

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

December 2018

## *From Pastor Karen's Pulpit...*

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever!!!" ~~~ Psalm 136:1*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

I know... I know... This is my newsletter article for December, and I SHOULD be wishing you a Merry Christmas! By the time you read this, our sanctuary will be decorated for the Season, and we will be stepping into Advent with its "watching" and "waiting" for the Son of God to be born among us. But, as I write this letter, we are still a week away from Thanksgiving, and my brain isn't ready to shift gears to the next holiday, so let me say it again...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

In his sermon, "Thanksgiving Day," Steve Kelsey writes, "Before it was a noun, 'thanksgiving' was a verb, and the difference matters." He goes on to talk about the many activities that we associate with Thanksgiving, such as watching football, writing our Christmas shopping lists, and gathering around the table to eat, eat, eat. "Have a good Thanksgiving," we say to one another before Turkey Day. And afterward, we ask, "How was your Thanksgiving?" assuming the word to be a noun.

But as a verb, as a spiritual practice, what is *thanksgiving* all about?

Living thankfully is not essentially about feeling thankful, or even being thankful. To live thankfully is to act differently day by day because we are compelled by the Spirit to participate in the generous life of God-with-us, constantly practicing thanks-giving. As followers of Jesus, we are called to move beyond feeling thankful. We are called to give thanks by taking very specific spiritual actions: Practicing hospitality, practicing generosity, practicing stewardship, and practicing compassion. "Thanksgiving is a verb, a spiritual practice, that runs like a golden thread through all we do and all we are as Christians," states Mr. Kelsey.

So, as you start your Christmas shopping and decorating and baking, don't forget to give thanks for all that God has done for you. And even if you don't get what you want under the Christmas tree this year, don't forget to live thankfully and to act thankfully, for the God of abundance rejoices to invite us to join in returning the gifts we have received, to His honor and glory and purpose.

In God's peace,  
*Pastor Karen*

## Lectionary Readings

### *First Sunday of Advent*

**December 2, 2018**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

**December 9, 2018**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

**December 16, 2018**

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**December 23, 2018**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:47-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

### *Christmas Eve*

**December 24, 2018**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20

### *Christmas Day*

**December 25, 2018**

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-12  
John 1:1-14

### *First Sunday of Christmas*

**December 30, 2018**

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

### *New Year's Eve*

**December 31, 2018**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

## October 2018 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,204.75
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$385.96
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$40.76
Parsonage Expenses	\$993.10
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,021.75
Choir Director's Salary	\$750.00
Payroll Taxes	\$163.89
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Wages	\$810.00
Church Programs	\$491.00
Office Expenses	\$197.40
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,973.72
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,046.49</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$9,481.61
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower Income - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower Income - Verizon	\$1,393.45
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall Fees	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$583.34
Health Insurance & Pension Reimbursements (from Mt. Tabor UMC & Salem UMC)	\$2,014.12
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$16,698.17</b>



3	Cathy Burke	19	Ciarra Crawford
	Matt Lind		Mike Morris
6	Dave Wilson	20	Ollie Gray
12	Josh Park	28	Sheryl Birkhead
14	Chris Lee	29	Roberta Grimes
16	Nicko Hull	30	Peter Hughes
		31	Lorie Falk

## Administrative Council Minutes

November 12, 2018

**In attendance:** Bob Burke, Louise Burdette, Judy Hughes, Becky Lewis, Jim Kemp, Pastor Karen Davis, Jackie Hottinger

**Devotions:** Judy Hughes shared from "Please Give A Devotion" and then led a short prayer.

**Prayer Requests:** Don Hobbs, Rowdy Witiak, and Cathy Burke's sister, Genie Fowler

### Good News Items

- Fall Yard Sale was successful.
- Farm Park was a good fundraiser and lots of fun!
- Damascus Volunteer Fire Department banquet was well received and a good fundraiser.
- Church conference went well.
- Fall Turkey & Oyster Dinner made money.

