

Wesley Grove Messenger

May 2024

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I never thought this day would come, but here it is! After thirty-two years in ordained ministry and after eight wonderful years of serving alongside you in ministry, I have made the decision to retire. This decision was made with A LOT of prayer and counsel from good friends and family. After much discernment, I believe it is the right time for me to start a new chapter of my life.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for the love and kindness you have shown me throughout these years. I have enjoyed living in Damascus, and the parsonage has become home for me and my two children. I will miss celebrating Christmas in the warmth of the family living room and Easter Sunrise just out the back door. I am grateful for the countless moments of fellowship, worship, study, and service we have shared. Together, we have made it through a pandemic, celebrated joys, cried countless tears, and grown both individually and as a community.

As I prepare to step into retirement, I am filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead, but there are many unknowns about my future. What I need most from you right now are your prayers. Prayers for housing, prayers for a job, prayers for a smooth transition with the incoming pastor. I, too, will pray for you and carry each of you with me in my heart as I embark on this new journey.

Though my role within the congregation may be changing, please know that my love and prayers for each of you will remain steadfast. I have every confidence that our congregation will continue under the capable leadership of whomever our Bishop appoints to the Charge. Together, you will continue to spread God's love and grace to all who cross your paths.

It is required by the Baltimore-Washington Conference that the following information from the *BWC Policies and Procedures*, paragraph 4015, be shared with all of you:

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referrals for the pastoral care of members.
2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, both active and retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor. This policy is ongoing and does not have an expiration date.
3. Several weeks prior to concluding a pastoral appointment, a pastor shall inform all members of the church of this policy by printing the above two statements verbatim in either a pastoral letter to each member or in a church newsletter to each member and encourage them to support this policy by their prayers and their actions.

In closing, I want to once again express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as your pastor. It has been an honor and a joy to walk alongside you in ministry, and I will cherish the memories we have created together. May God's abundant blessings continue to surround and sustain each of you in the days ahead.



With heartfelt thanks and warmest regards,
Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings



May 5, 2024

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 1 John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17



May 12, 2024

Ascension Sunday

Mother's Day

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19



May 19, 2024

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27
 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024

Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 29
 Romans 8:12-17
 John 3:1-17



May Birthdays

- 4 Marne Hughes Rammling
- 5 Judy Hughes
- 6 Cherie Morris
- 7 Donnie Hottinger
- 9 Susie Cooper
- 10 Lou Lynagh
- 11 Karen Davis
- 14 Jeff Lewis
- 21 Sue Ketchum
- Frank Miller
- 25 Clark Kunkle
- Kate Works



March 2024 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,432.38
Senior Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,610.33
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$417.67
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,607.27
Organist / Pianist	\$700.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$122.96
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$352.63
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$159.25
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$210.22
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$402.58
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$305.00
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$342.20
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$15.34
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$3,915.30
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$12,057.05

Income

Weekly Collections	\$12,600.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,232.36
Rental Property Income to Church	\$2,000.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Total Income	\$16,832.36

Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair



Whether you need some motivation to get started on clearing out your clutter, or you don't know what to do with the boxes and bags you've filled, we've got your solution: our Spring Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 11. You can donate that "clutter" to the church to sell or call Tammy Monarch at 301-253-0044 to reserve your own space. If you're donating items to the church, please have them at the hall by 1 pm on Friday, May 10, or if you're renting a space, set-up begins at 7:30 am, with the event running from 9 am until 2 pm. For those who aren't renting a space, we'd love to have your help! Contact Becky (240-338-3211) or Brian (240-338-3210) to find out how you can make this fundraiser a success. We also need donations of baked goods, especially cookies and brownies packaged for individual sale. Please help us by avoiding frosted items like cupcakes. And please pray for good weather!



To round out a very busy weekend, we invite you to join our church family for Sunday Breakfast in honor of Mother's Day, in our Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. The men of the church will prepare a lovely fellowship meal, and everyone is invited. Please sign up in the vestibule at church to give them an idea about how many will attend, and men, please contact Brian to find out how you can help.

This Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 5 (time TBD) via Zoom to plan activities for the second half of the year. If you have any suggestions, please let Becky know. Those activities will include a Bon Voyage and Retirement Party for Pastor Karen on Sunday, June 9 after the worship service. Please save this date; more details will be coming.

Graduates within Our Church Family

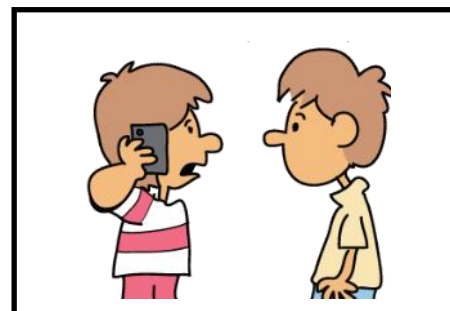


These young people are graduating from Damascus High School this month, and we want to celebrate them!

