

Wesley Grove Messenger

October 2022

From the Pastor's Desk...

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Every time I go to the cupboard to grab one of my mother's plates, I remember the day that we watched these very dishes being made. We were on a family trip, and one of the stops was at a pottery house called Iron Mountain Stoneware. We watched as artisans shaped each plate, bowl, and cup on a potter's wheel. And, after these creations had dried in kilns, they were hand-dipped in paint, so that each dish in the place setting bore a unique design. Even though my mom's dishes are chipped with age, I still cherish them, in part, because I was able to witness the laborious efforts that it took to create them.

In ancient Israel, during both the Iron and Bronze Ages, working with clay was vital to the community. Pots were important for storing food and drink, for lamps, for tableware, and for cookware. Pottery, once fired, lasted a lifetime and was amazingly durable. Even today, one of the first things archaeologists find in any dig of an ancient site is pottery shards. A potter was an important trade.

Creating a piece of pottery began with softening and preparing the clay. Because the clay had to be dug up, there was a need to first remove impurities, along with foreign objects. The clay would then be tempered and kneaded. Assistants to the potter would knead with their feet until the clay became soft and pliable. Next, the potter would take it and shape it on a double wheel, made of stone and wood. With just the right amount of water, the potter would shape the clay until the desired object was created. The potter would then allow it to dry until it became hard and leathery. At that point, it would be fired in the kiln. Once "tried" by fire, the piece would become hard and strong.

If the potter didn't like the piece, if it didn't come out the way it was intended, or if the potter wanted to re-form it differently, the potter could simply de-form it, re-knead it, or re-water it, and the clay would be good as new. You see, that's the "secret" of clay. It can always be remade. No matter how hard it gets, whether it cracks into a hundred pieces, whether it's a decade old, or whether it's been used and discarded, that clay can always be softened, watered, and re-formed into whatever the potter desires. Clay is always restorable. The potter decides its fate.

So, today, my good news for you is that your life is not set in stone. Your past does not have to dictate your life, your success, or your happiness. With God, you always have a perpetual second chance. At least, that's how I'm reading Jeremiah 18:1-11. You know, the one about Jeremiah going to the potter's house. In this scripture, God is the potter, and "the house of Israel" is the clay. So, yes, I am stretching theologically, but I would submit that when we become disciples of Jesus Christ, we sign up to let God take the wheel — the potter's wheel — so that we might be molded, re-formed, re-imaged, re-born into the kind of disciple who could carry out God's most dangerous and exciting mission. Whether God restores us, whether God changes us, or whether God puts us out to dry depends upon our needs, our resistance, and His hopes for us in the world.

My prayer for you this day is found in that old, familiar hymn, "Have Thine Own Way..."



Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way,
Thou art the Potter, I am the Clay,
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

In God's peace,
Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

October 2, 2022
World Communion Sunday

Lamentations 1:1-6
 Psalm 137
 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Luke 17:5-10

October 9, 2022

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
 Psalm 66:1-12
 2 Timothy 2:8-15
 Luke 17:11-19

October 16, 2022

Laity Sunday
 Jeremiah 31:27-34
 Psalm 19 or 119:97-104
 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
 Luke 18:1-18

October 23, 2022

Joel 2:23-32
 Psalm 65
 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
 Luke 18:9-14

October 30, 2022

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
 Psalm 119:137-144
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
 Luke 19:1-10



August 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	\$1,013.30
Substitute Musician	\$0.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$77.51
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$420.00
Programs	\$1,287.63
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$144.11
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	\$2,652.51
In and Out Expenses	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,998.44

Christian Education

Our one-room Sunday School will resume meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the hall on Sunday, October 16. This class is co-led by Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy. Folks of all ages and all levels of Christian educational backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to attend our classes. Please feel free to join us any Sunday morning!

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,045.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,167.34
Use of Hall	\$400.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,612.34



Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon



**Saturday, November 12
9 am to 3 pm**

Make plans to come out and join us as we begin the Holiday Season with our annual Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon! We plan to have about 20-30 assorted crafters selling a variety of handmade wares from fused glass and beaded jewelry to knitted scarves and dried flower arrangements to Christmas ornaments and wreaths.

The church will also have many wonderful items to sell including holiday gift baskets, painted wooden figures, table linens, ornaments, and Christmas decorations. If you have any craft items to donate, please let Tammy know.

As in past years, we will sell beverages and lunch items, including homemade soups and freshly made sandwiches, throughout the day as well as delicious home-baked goods. All donations of cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, and rolls will be gratefully accepted as will any home-made candies, jellies, jams, salsas, pickles, etc. Please bring these donations to the hall between 11 am and 4 pm on Friday, November 11, the day before the bazaar.