**Action Items:** Becky Lewis made a motion to accept the September 10, 2018 minutes as written and published, Karen Davis seconded, vote taken, and approved as written.

### Committee Reports

- *Christian Education – Bob Burke:* Sunday School made 60 health care kits for UMCOR in October on Laity Service Sunday. We are learning about the 13 disciples and their unique personality traits.
- *Christian Fellowship – Becky Lewis:* Holly Days Craft Bazaar is coming up on November 17. Community Tree Lighting is on December 5 — tell your family and friends. Special Needs Christmas Party is on December 8 from 4-7 p.m. Caroling to shut-ins and nursing homes at 4 p.m. on December 9.
- *Missions - Jackie Hottinger:* We have adopted four families for holiday food baskets and gifts. Missions donated \$200 to UMCOR for U.S. flooding and hurricane relief. We will be collecting goodies and adult diapers for the residents at Pleasant View.

- *Staff Parish – Karen Davis:* Tammy Monarch was offered and has accepted the position of office manager. The committee is working on several charge issues involving scheduling and rotation of pastors. According to Rev. Park, changes may be coming to the charge in the future.

- *Trustees – Jim Kemp:* All of the money borrowed from ourselves for the Staley house repairs has been paid back.

- *Worship – Becky Lewis:* Two performances of the Christmas Cantata will be held on December 16 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Only one Christmas Eve service at 8:00 p.m. will be held this year.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Karen: "All is good."

### Old Business

- Becky Lewis made a motion to withdraw from the *Adopt A Rustic Road* program with regrets due to lack of participants. Jackie Hottinger seconded, vote taken, and motion passed.

- Trustees are still working on the church lighting issues. New kitchen sanitizer has been installed and working well. We are still working on getting electricity to our new Christmas tree before our tree lighting ceremony. The roof on the Education Building may need to be replaced in the spring.

### New Business

- Finance Committee needs to present the 2019 budget to the Ad Council for approval. This will be done before the end of the year.

**Next Meeting:** Devotions for next meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. will be presented by Jackie Hottinger.

**Meeting adjourned** by Chairperson Bob Burke at 8:25 p.m.

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Add a “new tradition” to your Christmas celebrations by coming out to Wesley Grove’s first Christmas Tree Lighting on Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in front of our fellowship hall. We’ll welcome the Season and the community with carols and candy canes, cookies and cocoa, and a visit from a very special guest! We hope to make this an annual community event, so help spread the word to all of your friends and family in the area!

The Tree Lighting starts off a very festive, very joyful, very busy week. On Saturday, December 8, we’ll welcome our special needs friends for a Christmas party that starts with carol singing at 4 p.m., followed by a spaghetti dinner and some after-dinner Christmas bingo. If you can help, please let Becky Lewis know. We promise you’ll come away blessed by the experience.

The next day, Sunday, December 9, we’ll gather at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall parking lot to take Christmas gifts and cheer to our nursing home friends and members of our congregation who are unable to get to our Advent and Christmas events. In the days before this event, we’ll collect adult diapers, toiletries, and other small gifts for the residents at Pleasant View. After we’re done singing, we’ll gather for dinner, provided by the Christian Fellowship Committee, at the new home of Rick and Tammy Monarch, 9620 Watkins Road. And after that, we’ll let you enjoy the rest of the Holiday Season!

The committee will meet in early January to plan events for 2019. If you have suggestions for next year’s calendar, please let Becky know.

## Missions News

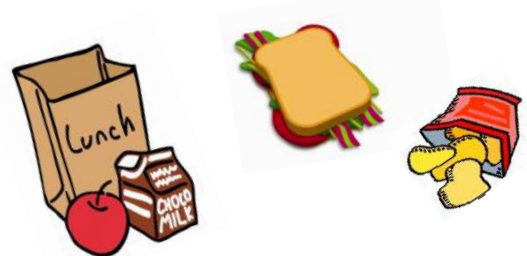
*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

The Holidays are here, and we have lots of opportunities to help our needy neighbors. We will collect adult diapers, toiletries, and assorted miscellaneous items (a list can be found in the vestibule) for the residents at Pleasant View Nursing Home. These goodies will be delivered when our carolers visit on December 9.

