people in the church, this guide provides a clear introduction to queer theology and what it reveals about desire, death, money, justice, and Christianity itself. An intelligent yet accessible overview, the book is widely praised for its lucid prose." ("[Top 30 LGBTQ Christian books of 2018](#)")
- **May & June:** "Beyond a Binary God: A Theology for Trans* Allies" by Tara K. Soughers. (\$14.95) As a group comprised of mostly cis-gendered folk, I think this book might open some healthy discussions on how we serve and include our trans siblings. "How and why to affirm trans people in church are the focus of this new guide. The author is a parent of a trans young adult and an Episcopal priest in Massachusetts. The book includes theological reflection and questions for discussion and/or journaling. Published by Church Publishing Inc., an official publisher for the Episcopal Church." ("[Top 30 LGBTQ Christian books of 2018](#)")

All three books are available by order at Books Around the Corner in Gresham, if you wish to keep your funds local (which is encouraged). Special orders take 1-2 weeks to arrive for pickup, so plan accordingly. Prices listed above are for orders from Books Around the Corner. All three books can also be found on Amazon, if that is your preference.

A Note of Thanks

Many of you know that Gresham UMC hosts Soccer Shots on our grounds—a program teaching soccer basics to preschoolers. We recently received this note of appreciation. . .

Thanks for helping us positively impact so many young children!

Together we're giving them a great experience.

~ Team Soccer Shots



TEA TIME
WITH
TRISTA
TUESDAYS AT 2

Call the Office
if you would
like to join us!

CONNECT
ONLINE!



BREWS & BIBLE
is now meeting
Via ZOOM

Brews & Bible will meet
Thursday, December 10
6:00 pm

Zoom link will be sent on that day.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

WOMEN'S NEWS

December 2020

Be Thankful!

There are many things that divide us this year, but I think we can ALL agree: 2020 has been a year like no other! We have lived with a global pandemic, deaths, financial crisis, wildfires and smoke, floods and hurricanes, demonstrations and riots, personal isolation and inconveniences.

But as **People of Hope**, we can also find things in the midst of all this chaos to be thankful for! Most of us are safe and remain healthy. We are sometimes alone, but we have found new ways to stay connected with family and friends and creative ways to celebrate the special occasions of life. We have access to choices of food and health care. We are sheltered and warm. We have people who are putting their lives on the line to help those in danger and suffering great losses. And yes . . . We have regular trash pick-up!

THANK OFFERING!

This year is different! We cannot collect coins and bills!

We ask that you send your Thank Offering donation by check, payable to UMW, to
Jeanie Moore, 1858 SE Eagle Lane, Gresham, OR 97080.

Mark your check "Thank Offering" on the memo line.

**Even if you did not have a Thank Offering jar, you can show your thankfulness by
making a donation to the World Thank Offering.**

The blessings we have received can be blessings to others through the mission work
of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!

Your Thank Offering will go to places in the world where you cannot go in person!

