

Wesley Grove Messenger

September 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

The "I's" don't have it. I love stories. There is a story for everything. I was trying to think of a great story for the September newsletter. I went back and looked at what I wrote about last year. It turns out that last September I wrote an article about the Apostles' Creed. That got me thinking. Maybe a story about the Nicene Creed... So, here you go. **The "I's" don't have it.**

Have you ever wondered what a difference an "I" can make? It is such a small letter; it is insignificant. It's a tiny little vowel. **But** so much in our faith rides on this little vowel.

The year is 325 AD. Christians around the Roman World are falling in line behind two great Egyptian theologians: Arius, a prominent priest in Alexandria, and Bishop Alexander of Alexandria. If you have never seen two Egyptian theologians fight, you are missing a special moment. Egyptian theologians make Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor look like chumps; Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, crybabies; Rocky Balboa and Apollo Creed, lightweights. These Egyptian theologians are like pit bulls and crocodiles. Tough!

Arius and Alexander get into a disagreement about Jesus, and Arius says, "There was a time when the Son wasn't." He believed that Jesus is a created being. God the Father created Jesus the Son. Yes, Arius feels that Jesus is special, but only God is GOD. Jesus is *like* God, but not quite as divine or not quite as God. Arius agrees that Jesus is divine, but His divinity is only similar to the divinity of God. Arius says that Jesus is **homoiousios**. Did you catch that, H O M O I O U S I O S? This word means "of a similar substance." Notice the I in between the middle two O's.

But there's a little problem with this: if Jesus isn't fully and completely God, how exactly are we redeemed? This is a super heavy theological discussion these two guys are having. Alexander and his attack dog, Athanasius, insist that Arius is crazy; Jesus is just as much God as God the Father. They argue that Jesus is **homoousios**. Notice **no** I between the two middle O's. This word means that Jesus is "of the exact same substance" as God. Jesus had to be, because if He truly died for our sins and redeemed us for all eternity, He must have the full weight of divinity and humanity present in His very being. Athanasius argues his point so well that he gets most of the group to agree with him. They then craft the oldest Christian creed of which we know, The Nicene Creed, whose main point is that God and Christ share the exact same being, the exact same essence; they are both co-equal, co-eternal, and co-divine. This is the foundation of the doctrine of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Now, I know what you are thinking: What does some fight between a couple of hotheaded, Egyptian pastors from 1,600 years ago have to do with us today? Well, the Nicene Creed is the only creed that nearly all Christians affirm. These words bind us all together as Christians. The Roman Catholic Church, all the Orthodox churches, and most of the Protestant churches around the world recite this creed. Thus, almost **2 billion** people alive today and untold **millions, maybe even billions**, of Christians from the last 2,000 years believe and affirm these words! Can you imagine that on every day from 381 AD until today, for 1,641 years, somewhere in the world, someone in one language or another has proclaimed these words and affirmed his or her belief in our Triune God? Talk about the Communion of the Saints! Therefore, the "I's" definitely do not have it, and we are, indeed, a better church due to their failure.

Blessings,

Pastor Nick

Lectionary Readings



September 4, 2022

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Philemon 1:1-21
 Luke 14:25-33

September 11, 2022

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

September 18, 2022

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 25, 2022

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
 Psalm 124
 James 5:13-20
 Mark 9:38-50



July 2022 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,281.91
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,503.25
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Church Secretary's Wages	\$832.63
Substitute Musician	\$150.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$63.69
Capital Improvement Costs	\$625.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$134.21
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$291.29
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$375.83
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$319.44
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,875.14
In and Out Expenses	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,605.34



Return to Fall Schedule

Beginning on Sunday, October 16, our worship service time will return to 11:00 am. On this same day, we will also resume our one-room Sunday School class. This class will meet at 9:30 am in our Fellowship Hall and will be co-led by Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy. Folks of all different ages and Christian educational backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to join us for our weekly discussions. Our focus for the fall will be acquiring a basic understanding of the similarities and differences of the five major religions of the world.

