

Wesley Grove Messenger

February 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Abby...

Happy February! Now that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season have come and gone, and the excitement of the new year has calmed down, I sincerely hope each of you has had the opportunity to stop and rest, to breathe, and to just be. I also hope that as we ushered in this new year, you had the opportunity to reflect on last year and look with hopeful eyes toward the year to come.

As we enter into the month of February, I have many obligations and expectations on my plate, but I have one thing on the forefront of my mind: Valentine's Day! As I have mentioned in quite a few sermons, I am a hopeless romantic. *I love love*. I love the silly little hearts. I love the bright, colorful reds and pinks everywhere. I love the excitement the kids I nanny feel while picking which friend will get which valentine card. I love that I have a little family that loves me deeply, and I love that I get to love my husband and cat back just as deeply.

Adding to this list, I love my friends and community too. I think when we think of Valentine's Day, we tend to think of romantic love. We think of our spouses or partners, but really, that is such a limiting understanding of love. All throughout the Holy Scriptures, we are reminded of the importance of love — from the traditional 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 text that explains what love is (Love is patient, love is kind... I'm sure you're familiar with this.) to John 15:12-13, which states: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Then, of course, we have the Psalms, like Psalm 139 which highlights God's deep love for all of us. Our Scriptures are chock-full of love; after all, that is how they will know we are disciples of Christ (John 13:34-35).

A few years ago, I was in a Bible Study that was all about the relationship between love and faith, and I learned that according to the ancient Greeks, there are six types of love: Agape, Phileo, Storge, Philautia, Eros, and Pragma. Each one has a unique definition; a way to expand on what "love" means:

Agape is likely the type of love you are most familiar with. This is a selfless type of love, and it is commonly associated with the Love of God.

Phileo is close to "brotherly love," representing deep friendships, loyalty, and affection between friends. This is the origin of the city of Philadelphia's name, aka "The City of Brotherly Love."

Storge is the type of love we see in families; shared between generations; an unbreakable chain.

Philautia is all about self-love and believing in yourself. You are strong; you are worthy.

Eros is romantic love, characterized by affection, romance, and strong emotional connections.

Pragma is a practical type of love, usually shared with others having similar values or interests.

This expanded definition of love really makes me pause and wonder why Valentine's Day has such an emphasis on only the *eros*, or romantic, type of love. When we remember that God is love, and that we have so many different ways to love one another and ourselves, our understanding of love becomes infinitely expanded.

As we progress through this month of love, I invite each of you to reflect on the following question: *Where do I, or have I historically, seen each of these six types of love in my life?* I challenge you to expand your ability to love. I invite you to really lean into love by finding and identifying each thing you love, and telling all the people you love – not just your partner or spouse – that you love them.

Lectionary Readings



February 2, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10
 Psalm 71:1-6
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30

February 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-13
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26

February 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38



February Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Kunkle
Eleanor Park
- 9 Namela Miller
- 12 YouJung Jung
Emma Eikenberry
- 13 Daniel Hottinger
- 14 Joel Ketchum
Abby Horner
- 15 Susan Boyko
- 22 Shelby Kepner
- 23 Stephen Lewis
- 25 Jonathan Works



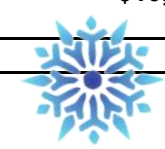
December 2024 Financial Report

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	\$1,388.48
Organist/Pianist	\$0.00
Music Director	\$500.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$156.96
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	\$419.28
Property Insurance	\$2,348.75
Administrative Expenses	\$638.72
South Damascus Charge Treasury	\$120.91
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,877.76
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$0.00
Montgomery County Solid Waste Tax	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$10,801.74



Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,785.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,299.33
Use of Hall	\$500.00
Roofing Fund Contribution	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$11,584.33

Mt. Tabor UMC will host a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, March 4, from 5-7 pm. All are invited to come, fellowship, and share in a meal of pancakes and sausage. This supper follows in the tradition of using up all leavening products before we move forward into the Lenten Season, a season of giving up excesses and remaining very simple as we reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Please sign the list in the vestibule if you plan to attend.