We are sponsoring four local families with Christmas gifts and food baskets, and we are asking for your help. You can purchase non-perishable food items using the tags in the basket in the vestibule. You can also donate toward the purchase of perishable food items. (See Jackie if you would like to donate in this way.) In addition, you can purchase a gift for a member (or members) of one of these four families. The tags with their wish list items are available in the vestibule. Remember to wrap your gifts and return them with these tags attached. All items are due back to church by Sunday, December 16.

Thanks for all you do to make our Missions Program a success!

**Please remember to restock your vehicles with Meals for the Homeless.**



**There are still plenty available in the vestibule to keep this ministry going within our community.**

## Christian Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Chair*

Since we began Sunday School this fall, we have been reading and learning about the disciples chosen by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are finding out interesting information about the lives and characters of these thirteen very ordinary, *yet very extraordinary*, men, which in turn causes us to ask more questions about them and their relationships with Jesus. So far, we have learned about Andrew being a brother to all of those he encountered, James as the leader he so wanted to be, Peter as the outspoken, impulsive one and Jesus's right-hand man, Philip, the thinker and planner of this special group, James the Less being younger and quieter than most, but none the less, still an equal, Simon the zealot and "rebel rouser," and Nathanael (also known as Bartholomew) as the questioner of this very special group.

As always, feel free to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Education Building, and please don't worry if you haven't read and studied beforehand, you can still join in on our very interesting, and often lively, discussions. We would love to have you join us!

On Sunday, December 23, we will be celebrating Christmas with breakfast during our Sunday School time as we learn about the legend of the poinsettia and how it adds to the Christmas story. Please let Tammy know what you would like to make and bring to add to our shared meal.

Our Sunday School wishes all of you and your families a Holiday Season filled with hope, peace, love, and joy — all the blessings of Christmas—and a very healthy and happy new year!

## Administrative Council Minutes

October 28, 2018

*In attendance: Bob Burke, Jackie Hottinger, Becky Lewis, Tammy Monarch, Rick Monarch, Terri Sherwood, Jim Kemp, Pastor Karen Davis, Mehrle Staley, Linda Chatterton.*

The agenda for this special meeting called after the worship service contained four items:

- The list of officers, prepared by the Lay Leadership Committee, was presented for review prior to our upcoming Church Conference on November 3. An electronic copy will also be circulated to all church members as well as be available for pick-up in the vestibule.
- Terri Sherwood presented our two pastors' salary and compensation packages on behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. As agreed on by the Charge SPRC, there will be no changes to these packages for our next calendar year 2019. Each church will continue to pay a one-fourth share. Terri motioned to approve the package for presentation at Church Conference, Rick Monarch seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.
- Terri reported that SPRC has completed its search for an office manager, and the position has been offered to Tammy Monarch, who has accepted, effective immediately.
- Budget requests for 2019 should be returned to Rick by noon on Monday, November 5.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

## Welcome to Our Newest Wesley Grove Church Family Members!

*On Sunday, October 28, all of us here at Wesley Grove were thrilled to receive two new members to our church family! They both have been coming here to worship and serve for several years, so many of us did not even realize that they hadn't already joined. But they have now, and we couldn't be more excited to have them with us!*

*In an effort to know them a little better, they each submitted these introductions about themselves. Please read these bios and welcome both **Marcus** and **Steven** into our family!*

**Marcus Hull** was born in Westminster and grew up in both Rockville and Germantown. He graduated from Seneca Valley High School in 1987 and then joined the U.S. Army that same year. In 1991, he transitioned back to civilian life and decided to attend Montgomery College, where he went on to pursue and eventually receive his degree in emergency medical services as a paramedic in 1997.

Marcus was then hired by the Montgomery County Police Department, and after a couple of years of service, he decided to move to the financial services industry in 2000. He has just completed his 19<sup>th</sup> year as a financial advisor with his company, RBC Wealth Management, where he is primarily located in the Frederick branch office.

