

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

November 2022



From the Desk of Pastor Nick...

November is here once again. The leaves are turning beautiful shades of red, yellow, orange, and then finally a dull brown. I love this time of year! Football is in full swing on both Saturday and Sunday. But as I watch football, there is one thing that drives me crazy every year at this time, and that's the political ads. Thankfully, we are not in a presidential election year; for in those years, the ads really go insane. I have grown weary of watching those ads while I am trying to keep up with the game. It seems like during every commercial break, we hear about this political leader's bad ideas from his/her opponent. Then, we hear how the opponent is a terrible human being who is pushing all these bad programs.

Now, you may be starting to worry that I am going to wander off and try to convince you to vote one way or another this coming election day. Fear not. I wouldn't dare try to tell you who to vote for or who not to vote for. I hope to talk today about a different kind of political figure — one who has never asked for your vote and has no plans to run for any political office.

Every November, we draw close to the end of the Church's liturgical year. On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we gather to celebrate the most important political figure who ever lived. We gather to celebrate and worship a sovereign King who rules the universe. The last Sunday of Church's year is dedicated to Christ the King. It is the one Sunday of the year that the Church dips its toe into the political world and reminds itself that we serve the One who claims the political title of King of the Universe.

Why do we proclaim that Jesus is King of the Universe? Because the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and proclaimed, "Behold, you will conceive... and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David, and He will rule over the House of Jacob forever and of His Kingdom there will be no end." Paul also writes that Jesus is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." (1 Timothy 6)

Finally, the most spectacular depiction of this eternal King comes from the Book of Revelation. In chapter 5, John observes that there is a scroll that cannot be opened by anyone on Earth or under Earth or in Heaven. We find from the last book of the Bible that this scroll contains the blueprints to set the cosmos back into the harmony God intended for all creation. But one of the elders tells John to not worry, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll. John then looks and sees a broken, bleeding, sacrificed lamb; a figure that represents weakness and helplessness. In a dramatic turn of imagery, John reminds us that this conquering Lion is the broken and bleeding, crucified lamb. This small broken animal represents the power of God to rule the universe and set the world right again. Not because He is a fierce lion that crushes the bones...

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Lectionary Readings

November 6, 2022

All Saints Sunday

Haggai 1:15b—2:9

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 13, 2022

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 118

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 20, 2022

Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-69

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 27, 2022

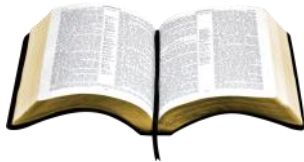
First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



November Birthdays

2 David Wilson	17 Jed Snow
6 John Briggs	18 Ron Benson
11 Jay Swearingen	23 Brian Hottinger
12 Lois Kemp	28 Kelsey Kunkle
13 Becky Lewis	Jane Shaub
14 Marcus Hull	

September 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	\$1,602.42
Substitute Musician	\$0.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$122.59
Capital Improvement Costs	\$3,500.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$310.92
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	\$4,017.36
In and Out Expenses	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$14,330.78

Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,295.00
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	\$5,462.34

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed this coming Saturday night, November 5. We want everyone to be on time for worship on Sunday morning!



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair



Got your holiday shopping list ready? No? Well, get busy because the Annual Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon is just around the corner, on Saturday, November 12, from 9 am to 3 pm. So, get that list ready and come prepared to browse and buy from local crafters selling varied wares, ranging from wreaths and ornaments, to dish towels and linens, to scarves and jewelry, and of course, from the church's own Craft Corner.

If you're making any crafts to sell – and all donations are welcome – please let Tammy know, so she can plan the displays. Donations of baked goods, jams, jellies, salsas, and other preserves are also welcome for the bake sale. And of course, plan to enjoy a homemade soup and sandwich lunch to give yourself a shopping break. If you can help with setup on Friday, November 11 and/or during the event, please let Tammy or Becky know.



If you can't make it on Saturday, there will still be crafts available for purchase in the church's Craft Corner on Sunday, November 13, when the Holly Days Kitchen Crew will provide lunch following the worship service. You don't need to bring a thing other than your appetite – and the unfilled part of your shopping list! Crafts will also remain on sale throughout the Holiday Season; see Tammy for details.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1, at 7 pm, and watch for details on more holiday events coming in our weekly bulletins and the December newsletter.

Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

You are all welcome to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School. We usually have a very interesting, and sometimes even lively, discussion with varying ideas and opinions from folks 10 to 75 years of age. We are currently studying four major religions of the world — Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam — and comparing their similarities and differences with Christianity. We are using Adam Hamilton's book *Christianity and World Religions* as our main resource.

Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee has decided to support Faith Connections with its Christmas Giving Project again this year. We have asked for three families, and we should have their names, ages, and wish lists by mid-November.

We would also like to thank all of you who donated apple and pumpkin flavored foods and drinks during the month of October. These items will help some in our community have a more "flavorful" Holiday Season!



Worship News

Cathy Burke, Chair

The Worship Committee invites everyone to the Sanctuary on the morning of Saturday, November 26, to help decorate it for the Advent and Christmas Seasons, which begin the very next day. We will begin at 9:00 am, and we usually finish up by lunchtime. Please join us if you can as the more volunteers we have, the quicker we all get the job done.



Holiday Happenings

Are Just Around the Corner...

Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon



It's November, and that means it's time for our annual holiday craft bazaar. Get your shopping lists ready and join us on Saturday, November 12 from 9 am to 3 pm to browse the handmade crafts of about 25 local artisans, plus those made by our very own church members. Of course, there'll be a delicious lunch and delectable baked goodies for sale as well. So, come hungry and ready to shop! For additional details, read the information in the Fellowship Committee article on page 3.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

This year, on Wednesday, November 23, Wesley Grove will host the Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. Make plans to join us at 7 pm on the eve of our national holiday of giving thanks to the One, who is Our Lord and Savior. Let's gather together to celebrate and praise the Lord for all of the blessings that He has given us in the past year.



After the service, we will meet and greet our guests with light refreshments. Please sign up in the vestibule if you can bake cookies or brownies and/or help serve during this time of fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters from the community.



Advent Book Study

During the four weeks of this upcoming Advent Holiday Season, our South Damascus Charge group study will read and discuss *All the Good*, written by various Christian authors. This year, if you want to participate, you will have two choices for times and methods of meeting. You can either join us in person at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall or virtually via Zoom at 7 pm on Wednesday nights beginning on November 30. If you have not already told Tammy that you would like to participate, please do so by Sunday, November 6. Also, be sure to let her know which way you plan to participate.



Poinsettias

Once again this year, we'll be decorating the Sanctuary with brilliant red and white poinsettias in memory and in honor of loved ones beginning on Sunday, December 18 and lasting throughout the Christmas Season. Order forms will be available in the vestibule later this month and in the December newsletter. The cost remains at \$10 per plant. Contact Tammy with any questions.

Annual Tree Lighting

Our Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 1, at 7 pm. As in past years, this ceremony will take place outside on the driveway in front of our Fellowship Hall. We would love to have several Scripture readers and musical soloists or duets as well as cookie bakers and refreshment servers. Please let Tammy know if you are willing to serve in any of these roles.





Christmas Luncheon

Mark your calendars now for our Wesley Grove Church Family Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 15 at Morgan's American Grill on Route 144 in New Market. Note the change of venue; just for fun, we decided to try a different location this year! We will gather there in the back party room at noon. The cost is \$25 per person, and this includes a choice of several sandwiches or salads, one side, a non-alcoholic beverage, dessert, tax, and tip. Please RSVP by signing up on the list in the vestibule and giving your cash or check made payable to Wesley Grove UMC to Tammy by Sunday, December 4.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services

For those of you who like to plan ahead, please mark your calendars now for our annual Christmas Eve Worship Service on Saturday, December 24 to begin at 9:00 pm. You are also welcome to attend one of our sister churches' earlier services that day; Salem UMC will hold its service at 4:30 pm and Mt. Tabor UMC, at 6:30 pm. Please note that since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we will also worship together on Christmas Day at our regular service time of 11 am. Please note that our Sunday School class will not meet on Christmas Day or on New Year's Day.

Administrative Council Meeting

Sunday, October 16, 2022

The meeting was opened by Bob at 12:15 pm.

In Attendance:

Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Linda Chatterton, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Brian Lewis, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works.

Absent – Judy Hughes, Rick & Tammy Monarch, but all three gave yes votes to Bob before the meeting.

Rental House:

Trustees have requested an additional \$40,000 to complete repairs. Details follow:

- New oil burning furnace has been installed.
- Upstairs bathroom faucet, toilet, and tub drain are being replaced, and tub will be refinished.
- Environmental Septic will pump annually for the next two years and determine frequency going forward.
- Fireplace chimney insert will be replaced with a more efficient one.
- Windows will be replaced with vinyl and exterior trim will be wrapped in no-maintenance aluminum.
- Kitchen cabinets, countertops, all appliances, and plumbing have been replaced.
- Wood floors will be refinished and new carpet installed.
- One Mitsubishi Mini Split A/C and Hyper Heat will be installed on each floor with an exterior unit on the side of the house.