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Covert Cupid flies again! Please sign up in the vestibule or let Becky know if you want to participate. We'll draw names on Sunday, February 2, then surprise our Cupid partners with a card, a treat, or a small gift any time during the remainder of February. If you can't draw your name in person, Becky will draw in your stead. Stumped for an idea? Several red-themed items are available in vestibule to help you out.

We'll draw those names at our February 2nd rescheduled Soup Sunday Luncheon following that day's worship service. Please plan to join our church family for a delicious fellowship meal of a variety of homemade soups, breads, and desserts. If you haven't been able to sign up in person, and you want to attend, please let Becky know.

If you can host Coffee and Conversation in February, or if you'd like to get your claim for another month of the year in early, please contact Becky about that as well.

Looking ahead, the Monarchs have offered to once again host a Games Night during March, date TBD. Listen for announcements in church and read next month's *Messenger* for more details.



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Our multi-age Sunday School class is currently on hiatus for the month of February. We plan to resume meeting at 9:30 am on Sunday, March 2.

On the following Sunday, March 9, we will

begin our Lenten book study of Adam Hamilton's book, *The Message of Jesus*. We'll read and discuss this book during the six weeks of Lent leading right up to Easter. Please feel free to join us any Sunday morning!



Missions News

Linda Chatterton, Chair

All of us are praying for the fire victims in California, just as we did for those to our south when they were hit by the awful hurricanes last fall. The best way to help this time is through monetary donations as the distance to CA is just too far to drive or mail things.

Please give from the heart, but be sure to use your brain. Confirm that you are giving to a reputable charity. For instance: "The Red Cross of California" sounds good, right? But unfortunately, it's not, and it has scarfed up a lot of money given in good faith. One way to be sure is to donate through UMCOR - the United Methodist Committee on Relief. You can easily find this organization online or at the address and phone number below...

GLOBAL MINISTRIES | UMCOR

458 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE, Building A, Suite 1
Atlanta, GA 30308

Need Help? donationhelp@umcmission.org

Have questions? 800-862-4246

To give by check, please send checks

payable to Advance GCFA to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR

GPO

P.O. Box 9068

New York, NY 10087-9068





Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025

Opening: Bob began the meeting at 7 pm.

In Attendance: Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Linda Chatterton, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Brian Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, and Pastor Nick Works.

Devotions: Tammy read from James 2: 14-24 focusing on faith and good deeds.

Prayer Requests:

- Mike Thornette passed away today. He was a member of the Damascus Lions Club and a counselor at Damascus HS for many years.
- Mary Jane Walter – continued prayers for her health and her family's peace.
- Judy Hughes – upcoming hip replacement scheduled for February 17.
- Jeff Monarch – continued prayers for end stages of leukemia.

Good News:

- Advent and Christmas Season events were well attended and enjoyed by everyone.
- The Trustees have painted and caulked the Sunday School rooms.

Old Business:

- Rick reported that the parsonage is rented. The new tenants have moved in and seem very happy with their new home.
- Worship, Communications, Missions, Fellowship, and Education have combined their five programming committees to form one new committee called the Ministry Committee. This committee will meet for the first time this coming Thursday night.

New Business:

- Based on the request of several members, this board voted to move our future meetings to Wednesday nights.

Minutes:

- The minutes were voted on and accepted unanimously as printed in the December newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Communications

- We're sending cards often and keeping both our church website and Facebook pages up to date.

Education

- Our four-week Advent study is done, and we are now finishing up the Holy Heroes book. Sunday School will take a hiatus for five weeks and resume on March 2. *The Message of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton will be our next book study during the Lenten Sea-

son.

Fellowship

- The craft bazaar profited \$3,700 to date.
- Rescheduled Soup Sunday is approaching on Sunday, February 2.

Finance

- Our finances are stable, and all bills were paid on time through November.
- Montgomery County Gov't has sent property assessments for our two rental properties, and as expected, they both will increase by 17.7% over the next three years.

