

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

September 2023

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

## **My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:**

I've been carrying a short stick around with me these past couple of months. It looks a bit like a wand, and honestly, a magical wand would be useful in my line of work. I could heal wounds, conjure up answers to prayer, and produce awe-inspiring sermons out of thin air. But, truth be told, I stuck this stick in my "preaching bag" to remind myself that if I needed a children's sermon I could talk about that phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

But it's not true, you know. Sticks and stones can break our bones AND words can hurt us. Deeply! Some of you are aware of the new "trend" to call people who are obnoxious, a "Karen." "Karen" has become a derogatory term. A deprecating, offensive label. So, where does that leave those of us who bear the name Karen? Who were given that name at birth? I, for one, feel a stab to the gut every time I hear someone refer to a bully as a "Karen." There is a part of me that feels compelled to prove that I am not "one of those."

Words can indeed hurt, and their impact can be profound. Although they may not cause physical harm like sticks and stones, the emotional and psychological damage inflicted by hurtful words can be significant and long-lasting. Therefore, it's essential to recognize the power of words and be mindful of the impact they can have on others.

In Psalm 19:14, we hear the words that are often spoken as a prayer before a sermon: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." I think that this would be a great prayer for us to memorize and repeat each day as a reminder to "mind our tongues." To remind us that our words do, in fact, matter.

A recent Facebook post (poem?) by Rachel Marie Martin sums up this message:

~~~ PAUSE ~~~

There is power  
in space, in a breath, in a pause...

Before you respond, you get to choose:

hate or love,  
anger or empathy,  
frustration or opportunity,  
loneliness or togetherness,  
irritation or understanding.

Be kind.

~~~ PAUSE ~~~

May God bless you as you find the time to "be still, pause, and know that He is God."

Blessings,  
Pastor Karen

# Lectionary Readings



## September 3, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
 Romans 12:9-21  
 Matthew 16:21-28

## September 10, 2023

Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 148 & 149  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

## September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31  
 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35

## September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
 Philemon 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16



## July 2023 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| BWC Mission Share                               | \$1,184.16        |
| Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)           | \$1,563.42        |
| Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary) | \$405.50          |
| Church Secretary's Wages                        | \$792.49          |
| Organist / Pianist                              | \$0.00            |
| Worker's Compensation Insurance                 | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                                   | \$60.62           |
| 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  | \$84.79           |
| Property Insurance                              | \$0.00            |
| Administrative Expenses                         | \$136.22          |
| Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses            | \$390.85          |
| Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses         | \$113.92          |
| Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost        | \$296.66          |
| Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution       | \$332.23          |
| Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs          | \$12.50           |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs                    | \$865.39          |
| Miscellaneous                                   | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                           | <b>\$6,588.75</b> |



## Return to Fall Schedule

Beginning on Sunday, September 24, our weekly worship service time will return to 11 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 Monarch. 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 studying the Book of Psalms by trying to interpret them and reflecting on how they can apply to all of our lives in today's world.

### Income

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Collections             | \$4,616.02        |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint | \$2,232.36        |
| Use of Hall                    | \$50.00           |
| Miscellaneous                  | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Income</b>            | <b>\$6,898.38</b> |



# Fall Community Yard Sale



**Saturday, September 16  
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.

## Best Wishes and Much Success

*to All of Our Students,  
Teachers,  
and*

*Supporting School Staff  
who are returning to their schools,  
buses, and classrooms this month!*

*May Our Good Lord Bless You All!*



## 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



## Damascus HELP Food Collection

During the month of September, we will continue to collect food for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry. This nonprofit organization provides food, rides, diapers, 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
- Sunday, Sept. 18–Macaroni/Pasta/Rice
- Sunday, Sept. 25 – Canned Tomatoes and Pasta Sauce

Please place all donations under the table in the church vestibule in the boxes marked Damascus HELP. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Fall is in the air, but before our attention turns to raking leaves and consuming pumpkin-flavored everything, it's time for one last busy summer weekend. No, not Labor Day; at Wesley Grove, the **Annual Fall Community Yard Sale and Church Picnic**, set for September 16 and 17, respectively, always mark the end of the summer season.



The weekend gets started on Friday, September 15, when we will set up and price items from 1 pm to 4 pm. If you have items to donate for the church table, please drop them off during that time. Or, if that doesn't work for you, please let Tammy know (301-253-0044), so you can make other arrangements. You also should let Tammy know if you'd rather reserve a space to sell items yourself at a cost of \$20.