The Finance Committee has approved the availability of the needed funds. A motion to approve this request was made by Linda, seconded by Jim, and passed without dissent.

Parsonage:

- Sewage water in the basement was due to cracked cast iron piping and a broken wet vent tee.
- Environmental Septic pumped the tank and installed a riser. Tank will be pumped annually for the next two years and re-evaluated in 2024.
- Estimates to address the piping issues have been solicited from two companies. One estimate of \$5,500 has been received. The Board of Trustees will make an award after receipt of the second estimate.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.



Flu Shots

If you haven't gotten one yet this fall, please do. All of the major health organizations recommend that we all get them every year. These vaccines are readily available at doctors' offices, local pharmacies, and even in the grocery stores. And in most cases, they are free as most health insurance companies cover the cost, which is considered preventative care.

With so much publicity surrounding the various Covid vaccines and boosters, it's easy to completely forget about getting your flu shots. Please get yours today. Many of you might also want to consider both the pneumonia and shingles vaccines as well. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to determine if these vaccines are wise choices for you.

Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference for the South Damascus Charge will be held on Saturday, November 19, at 11 am. Again this year, all church conferences in the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held virtually, and we invite all of you to join us for this annual time to highlight our strengths and to discuss any areas of need with our Central Maryland District Superintendent, the Reverend Dawn Hand.

Use this link to join this Zoom meeting—

<https://bwcumc.zoom.us/j/87627147054?>

Meeting ID: 876 27 147054

Passcode: 479157

Or call 1-301-715-8592 and join the meeting.

If you do plan to participate, please let Tammy know by Tuesday, November 15, so that she can send or give you all of the needed documents prior to this conference.

— continued from page 1 —

of His enemies, but because He was sacrificed on a tree, broken and bleeding, suffering for all our sakes. This suffering servant is given the power to rule. John hears all of Heaven erupt in praise and song and proclaim, "You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, for you were slaughtered, and by your blood, you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God... and they continued singing, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor, glory, and blessing.'"

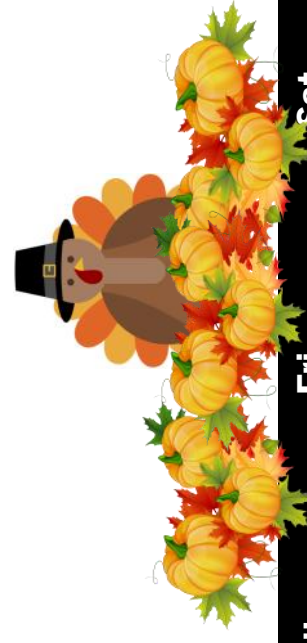
I am grateful that during this season of political ads *ad nauseum*, I can endure these short days of political bickering and arguing over which party has the best this or that and which party is right or wrong. I am grateful that once all that nonsense is done, we in the Church can gather to put the spotlight back on the political leader that **IS** able to accomplish a great feat: the Salvation of the Cosmos and the Rule of the Eternal Kingdom of God. Thanks be to God! Just another great reason that November is such an amazing month!

Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Nick



November 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	2 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— SPRC Meeting	3	4	5
6 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	7 7:00 PM— Finance Commit- tee Meeting	8	9	10 3:30 PM— Choir Practice	11 11:00 AM— Set-Up for Craft Bazaar	12 9 AM—3 PM— Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon
13 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:00 PM— Fellowship Lunch	14 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	15 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	16 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at The Hornet's Nest in Damascus 7:00 PM— SPRC Meeting	17 3:30 PM— Choir Practice	18 <i>December Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 11:00 AM— Annual Church Conference via Zoom
20 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	21	22	23 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25	26 9:00 AM— Decorate Sanctu- ary for Advent and Christmas
27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	28 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	29	30 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Advent Book Study via Zoom	1 7:00 PM— Outdoor Communi- ty Tree Lighting Ceremony	2	3

 **Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**
Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

As a congregation that covenants to walk together in Christ's love, believes that all persons are created equal before God, and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we welcome to our work and worship all regardless of race, gender, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org

Count your blessings
and
thank Our Lord



for
He
is
Good.

Amen!

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

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