Marcus has two children, Rileigh (who is a senior at Damascus High School) and Nicko (who is a freshman at DHS), and they currently live in both Damascus and Taylorsville. He, his long-time girlfriend, Susan Boyko, and his children enjoy traveling whenever the opportunity arises and doing things outdoors like hunting, fishing, and sports.

**Steven Arndt** and his identical twin brother, Craig, were born in Lancaster, California. His family moved four times before he started elementary school, but finally settled in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, where he became a Cleveland Indians' and

Browns' fan, and of course, a fan of THE Ohio State University.

Steven and his family attended Pheasant Hills United Methodist Church, where he was confirmed. He was active in the Boy Scouts all through school, became an Eagle Scout, and received My God and Country and Virgil Honor Awards. While in high school, he ran track, wrestled, and was active in the marching band and school orchestra. He attended The Ohio State University (also his father's alma mater) in Columbus, where he would eventually receive his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in engineering. He later attended the University of Maryland to get another masters in engineering. Steven describes himself as the typical nerd in college, complete with slide rule and the "Dungeons and Dragons" group of friends.

After college, he spent a few years working as a consultant in Ohio and teaching engineering at a small school in Georgia. In 1988, he moved to Silver Spring to take a position as a professor at the U.S. Naval Academy teaching mechanical and nuclear engineering. After a few years, it was clear that this position was not a good fit for Steven, so he left Annapolis to take a position at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. After working in Rockville for a couple of years, the NRC transferred him to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he worked for five years before moving back to this area, still with the NRC, and settling into his current home.

Throughout his professional career, Steven has been very fortunate to be able to travel extensively (more than 25 countries) and be active in many non-work related professional activities. One of these is working on the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers, the part of our state government that licenses engineers. Through this organization, he became involved with the Maryland Defense Force (an auxiliary to the Maryland National Guard), where he met the love of his life, his beautiful and talented wife, Linda. They were married just five years ago. They share a number of passions, including travelling, which they do as often as they can, and the love of good friends, which makes them feel very blessed to have become part of Wesley Grove, where everyone has made them feel at home.

## ***Christmas Greetings to Our Pastors!***

If you would like to wish our pastors a Merry Christmas either in words or gifts, please know that there will be two baskets in our vestibule — one marked with each pastor's name. We encourage you to write Pastor Karen and Pastor John a card or a note telling them how much you appreciate them and drop these in their Christmas baskets. In addition, if you love to bake and want to bake them something yummy, please do. All homemade gifts (soaps, ornaments, sewn items, jellies, pickles, etc.) will be loved and cherished. Other gift items could include candy, candles, gift cards, etc. This is up to you and your family. These filled baskets will be presented to both of our pastors at Christmas time.

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

We will once again be decorating our sanctuary with beautiful red poinsettias again this Christmas Season on Sunday, December 23. These flowers are available for purchase and may be presented to the church in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$10 per plant. Order forms will be inserted in our bulletins for the next several weeks. If you would like to buy one or more, please complete the order form, add your check or cash, and leave both in the office manager's mailbox. All orders must be placed by Sunday, December 16. You may take your poinsettias home anytime after the worship service on the 16<sup>th</sup>.



## **Holiday Crafts and Gifts**

We still have many items left from our Holly Days Craft Bazaar available for purchase. These items are on display in the youth room in our fellowship hall. If you would like to browse and/or purchase something, please let Tammy or Becky know, and they will gladly let you in and sell you as many items as you would like! Items include Christmas ornaments and decorations, cookie and soup mixes, hand-sewn kitchen linens, wooden snowmen, gingerbread boys, and pine trees, wreaths, knitted hats, and of course, gift baskets — all ready for gift giving.

So, if you are invited to a holiday open house, need a small gift for a co-worker, or just want something new for your own home, please come and check out our remaining items. We also have homemade soaps from the Lind family and handmade glassware and linens from the Johnson/Gray family available for purchase. All of these items will continue to be sold through the first of the new year.