If you can help with set up or with the September 16 event itself, please contact Becky (240-338-3211) or Brian (240-338-3210). Saturday help is needed with set up at 7:30 am, during the sale itself from 9 am to 2 pm, and with clean up after the event. Any time you can spare is appreciated.



Donations of baked goods such as cookies, brownies, and so on, packaged for individual sale, are also welcome. If you're helping with the event, please consider purchasing a new Wesley Grove t-shirt to wear; see Becky if you'd like to buy one for \$15. And one last request: pray for good weather, since we cancelled the spring yard sale due to rain!



On the following day, Sunday, September 17, we'll gather for outdoor worship in the pavilion at 10 am, followed by a "Happy Hour" of snacks and visiting while the grill gets going. Lunch will be served at approximately noon, followed by a time of outdoor games and visiting, and then finally dessert. Please bring a dish or two to share; drinks, paper goods, and meat fresh off the grill will be provided.



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

In addition to summer's end, September also marks the **90<sup>th</sup> birthdays** of two special ladies in our Wesley Grove Church family...



Sally Lewis turns 90 on September 10; please send her a card at 11206 SW 73<sup>rd</sup> Circle, Ocala, FL 34476.

Gay Linthicum celebrates her special day on September 24; please send her greetings to P.O. Box 43, Monrovia, MD 21770.

Looking ahead into the fall, please make plans to join us for these upcoming events:

- Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 11



- Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, November 30

- Christmas Caroling and Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, December 17



*Joy to the World!*

And finally, we need a volunteer to host Coffee & Conversation in October; please see Becky.



## 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 plus four more boxes, all overflowing with school 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.

The Lord's Table at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg will reopen on October 1. Our next day to serve will be Monday, October 30. Please let Judy know if you can help to cook, serve, and/or wash dishes on this day. We need to arrive at 1 pm, and we usually leave about 4:30 pm.



## 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 340 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, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Tri-County Baptist Church, Upper Seneca Baptist Church, Wesley Grove UMC, Woodworkers for Children's Charities, 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.



## CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 8, Damascus will hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 3.6 mile, paved, walking 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 call Rita Noble of Damascus HELP at 301-253-8929 to register or visit the website below for further details.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/damascusmd>

## Annual Church Conference



Please mark your calendars now for our annual South Damascus Charge Church Conference on Saturday, October 28 at 12:30 pm. This important business meeting will be livestreamed via Zoom. The link will be sent out in the week before this event.

For those of you needing to complete reports and documents for this conference, please do so by Friday, September 22, and submit them to Tammy by that date.

## Christian Gospel Concert

*featuring...*



## WESTWARD ROAD

Sunday, September 24

6 pm

Mt. Tabor UMC

Located on the Corner of  
Rt. 108 and Hipsley Mill Road  
in Etchison, MD

### All Are Welcome!

The concert will last about an hour and will be followed by a pot-luck dinner in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish or two to share.

Make plans now to join us for an evening of fun, upbeat Christian music and then a delicious dinner of our favorite covered dish recipes!

# September 2023



| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|--|---|-----|--|--|
| 3<br>10:00 AM—<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion  | 4<br><b>Happy<br/>Labor Day!</b>   | 5<br>11:00 AM—<br>Carla's Installation<br>6:45 PM—<br>Lions Club Dinner<br>and Meeting | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9  |
| 10<br>10:00 AM—<br>Worship Service   | 11<br>6:00 PM—<br>SPRC Meeting<br>7:30 PM—<br>Finance Committee<br>Meeting | 12<br>7:00 PM—<br>Administrative<br>Council Meeting                                    | 13<br>12:00 PM—<br>Lunch Out at<br>CarterQue in Mt.<br>Airy | 14  | 15<br>1:00 to 4:00 PM—<br>Yard Sale Drop-<br>Off and Set-Up              | 16<br>9 AM to 2 PM—<br>Fall Community<br>Yard Sale |
| 17<br>10:00 AM—<br>Charge Outdoor<br>Worship Service<br>12:00 PM—<br>Church Picnic                                     | 18<br><i>Deadline for<br/>October Newsletter<br/>Submissions</i>           | 19<br>6:45 PM—<br>Lions Club Dinner<br>and Meeting                                     | 20  | 21  | 22<br><i>All Church<br/>Conference Data<br/>Due to<br/>Church Office</i> | 23   |
| 24<br>9:30 AM—<br>Sunday School Re-<br>sumes<br>11:00 AM—<br>Worship Service<br>6:00 PM—<br>Gospel Concert at<br>MTUMC | 25   | 26   | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30   |

# Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

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# Join Us!

## Sunday, September 17

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](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

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