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,740.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,167.34
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,907.34



Fall Community Yard Sale



**Saturday, September 17
9 am to 2 pm**

**To reserve your \$20 space now,
call Tammy at 301-253-0044**

Rental tables are available
for an additional \$5 each

**If you can help this day,
contact Becky at 240-338-3211
to volunteer your services**

We also need donations of baked goods
packaged in individual servings

September Birthdays

- 1 Carol Stone
Jon Lee
Lauren Horner
- 5 Stephanie Diaz
- 7 Tina Green
- 10 Sally Lewis
Shane Kepner
- 11 Doug Gaither
- 23 Max Lynagh
- 24 Tony Bowie
Gay Linthicum
- 27 Luke Horner



Electronic Giving

Wesley Grove has multiple ways to give.

Of course, you can attend our worship services on Sunday mornings and place your offering in the collection plate, or you can always mail your offering to the church.

Or if you would like to give to the church electronically, you can click here —

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/wesleygrove>

to give a one-time gift or to set up a recurring weekly, biweekly, or monthly monetary gift that will automatically arrive in our church bank account from yours. You can also text your offering to 301-720-0138 and give as much or as often you would like.



Damascus HELP Food Collection

During the month of September, we will collect food for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry. This nonprofit organization helps to provide food, rides, and medical supplies to those in need within the Damascus/Clarksburg community.

During each week in the month of September, we will collect the following food items:

- Sunday, Sept. 4 – Sugar and Flour
- Sunday, Sept. 11 – Tea Bags and Coffee (small sizes please)
- Sunday, Sept. 18 – Mac & Cheese and Rice
- Sunday, Sept. 25 – Canned Tomatoes and Pasta Sauce

Please place all donations under the table in the church vestibule by Friday, Sept. 30. Thank you for your generosity!

Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Oh where, oh where, did the summer go? September is upon us, and that means the Fall Community Yard Sale and the Annual Church Picnic are as well.



On Saturday, September 17, the Yard Sale kicks off a busy weekend. Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to reserve a space; if you'd rather just donate a few items for the church booth, please bring them to the hall by 2 pm on Friday, September 16, for sorting and pricing.



Donations of cookies, brownies, etc., packaged for individual sale, are also needed and appreciated. If you can help during event hours (9 am to 2 pm), with setup (7:30 am), or with cleanup (after 2 pm), please contact Becky at 240-338-3211 or Brian at 240-338-3210. And even if you're not helping, plan to come out to browse for bargains, visit with your neighbors, and have a tasty breakfast or lunch sandwich from the grill!

The weekend concludes with Picnic Sunday, on September 18, starting with our outdoor worship service at 10 am under the pavilion. Dress casually, pack a lawn chair, and plan to stay for the picnic afterward. Bring a covered dish or two to share; the Christian Fellowship Committee will provide Happy Hour snacks, drinks, paper goods, and the main entree. We'll take time for a



period of visiting and lunch prep immediately after the service, followed by lunch at around noon and a time of relaxation with horseshoes, corn toss, and more, concluding with some delicious, home-baked desserts in the mid-afternoon.

Both of these events will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

Looking ahead into the fall, please make plans to join us:

- Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 12.



- Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1.

- Assorted other holiday events, including caroling, as the Christmas Season approaches. These events, their dates, and their times will be announced in future monthly newsletters and weekly worship bulletins.



Best Wishes and Much Success

to All of Our Students and Teachers, who are returning to their schools and classrooms this month!

The last 2-3 years have been difficult ones, but this year promises to be better.

May Our Good Lord Bless You All!

back to school



Mission News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee would like to thank all of you, the members of our congregation, once again for all of the generous school supplies and backpacks that you donated throughout the summer. Because of you, Wesley Grove was able to fill our two large blue bins to overflowing with supplies.