## **Wanted: VBS Director**

The Education Committee is looking for a new Vacation Bible School Director for this coming summer. Please think about this and pray about this, and if you are feeling called, contact Tammy at 301-253-0044, and she will guide you through the first year's process of ordering supplies, organizing staff and materials, registering students and teen helpers, and decorating the hall to look like the African Serengeti. VBS 2019 is titled "ROAR for God!" and as you might have guessed, lions, rhinos, zebras, elephants, and giraffes will be our friends this summer!



Our Annual Holly Days Crafts Bazaar and Luncheon drew a huge crowd of shoppers to browse offerings from our thirty vendors, visit our Wesley Grove Holiday Gift Shop, and enjoy a delicious soup and sandwich lunch prepared by happy and smiling



The Holiday Gift Shop remains open throughout the month of December. See Tammy Monarch or Becky Lewis to make your purchases.





## *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

### Christmas Musical Cantata

**Sunday, December 16**

at both 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
in our sanctuary

*Please tell your family and friends to join us  
for the Story of the First Christmas  
told in lights, shadows, and beautiful music.*

## Community Tree Lighting

**Wednesday, December 5**  
at 6:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall  
Parking Lot

Followed by Refreshments Indoors

*Our Holiday Gift Shop will be open.*



## Christmas Eve Service

**Monday, December 24**

Family Service at 8:00 p.m.  
in our Sanctuary



Change your church directories...

## Becky Norwood

New  
Address!



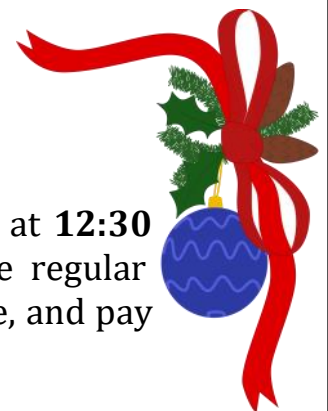
**706 Band Shell St.  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771**

**301-703-5977**

It's Holiday Time,  
and therefore, it is time for the Daytime Circle's  
**Annual Christmas Luncheon!**