Lay Leadership

Nothing new to report at this time.

Missions

- Local family gift giving was successful during the Christmas Season.
- We are looking into a stamp program that Karen Falcon recommended.

SPRC

- The next meeting will be in March to perform quarterly staff reviews.

Trustees

- Members are working with DSA commissioners concerning use and maintenance of the ballfield before this coming spring sports season begins.
- We now have service contracts with GAC and Tri-State for HVAC and heating of all four buildings. Ongoing service dates have been set.

Worship

- We haven't met since Pastor Karen retired, but we will later this week.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Nick thanked everyone for all of their work and attendance to make a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season for our church. In collaboration with Pastor Abby, he continues to make in-person visits, hospital visits and place numerous phone calls to folks in need of prayer or encouraging words. They met twice before Christmas to visit members of the community together and will continue that practice. Nick is also meeting with Pastor Abby and Jeremy twice a month for worship planning and organization. He is working with two youths in our congregation (Andrew Wilson and Kate Works) as they move through the confirmation process. In addition, he has helped with some of the combined DUMC/MUMC/WGUMC youth events.


Next Meeting:

- Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19, at 7 pm with Cathy leading us in devotions.



February 2025

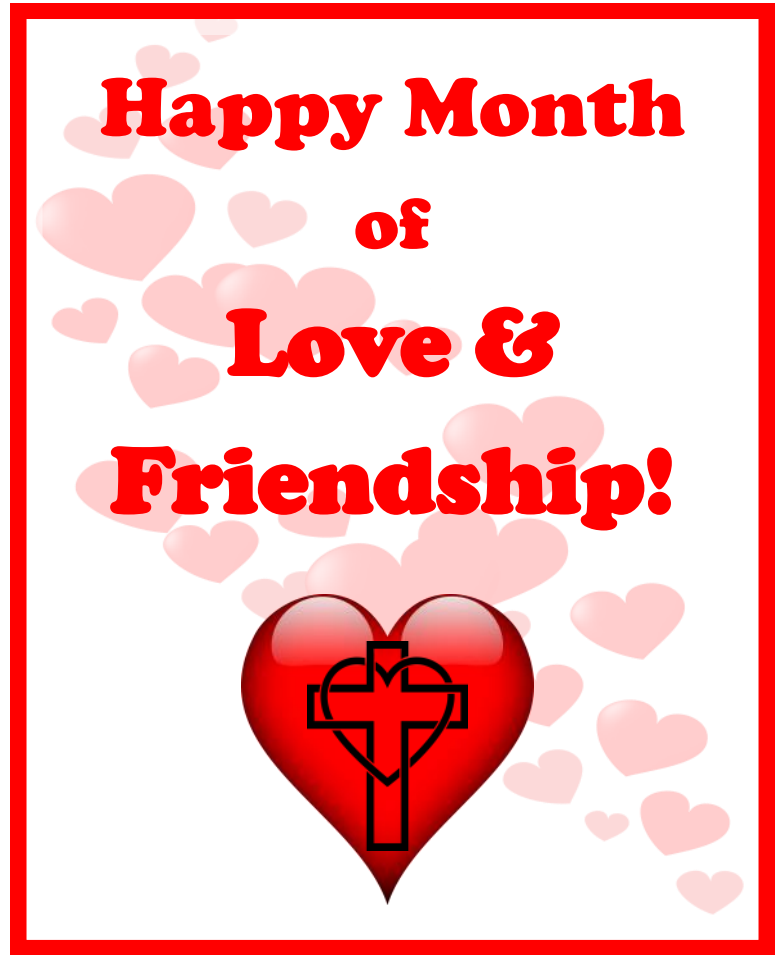


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion 12:30 PM— Soup Sunday Lunch- eon	3	4 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	5	6	7	8
9 No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	17	18 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	19 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ Siempre de Fiesta in Mt. Airy	20	21	22
23 No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	24 <i>March Newsletter Deadline</i>	25	26 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting (Location TBD)	27	28	

 **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



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

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