

Wesley Grove Messenger

January, 2023



From the Pastor's Desk...

Happy New Year! Happy 2023!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every January 1, we celebrate the coming of a new year. This is a time of tradition and celebration as we prepare for what is coming in the next year. We think of what has come before, the highs and lows of the past year, and we look expectantly toward the future to see what is coming this year. One of the traditions from my childhood was a vibrant New Year's Eve party with family. We would gather to play games and tell stories. The larger Works' clan cannot gather without telling great stories. These stories are the cement of my identity even as a man in my late 40s.

There is another great tradition on New Year's Eve that helps to shape the identity of millions of Christians in the United States. Many United Methodists worship together on this night using a service called the Watch Night Service. In case you have never heard of this service, let me explain a little about it. On Dec. 31, 1862, slaves gathered all around the South to pray, worship, sing, and dance. They knew that on January 1, 1863, the very next day, "The Emancipation Proclamation" would take effect, and they would become free. On that New Year's Eve night, they gathered as a church family to tell the stories of God's watchful faithfulness to them even during their darkest days of slavery. They also worshipped and prayed for a bright future of freedom. The service was a perfect mix of remembrance of God's faithfulness in the past and hopeful anticipation of God's providence in the future.

This Watch Night Service is the perfect example of what it means to gather as a church family. Therefore, we gather. We gather to tell the stories of how God has been faithful to us in the past. These stories are often stories of our ancestors in the faith, either from the Hebrew Bible or from our earliest Christian ancestors like Paul and Peter. The stories we share are stories of Jesus' miraculous works among us. These stories and their telling have the power to make us stronger and to keep us going.

We also meet to reflect on those ancient stories and draw implications for how we will live out our future lives. Our gatherings give us hope for the future. They instill a confidence in us that God has been present and will continue to be present with us in our future endeavors. This New Year, I encourage you to celebrate all that God has done for you in the past, and to also look expectantly for the ways that God is going to minister to you in the coming year.

Happy New Year, and may God bless you all with faith, hope, and confidence in 2023!

Pastor Nick

Lectionary Readings

January 1, 2023

Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



January 8, 2023

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42



January 22, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2023

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12



January Birthdays

- 11 Betty Duvall
- Nick Works
- 15 Delaney Hagy
- 16 Brian Lewis
- 20 Lewis Burdette
- 30 Joe Mallon



November 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	\$1,335.35
Substitute Musician	\$0.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$340.00
Payroll Taxes	\$102.15
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$179.17
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$286.85
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	\$2,075.11
In and Out Expenses	\$1,111.08
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$10,063.09

Income

Weekly Collections	\$6,725.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,167.34
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$1,880.81
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Total Income	\$10,773.15





Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Start the new year in fellowship with your Wesley Grove Family at the “Good Fortune and Good Health in 2023” Potluck Luncheon following the worship service on New Year’s Day. In addition to paper goods and drinks, this committee will provide a main dish of pork and sauerkraut, which is considered a traditional New Year’s meal in some areas of the country. Come from a different area or different ethnic background with a different tradition for prosperity in the New Year? Bring that dish, or anything else you want to bring, and join with the rest of the congregation in welcoming the New Year with good cheer.

Planning for our other 2023 fellowship activities will take place at the Committee’s semi-annual meeting on Thursday, January 5, at 7 pm on Zoom. If you have a suggestion for an event to be added to our annual schedule, please let any member of the Committee know before this meeting. In particular, we’d like to know whether you’d like a repeat of last February’s “Covert Cupid” activity to brighten up the quieter winter months. But other suggestions are definitely welcome as well!



Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to our Holiday Giving Projects this Christmas Season — whether by donating wrapped presents for the kids, gift baskets for the parents, and/or money toward the purchase of grocery store gift cards for the three community families that we supported this year. Please know that all of these items helped to make Christmas a little merrier and a little brighter for those receiving these gifts as well as for those giving these gifts. We thank you all!