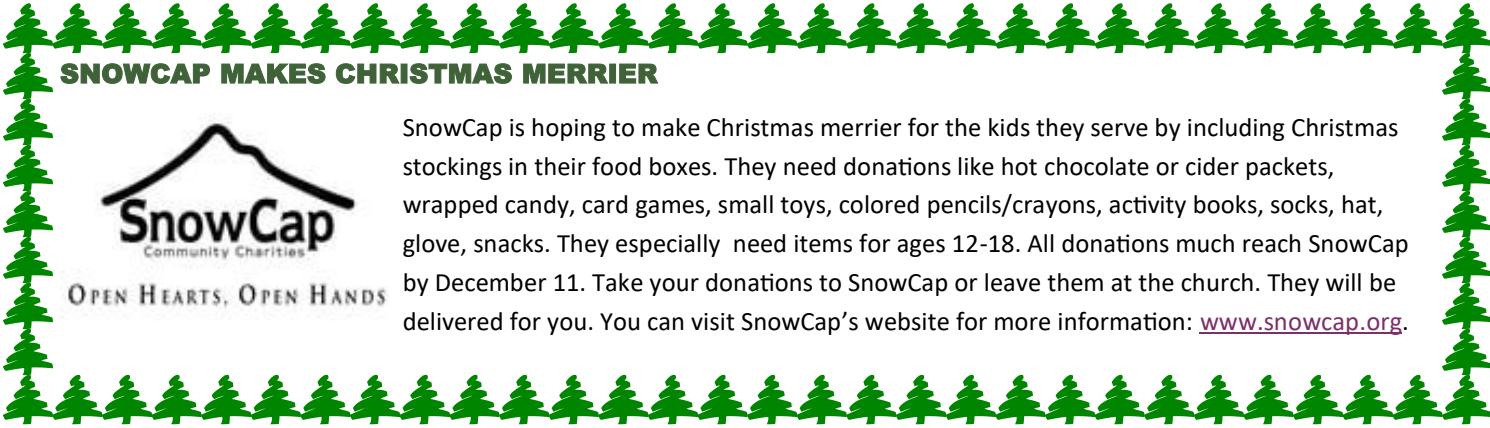


MONEY FOR THE WORLD!



At the beginning of 2020 UMW made a **PLEDGE TO MISSION** of **\$2,100**. Our Pledge money is part of a larger pot of money that supports mission work for women, children and youth here in the U.S. and around the world. (We do NOT keep any Pledge to Mission money!) If you made a pledge but not have paid the full pledge amount, **we ask that you do so before the end of the year**. And if you did NOT make a pledge, you can **make a donation** to help support the work of United Methodist Women.

Send your donation check to Jeannie Moore at her address listed above. Make your check payable to UMW, marked for "Pledge to Mission."



SNOWCAP MAKES CHRISTMAS MERRIER



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HANDS

SnowCap is hoping to make Christmas merrier for the kids they serve by including Christmas stockings in their food boxes. They need donations like hot chocolate or cider packets, wrapped candy, card games, small toys, colored pencils/crayons, activity books, socks, hat, glove, snacks. They especially need items for ages 12-18. All donations must reach SnowCap by December 11. Take your donations to SnowCap or leave them at the church. They will be delivered for you. You can visit SnowCap's website for more information: www.snowcap.org.

LOOKING FORWARD TO

2021

We do not expect to be able to meet in person before July 2021 (if even then). But we do plan to have some programs/projects that we can do in the months ahead.

- * Look for plans to hold a Zoom book discussion of the book "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo.
- * We won't forget the Women's Shelter—ingathering of personal hygiene items
- * Salad supper for the Women's Shelter
- * And more... Tea party? Computer games? Valentines? Any ideas?

Fellowship Leadership

Because we cannot meet to choose leaders for 2021, Sue Andersen and Susan Taylor have offered to share responsibilities of president; Roz Collins has graciously agreed to assume role of treasurer; Carol Potter will continue to write the Women's News for the church newsletter. Give thanks for these faithful leaders!

Pledge to Mission

Our group Pledge to Mission will be \$2,000 for 2021. Pledge cards will be sent to women some time in January. Since we will probably not be holding any money-raising activities, we urge every woman to make a pledge. . . no matter how large or small. . . To the ongoing work of United Methodist Women.

A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times

by Michael Graham, S.J.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those who are vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the turmoil of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In this season of sharing, can we reach out to our congregational family and support them?

Patty Runner has a pet grooming business that has struggled during the Covid-19 crisis. She loves working with animals and caring for pets. She is able to work out of her travel pet car van. So if you are looking for someone to care for your pet or some grooming, please contact Patty.