Daniel Scott Wilson, the son of Dave and Alicia Wilson, will graduate from Damascus HS on Thursday, May 30. Danny will attend West Chester University in West Chester, PA, as a full-time undergraduate student in the fall, where he plans to major in business. He enjoys lacrosse and may continue to play on the club level in college. If you happen to stop by Rock Hill Orchard for fresh vegetables or homemade ice cream this summer, you may see him as he will continue his part-time job there until he heads off to college in August. Danny, please know that we are all very proud of you here at Wesley Grove! We have enjoyed watching you and your brothers grow and mature as fine young Christian men. May God bless you in all that you do in your college years and beyond!

Also, graduating from Damascus High School this year are **Danny Allman** and **Dylan Oliver**. We wish them the very best in all that they endeavor next fall and in the years to come!

Congratulations to the three of you!



"Hello, Pizza Palace! For Mother's Day, would you deliver pizza to my mom in bed?"



Bingo Fundraiser

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will host its spring Dinner and Bingo Fundraiser this coming Friday, May 3. Just like in the past, the doors open at 5 pm, fried chicken and ham dinners will be served starting at 5:30 pm, and the 20 games of bingo begin at 7 pm.

If you are interested in joining the group of us from Wesley Grove, but did not buy tickets in advance, you can still buy them at the door for \$60. All proceeds benefit our local fire department and the Celebrate Damascus Festival in July.



Paper Shredding Event

Do you have piles of old documents, mail, cards, and papers to shred? If so, head to Damascus UMC on Saturday, May 4. The Damascus Lions Club will host a community shredding event that morning between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm in the parking lot of the church. You many bring up to five full banker-sized boxes.



The club will also be accepting old batteries of all types and sizes to recycle. So, help yourself to declutter your home, help the Earth, and get your old papers and batteries to DUMC on this day.



Ascension Day

Jesus rose to Heaven 40 days after His Resurrection to live with His Father. This year, in the United Methodist Church, we will recognize His Ascension on Sunday, May 12. To honor this miracle, please wear white to the church service on this day.



Did You Know...

... that **May Day**, which is celebrated annually on May 1, marks the halfway point between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice?

Since ancient times, May 1 has been the official day when many farmers thought it was safe to plant their summer crops. Thus, celebrating on this day by dancing and singing is a tradition that has continued for hundreds of years.



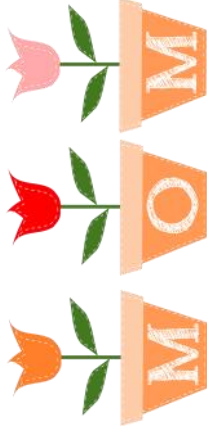
Pentecost




Fifty days after Jesus arose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven and fired up the Disciples to go out to teach and preach and baptize in the Name of Jesus Christ.

They were given the ability to speak in foreign languages, so that all could listen and learn about Jesus and His love. About 3,000 men were baptized that day, and The Church was born!

To honor this miracle, please wear the colors of flames — reds, yellows, and oranges — to the church service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM — Sunday School 11:00 AM — Worship Service with Communion</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM — Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00 PM — Lions Club Dinner & Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM — Memorial and Scholarship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM — Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1PM —5 PM Drop-Off, Set-Up, and Pricing for Yard Sale</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 — 7 AM Yard Sale Set-Up 9 AM —2 PM Spring Community Yard Sale</p>
<p>12</p> <p><i>Mother's Day Ascension Sunday</i> 9:30 AM — M. Day's Breakfast 11:00 AM — Worship Service *** Wear white. ***</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 PM — Administrative Council Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM — Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 PM — Lunch Out at The Clarks Lodge in Clarksburg <i>Pastor Karen</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM — Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom <i>Out of Town</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Out of Town —</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11 AM — Memorial Service for Wanda McGee <i>Deadline for June Newsletter</i></p>
<p>19</p> <p><i>Pentecost</i> 9:30 AM — Sunday School 11:00 AM — Worship Service with Two Baptisms ** Wear flame colors. **</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00 PM — Lions Club Dinner & Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>3:00 PM — Book Club Meeting @ Carol Stone's House</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM — Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p><i>Memorial Day Weekend</i> 9:30 AM — Sunday School 11:00 AM — Worship Service</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>BWC Annual</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Church History Class</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Conference</p>	

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 peace,
- * believes that all persons are created equal,
and
- * affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

We Welcome All to Our Work and Worship,
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



COMMUNITY YARD SALE

LARGE, MULTI-FAMILY EVENT

**SATURDAY, MAY 11
9 AM TO 2 PM**

**RENTAL SPACES \$20
CALL TAMMY @ 301-253-0044**

**BAKED GOODS AND HELP NEEDED
CALL BECKY @ 240-338-3211**

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

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