

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

January, 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Nick...

Every January 1, we celebrate a brand-new year, an annual time of tradition and celebration. One time-honored tradition in our culture is the making of New Year's resolutions. At the start of each new year, we re-examine our lives and agree to engage in healthier habits, or we try to eliminate bad habits from our lives. For example, this year, I have decided that I need to eat more food that is bad for me and try to pack on at least 15 additional pounds.

Often, these New Year's resolutions don't make it out of the month of January. We frequently give up on them after just a week or two. I know in my own life that has been the norm. With much good luck and a lot of willpower, this New Year's resolution will meet the same dismal fate other more health-conscious resolutions have met in the past. Since I have never been able to lose weight based on my New Year's resolutions, I am hoping I can reverse psychology my way to a thinner me.

Although weight loss has never been my strong suit, when I became active in the Methodist tradition, I learned of another New Year's habit/tradition. (John Wesley preferred the word habit rather than resolution.) He adopted a prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his mother and father that he rewrote it for the Methodist community of believers.

Traditionally, Wesley encouraged Methodists to pause at the beginning of every new year and participate in a Covenant Renewal Worship Service, in which they pray the Covenant Prayer and rededicate themselves to a life of following Jesus in the upcoming new year. This prayer is a reminder that being Christian is more than just a system of beliefs; instead, it is a commitment to a life of discipleship and devotion to Jesus, the Christ.

I encourage each of you to pause for a moment as this new year of 2025 begins, pray this Wesley Covenant Prayer to yourself, and then make a pledge to God that you are renewing your covenant to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ...

“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O Glorious and Blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on Earth,
let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen.”



Lectionary Readings



January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

Pastor Nick, preaching

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Pastor Abby, preaching

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19, 2025

Pastor Nick, preaching

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 26, 2025

Pastor Abby, preaching

Nehemiah 8:1-10, 30

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January Birthdays

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



November 2024 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,432.38
Senior Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$835.33
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$663.17
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,203.35
Organist / Pianist	\$400.00
Music Director	\$200.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$381.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$142.80
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	\$46.65
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$149.32
South Damascus Charge Treasury	\$120.91
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,620.40
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$0.00
Montgomery County Solid Waste Tax	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00

Total Expenses **\$7,615.31**

Income

Weekly Collections	\$6,720.49
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,299.33
Rental Property Income	\$2,000.00

Total Income **\$11,019.82**



Happy New Year





Missions News

Linda Chatterton, Chair

Happy New Year to everyone and a big thank you to all of our church members who contributed to make the Christmas Season a happier time for three Damascus families! Wrapped gifts and grocery gift cards were delivered the week before Christmas, and the “moms” of these families expressed tremendous gratitude. We were even able to include tins of homemade Christmas cookies!

The Missions Committee had a very good, and busy, year — we accomplished an abundance of collecting! This included assorted toiletries for the folks at Pleasant View Nursing Home in Mt. Airy, lots of food staples and seasonal favorites for the Damascus Help Food Pantry, and both physical and monetary donations for the many hurricane victims this past fall, as well as the gifts and grocery cards for our families this Christmas Season. Thanks to all of you so very much for your kindness and your generosity!



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

After taking a one-week break during the Christmas Holidays, we plan to resume our Sunday School class on Sunday, January 5. On this day, Pastor Nick will lead us in his final lesson comparing a D.C. or Marvel superhero to someone or something in the Bible.

On January 12, Pastor Abby will lead us in her final lesson from that unit, and on

January 19, Tammy will lead us as we conclude and summarize this comparison study. Even if you did not join us for our earlier superhero lessons in the fall, please feel free to join us now for Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am each Sunday.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School classes from Sunday, January 26 through Sunday, February 23. We will resume our class on Sunday, March 2 as we begin our Lenten book study.



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Preliminary planning for our 2025 fellowship activities will take place at our Ministry Committee meeting on Thursday, January 16, at 7 pm. If you have a suggestion or new idea for an event or activity to be added to our annual schedule, please let me know before this meeting.

Make plans to ward off winter’s chill by joining our church family at Soup Sunday on Sunday, January 19 following the worship service. Please sign up in the vestibule to bring a pot of soup, some type of bread, or a delicious dessert. If you can specify the kind of soup you’ll be bringing to help us avoid duplication and to have a wide variety of choices, we would appreciate it. The committee will supply drinks and paper goods.





Good-bye to Christmas and Hello to Winter!

On the morning of Saturday, January 11, 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. Thanks in advance!



Additional Cleaning Up from the Holiday Season and Preparing for the New Year

1. If you have not already done so, please pick up your poinsettia plant(s) from the church.
2. Remember to leave the clear plastic saucers on the counters' desk in the church office.
3. Return your Advent Study books to the church office.
4. Pay for any last items you might have taken from our Holiday Gift Shop.
5. Get your 2025 giving envelopes from Linda, our Financial Secretary. If you did not have them in 2024, but would like to have them in 2025, please talk to Linda.
6. Feel free to take any of the 2025 calendars or yearly planners lying on the table in the vestibule.



*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	21.
2. tin	22.
3. lesson	23.
4. note	24.
5. Louise	25.
6.	26.
7.	27.
8.	28.
9.	29.
10.	30.
11.	31.
12.	32.
13.	33.
14.	34.
15.	35.
16.	36.
17.	37.
18.	38.
19.	39.
20.	40.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3 	4
5 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	6 7:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	7 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	8	9	10	11 9:00 AM— Take Down Christ- mas Decorations and Put Up Winter Ones
12 <i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	13 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	14	15 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ The Hornet's Nest in Damascus	16 7:00 PM— Ministry Commit- tee Meeting	17	18 <i>February Newsletter Deadline</i>
19 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— Soup Sunday	20	21 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	22 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at Joyce's House	23	24	25
26 11:00 AM— Worship Service	27 	28	29 	30	31	

 **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 2025!

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

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