If you can help on the day of this bazaar with selling crafts or working in the kitchen, please contact Becky at 240-338-3211 or Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer your services.

October Birthdays

- 2 Louise Burdette
- 3 Cooper Verner
- 4 Suzie Diddle
- 6 June Ward
- 9 Don Hobbs
- 16 Paul Eisenhaur
- 18 Tim Horner
Alicia Wilson
- 21 Joyce King
Abby Crawford
- 25 Allan Snyder
Mary Jane Walter
- 27 Braden Green
- 30 Charlie Stone



Damascus HELP Food Collection

It's October, and that means it's fall, and it's time for pumpkins and apples!

Over the next five Sundays, we will collect foods for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry that feature these two fall favorites.

So, as you are grocery shopping this month, be creative, look around, and pick up some extra apple cider, pumpkin muffin mixes, applesauce, apple jellies, pumpkin-flavored teas and coffees, apple snack bars, pumpkin pop-tarts, and/or Apple Jacks cereal to donate. These foods will all help needy families within our community to celebrate some of the flavors, tastes, and smells of fall.

Please bring all donations to the collection site in the vestibule by Sunday, October 30.



Administrative Council Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2022

Meeting was opened by Bob at 7:33 pm.

In Attendance:

Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Linda Chatterton, Pastor Karen Davis, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works

Devotions:

Carol read aloud various verses from John 17:1-26.

Old Minutes:

The minutes from our last meeting in May were approved.

Prayer Requests:

- Greg Lynagh that his broken ribs heal quickly.
- Mary Lamb that she recovers from her fall down the steps in her house.
- The Lamb Family on the loss of Kevin's father, Gale, who passed on Sept. 7.

Good News:

- Fall community yard sale grossed \$912. (*Revised to \$935 with additional donations Tuesday.*)
- Church picnic was a great day with about 25 in attendance.
- Most of our many Charge Conference documents are done, and all will be by Sept. 22.
- Pastor Nick will be in Europe for the next two weeks, and his co-worker, Debra Whitten, will be preaching in his absence this coming Sunday.
- Judy's newest great-grandson, Ezra, was born last Tuesday in California.

Old Business:

- Annual Conference was held on June 1-3 via Zoom. Steven, Pastor Karen, and Pastor Nick all attended.
- General Conference was postponed again until 2024.
- The United Methodist Women's name was changed to United Women in Faith.
- The UMC finalized its contribution to the Boy Scouts of America Victims' Settlement Fund.
- The UMC is still working on creating new relationship agreements with the BSA. They are hoping to have these completed and in place by 12/31/22.
- The hall lobby floor was repaired; the new flooring has been laid; and it looks wonderful! Thanks to Bob, Jim, and Rick for getting this job done!

New Business:

No new business to report.

Committee Reports:

Communications —

- 25 cards have been mailed to our extended church family since our last meeting.
- We are using several different social media platforms — Facebook, Mt. Airy Community Page, and Damascus Community Page — to get our messages out.
- Brian and Josh are working to get the photo gallery updated on our website.

Education —

- Sunday School will resume on Oct. 16 at 9:30 am.
- This fall's topic is religions of the world. We will be

discussing their similarities and differences.

Fellowship —

- Holly Days Craft Bazaar & Luncheon is Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 am to 3 pm.
- Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 pm.
- Christmas Caroling & Dinner is TBD.

Finance —

- Weekly giving remains strong although it has dropped off a bit from this time last year.
- Several large expenses are on the horizon as we face various repairs and upkeep in all of our buildings.
- Budget request forms for 2023 have been distributed and are due back to Rick by Sunday, Oct. 30.

Missions —

- Damascus HELP food drives are ongoing with pantry staples this month and flavors of fall in October.
- Our summer school supply drive was successful. Once again, we filled two large bins.

SPRC —

- Recommended that both pastors receive raises of 4% in 2023. Vote was taken, and all agreed. WG will pay 1/3 of those increases (about \$1,000 total).
- We are currently advertising a music leader position. This will be posted on our signboard, website, Facebook, and BWC e-connection.
- Steven resigned as chairperson of this committee in early August, and Cathy volunteered to be our interim chair through the end of this year. If anyone is interested in this position for 2023, please talk to Pastor Karen.
- Our annual Charge Conference will take place on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11 am via Zoom.

Trustees —

- Eviction of the family residing in our rental house occurred on June 1. Repairs and updating began almost immediately and are ongoing.
- The ice maker in our hall kitchen is not working. Terri has called a technician, who's coming on Sept. 26.

Worship —

- Time of our Sunday worship services will change back to 11 am on Sunday, Oct. 16.
- Cathy will ask Josh to complete the soundboard operator schedule through the end of the year.
- Choir will sing once a month this fall season.