PAWS OF TRANQUILITY: 503-706-4119



**LYNCHWOOD
CHURCH OF GOD**
33rd Annual

**LIVE
NATIVITY**

MORE THAN JUST A BIRTH

DECEMBER 12th & 13th 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Drive-thru viewing

LYNCHWOOD CHURCH OF GOD
3818 SE 174th Ave, Portland OR 503-665-6638

WWW.LYNCHWOOD.ORG

Gresham United Methodist Church
Performance Budget 2020
January through October 2020

	Jan - Oct 20	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Pledged Giving	180,198.15	210,200.00	85.7%
Non-Pledged Giving	29,511.00	32,000.00	92.2%
Loose Plate Offering	1,038.00	4,000.00	26.0%
MHCC Headstart Preschool	12,930.00	16,000.00	80.8%
MHCC Headstart Preschool Upper	16,872.00	20,000.00	84.4%
Building Usage	5,451.77	10,000.00	54.5%
Unrestrict Endowment (Salary)	3,750.00	7,500.00	50.0%
Malcolm Endowment/Music-Worship	0.00	2,400.00	0.0%
Hougen Endowment/Meals Ministry	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Fanning Endowment/Bldg Maint	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Misc. Income	558.33	500.00	111.7%
Shortfall Transfer from Reserve	0.00	12,925.96	0.0%
Total Income	250,309.25	317,525.96	78.8%
Gross Profit	250,309.25	317,525.96	78.8%
Expense			
Apportionments-Mand	34,878.37	41,854.00	83.3%
Pastor Compensation	84,580.82	102,750.96	82.3%
Compensation-Staff	62,520.98	92,960.00	67.3%
Tax	6,078.09	8,930.00	68.1%
Trustees			
Property/Grounds Maintenance	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Insurance-Building	11,459.27	12,000.00	95.5%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.07	2,000.00	50.0%
Utilities-Electricity	6,564.61	12,000.00	54.7%
Utilities-Natural Gas	2,911.70	7,000.00	41.6%
Utilities-Telephone	1,583.99	2,600.00	60.9%
Utilities-Waste Disposal	1,370.34	2,500.00	54.8%
Utilities-Water, Sewer	7,810.96	10,000.00	78.1%
Van - Passenger	127.75	1,000.00	12.8%
Total Trustees	32,828.69	49,300.00	66.6%
Office Operations	8,735.46	9,006.00	97.0%
Programs/Ministries			
Conference Lay Member	0.00	250.00	0.0%
Covenant Missionary	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Education	134.69	600.00	22.4%
Media/TechnologyAdvertising	758.83	1,800.00	42.2%
Missions Team	25.03	500.00	5.0%
Music/Ministries 9 AM	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Music/ Ministries 11 AM	822.79	1,200.00	68.6%
Peace and Justice Team	200.00	500.00	40.0%
Shelter Meals Ministry	881.11	3,600.00	24.5%
Sunday Fellowships	333.80	700.00	47.7%
Reconciling Ministries Team	221.77	800.00	27.7%
Worship	518.73	925.00	56.1%
Total Programs/Ministries	5,396.75	12,575.00	42.9%
Bank Charge	47.54	150.00	31.7%
Total Expense	235,066.70	317,525.96	74.0%
Net Ordinary Income	15,242.55	0.00	100.0%
Net Income	15,242.55	0.00	100.0%

Worship Online

Virtual worship services are posted each Sunday on the church's website: Greshamumc.com.



<u>Senior Pastor:</u>	Dr. Steven Lewis 503-515-5468 steve@greshamumc.com
<u>Assistant Pastor Director of Ministries</u>	Trista Wynne trista@greshamumc.com
<u>Treasurer:</u>	LaVerne Lewis treasurer@greshamumc.com
<u>Office Admin:</u>	Jackie Scott office@greshamumc.com
<u>Organist:</u>	Bonnie Meeder bonnie@greshamumc.com
<u>Choir & Bell Director:</u>	Solveig Nyberg solveig@greshamumc.com
<u>Praise Director:</u>	Chance Eichner chance@greshamumc.com

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