We would also like to ask all of you to continue bringing the food items that Damascus HELP needs to refill its food pantry, and for this month of September, we are suggesting that you donate certain items each week. That list is printed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Wesley Grove recently received two thank you notes — one from Damascus HELP and one from the Strawbridge Foundation — for our donations to each of these meaningful and important organizations. It's wonderful to know that our donations are always so appreciated!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 pm. Committee members, please put this date on your calendars.



Thank You from



Thank you for donating backpacks, school supplies, and monetary funds to our annual Damascus-Clarksburg Area School Supply Drive! We were so excited to be able to help lots and lots of students as they re-entered their schools this fall. With your help, we provided 247 students in area elementary, middle, and high schools with new backpacks and school supplies.

We are so grateful for all who donated, including Cedarbrook Community Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Damascus Grace Fellowship Church, Damascus UMC, First Baptist Church, Greenridge Baptist Church, Montgomery UMC, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Tri-County Baptist Church, Upper Seneca Baptist Church, Wesley Grove UMC, The Meltzer Group, and many individual families.

In addition to this support of supplies and monetary donations from these families and area churches, we had a great group of energetic kids and adults help collect, sort, and pack these items before delivering them to the local schools. This service continues to be a wonderful and fun community project for all involved!

Again, the generosity of all of you to donate supplies, your time, and your talents to help others is truly a blessing that sets Damascus and Clarksburg apart from so many other small towns. Thank you to all of you for making a huge difference in the lives of so many financially impacted students within our community!

Enjoy a Great Dinner and help one of our two sister churches!



CARRY- OUT FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

Friday, September 16
4 – 7 PM

½ Chicken Dinner – \$17.00

All meals come with mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a roll

Mt. Tabor UMC
Corner of Hipsley Mill Road
and Route 108
Etchison, Maryland

To Order

Call and Leave a Message
@ 301-253-3871

OR

Drive In, Order There, and Pick up
during the Dinner

*All money collected goes toward
Mt. Tabor's mission projects.*



CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 2, Damascus will hold its 51st Annual CROP Walk. This event will take place from 2-4 pm at Damascus Regional Park on Kings Valley Road. Registration for all walkers will begin at 1:30 pm under the picnic shelter at the beginning of the trail.

If you are free this day, consider heading outside and joining in this annual walk to raise funds to fight hunger both here within our community and around the world.

If you do plan to participate, please visit the website below for further details.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/damascusmd>



Annual Church Conference

Please mark your calendars now for our annual South Damascus Charge Church Conference on Saturday, November 19 at 11 am. One of our BWC elders will be presiding over this livestreamed conference via Zoom.

For those of you needing to complete reports and documents for this conference, please do so by Friday, September 16, and submit them to Tammy by that date.

September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	5 Happy Labor Day!	6 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	7 7:00 PM— Lay Leadership Committee Meeting 7:30 PM— SPRC Meeting	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM— Worship Service	12 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	13 3:00 PM— Book Club Meet- ing in Linda's Home	14	15 7:00 PM— Choir Practice <i>Deadline for October Newsletter Submissions</i>	16 1-4 PM— Yard Sale Drop- Off and Set-Up <i>All Church Confer- ence Data Due to Church Office</i>	17 9 AM to 2 PM— Fall Community Yard Sale
18 10:00 AM— Outdoor Worship Service 12:00 PM— Church Picnic	19 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	20 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	21 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Mem- ories Charcoal House in Mt. Airy	22	23 All Day— Set-Up for Lions Club Breakfast in the Hall	24 7:00-11:00 AM— Lions Club Fund- raiser Breakfast in the Hall
25 10:00 AM— Worship Service	26 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	27	28	29	30	

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

As a church family that...

- * covenants to walk together in Christ's love,
- * believes that all persons are created equal, and
- * affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

we welcome to our work and worship all —
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org

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Join Us!

Sunday, September 18

beginning at 10 am

Outdoor Worship & Pot-Luck Picnic

**Bring
lawn chairs
and
a dish (or two)
to share!**

To unsubscribe, please call the Wesley Grove UMC Office (301-253-2894) or email wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

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