Pastors' Reports:

Pastor Karen — Reported that within our Central MD District, two churches have disaffiliated with the UMC, and six have closed this year.

- Attended a continuing education 3-day Biblical storytelling workshop in early August.
- Will meet with her boss, DS Hand, on Oct. 27.
- Has visited various shut-ins, including Betty and Roberta.

Pastor Nick — Will meet with DS Hand on Oct. 19.

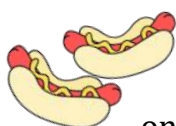
- Has contacted various church members, including Greg Lynah and the Hottingers.

Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm (**note time change**) — Devotions presented by Judy.



Lunch Out

On Wednesday, October 19, we are headed to Mt. Airy to share in a fellowship luncheon at Carterque on Main Street at 12 pm. Everyone in our church family is invited and welcome to join us for some pulled pork or beef brisket soaked in their delicious raspberry BBQ sauce!



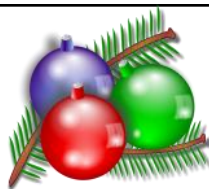
October Outing

Make plans to join us on Friday, October 28 as we gather at Doc Waters Cidery at 5:30 pm located at 22529 Watkins Road for a dinner of hot dogs and marshmallows roasted over an open fire and an evening of team trivia. Bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs, if you wish. Please let Tammy know if you plan to attend, so we know for how many folks to buy hot dogs and buns.



It's Bingo Time!

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will host a fundraiser night consisting of a fried chicken and ham dinner and 20 games of bingo on Friday, November 21. The doors will open at 5 pm; dinner will be served from 5:30-7:00; and the games will begin at 7 pm. Tickets cost \$50 apiece and are available from Jim and Lois Kemp. Call them at 301-253-2859 to reserve yours today!



Save the Dates!

Don't blink because Christmas will be here before we know it! We are already making plans for the Holiday Season.

Please save these dates:

- Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 pm.
- Annual Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 15 at 12 pm, Location TBD. Look for further details in upcoming Sunday bulletins and in our November newsletter.



Updates

There has been a little confusion about this next round of Covid booster shots, concerning who is eligible to receive one and when. According to the pharmacy at the Damascus Safeway, an adult of any age can get their third booster as soon as two months after their second booster. Therefore, any adult who had their last booster shot before August 1 is now eligible.

The U.S Food and Drug Administration has determined that the shelf-life of most at-home Covid test kits is at least six to nine months longer than it first thought. Therefore, it has extended the expiration dates on many kits, so if you have test kits in your homes and the expiration dates have passed, do **not** throw them out yet. Instead, visit this website and see if your kit's shelf life has been extended...

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>

Enjoy a great dinner and help out one of our sister churches!



CARRY-OUT FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

Friday, October 21
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 Hours

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

CROP Walk



On Sunday, October 2, Damascus will hold its 51st CROP Walk. This event will take place from 2-4 pm at Damascus Regional Park. Registration for all walkers will begin at 1:30 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 in our community and around the world.



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. Registration information and the Zoom link will be shared in our upcoming November newsletter as well as in our weekly worship bulletins and emails as we get closer to this date.

Our beloved organist, pianist, and friend, **Mary Ann Davis**, has moved to Berlin, MD, where she will be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. She has lived here in the Woodfield Community all her life, and she is sorely missed here at WG.

Mary Ann's new address and phone number are ...

Mary Ann Davis
Gull Creek Assisted Living
1 Meadow Street
Berlin, MD 21811
410-641-0172



October 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<i>Pastor Nick, Tammy, and their spouses</i>	3	4	<i>until Sunday, Oct. 9</i>	6	7	8
2 Worldwide Communion Sunday 10:00 AM— Worship Service			5 3:30 PM— Choir Practice			
9 10:00 AM— Worship Service	10	11	12 3:30 PM— Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 Laity Sunday 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:00 PM— Worship Committee Lunch Meeting	17 7:00 PM— Communications Committee Meeting (on Zoom)	18 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting <i>Deadline for November Newsletter Submissions</i>	19 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Carterque in Mt. Airy	20	21 4-7 PM— Fried Chicken Dinner at MTUMC 5:00 PM— Chicken Dinner & Bingo at DVFD	22
23 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	24 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	25	26 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at the Judy's Home	27 7:00 PM— Missions Committee Meeting	28 5:30 PM— Doc Waters' Cider Hot Dog Dinner and Trivia Night	29
<i>All 2023 Budget Requests due to Rick</i>	30					
	Halloween	31				

**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

Laity Sunday

Sunday, October 16

**during our regular
Worship Service**

**which will return to 11 am
on this day**

Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044
to volunteer to read Scripture,
lead a prayer,
and/or sing a solo or duet.

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882