Wesley Grove will be serving at the Lord’s Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC on Gaithersburg on Monday, January 30 at 1 pm. Please let Judy know if you can help with this project.



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, January 1, but we will resume our class on the following Sunday, January 8. On this day, we plan to discuss chapter 6 of the book that we were reading before Advent began, *Christianity and World Religions*. We will then review and conclude this study on Sunday, January 15 and Sunday, January 29.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, January 22, nor will there be classes during the month of February. We plan to resume our class in early March with the beginning of the Lenten Season.



Thank You from Our Church Family!

A big thank you goes out to all of the Trustees who have been working almost non-stop since last June to make our rental house into a beautiful home that any family would be proud to live in!

In case you have not been out to see the house lately, you might not know that this home has been completely scrubbed and repainted. All of its major systems (heating, air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing) have been updated. The house has new doors, windows, and kitchen appliances. Its hardwood floors have all been refinished, and its two sunrooms have been re-carpeted. The exterior has been power-washed; and all of the bushes and trees in both the front and back yards have been trimmed, with the exception of the bamboo, which has been removed.

If you have not seen this beautiful home in recent months, you should stop by one day while they are there working and take a look. It's beautiful and we should all be very proud and thankful of the work that our Board of Trustees members have accomplished in the past six months!



2023 Calendars

There are plenty on the table in the vestibule from just about every non-profit organization that you can think of — both full wall size and pocket size. Please help yourself to as many as you would like!

Good-bye to Christmas and Hello to Winter!

On the morning of Saturday, January 14, beginning at 9 am, we will take down and put away all of the beautiful Christmas decorations in our Sanctuary and vestibule. We plan to replace them with our lovely blue and white winter decorations. Please make plans to help us with this annual project. The more folks we have helping, the quicker this job will get done.



How many words can you make from the letters in

RESOLUTIONS?

Remember they must be English words. Abbreviations, acronyms, and slang words are not permitted.


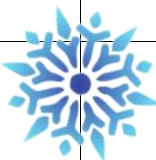

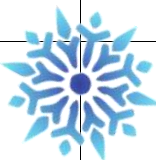

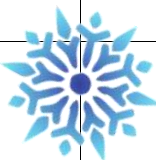


Here are a few to get you started...

1. rest	11.
2. nest	12.
3. less	13.
4. lesson	14.
5. rot	15.
6. lot	16.
7. not	17.
8. note	18.
9. louse	19.
10. Louise	20.

Good luck, and have fun! Without too much thought or time, you should be able to make 30-40. :)



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion 12:30 PM— New Year's Day Fel- lowship Luncheon</p>	<p>2 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting</p>	<p>3 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>4 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ J&P's in Damascus 7:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5 7:00 PM— Virtual Fellowship Committee Meet- ing via Zoom</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7 9:00 AM— Take Down Christ- mas Decorations and Put Up Winter Ones</p>
<p>8 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> <i>Sunday</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting</p>	<p>10 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>11 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ J&P's in Damascus 7:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>12 7:00 PM— Virtual Communi- cations Committee Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>13 </p>	<p>14 9:00 AM— Take Down Christ- mas Decorations and Put Up Winter Ones</p>
<p>15 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— Worship Committee Lunch Meeting</p>	<p>16 </p>	<p>17 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>18 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ J&P's in Damascus 7:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>19 <i>February Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>20 </p>	<p>21 9:00 AM— Take Down Christ- mas Decorations and Put Up Winter Ones</p>
<p>22 No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service</p>	<p>23 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>24 7:00 PM— SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>25 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at Tammy's House</p>	<p>26 </p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28 </p>
<p>29 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service</p>	<p>30 1:00 PM— Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg</p>	<p>31 </p>				

 **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



We Wish All of You A Very Happy and Heathy 2023!

As you're making your
New Year's Resolutions,
how about resolving to attend church
a little more in this coming year?

You can do this in one of two ways —
either in-person or via Zoom —
every Sunday morning at 11 am.

We'd love to have you,
and there's always a pew open
for you and your family!

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
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