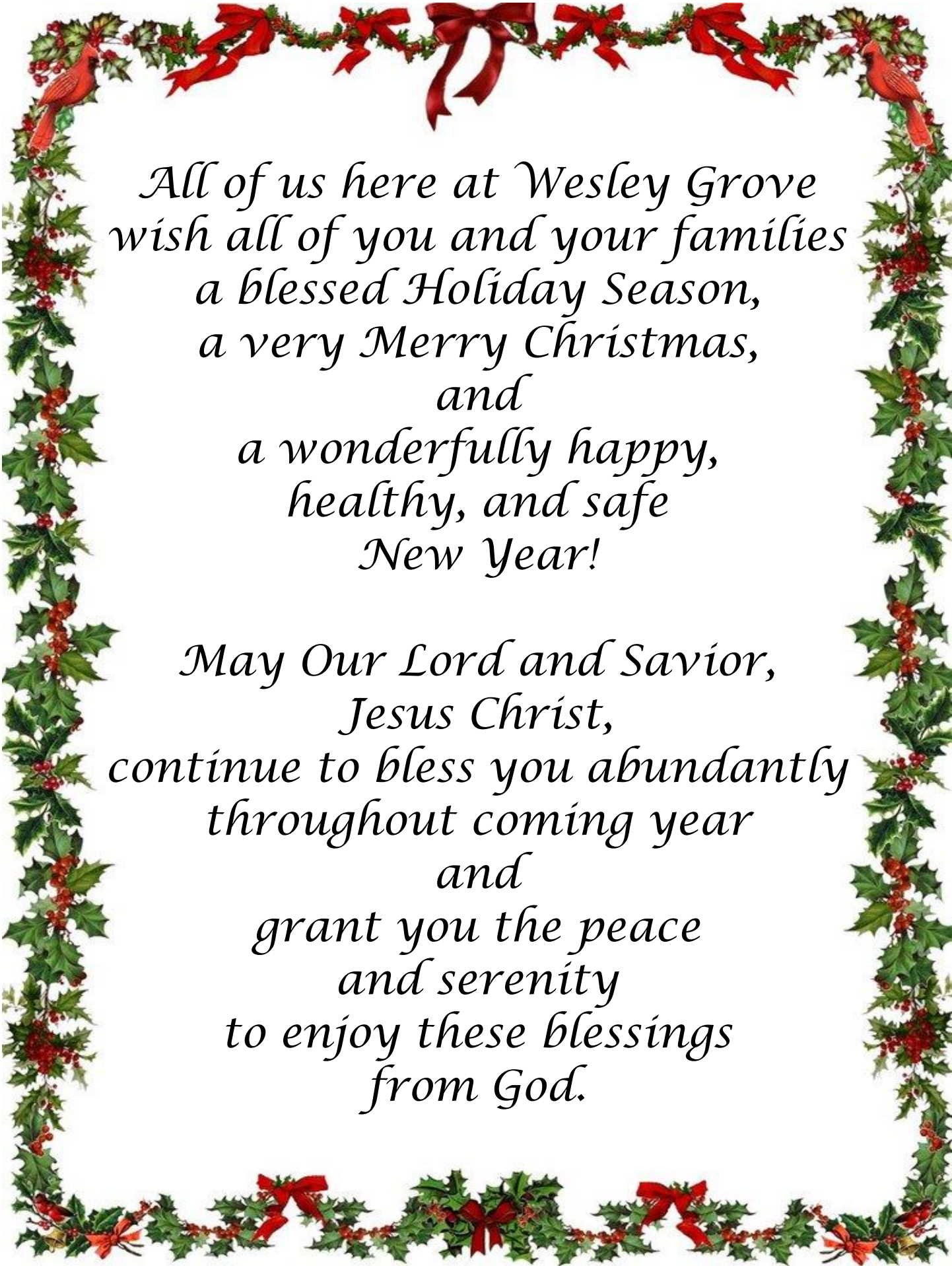
It will be held at the **Mt. Airy Tavern** on **Wednesday, December 5** at **12:30 p.m.**, and everyone is welcome to attend. We will order from the regular menu, which is available online if you wish to look at it ahead of time, and pay for our meals that day.

We do need to provide the restaurant with a head count beforehand, so that the dining room will be set up to accommodate all of us. Therefore, please let either Louise Burdette or Mary Jane Walter know if you plan to attend **by Sunday, December 2.**



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 - <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship with Communion</p>	3	4 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner 7:00 PM - Cantata Practice (actors)	5 12:30 PM - UMW Christmas Luncheon @ MA Tavern 6:30 PM - Tree Lighting Ceremony 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	6	7	1 4:00 PM - Christmas Party for Special Needs Friends
<p>9 - <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship 4:00 PM - Caroling and Holiday Dinner</p>	10	11 7:00 PM - Cantata Practice (actors)	12 7:00 PM - Choir and Actor Dress Rehearsal #1 for the Cantata	13	14 7:00 PM - Snow Date for Cantata Dress Rehearsal #1	15 10:00 AM - Choir and Actor Dress Rehearsal #2 for the Cantata
<p>16 - <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM &amp; 7:30 PM - Cantata</p>	17 <b>January Newsletter Deadline</b>	18 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	19 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	20	21	22
<p>23 - <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Breakfast 11:00AM -Worship</p>	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 8:00 PM - Family Worship Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> <i>to all of you!</i>	26	27	28	29
<p>30 - <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM -Worship</p>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>Happy New Year!!!</b> <i>May our Lord bless you richly throughout this coming year!</i>				



*All of us here at Wesley Grove  
wish all of you and your families  
a blessed Holiday Season,  
a very Merry Christmas,  
and  
a wonderfully happy,  
healthy, and safe  
New Year!*

*May Our Lord and Savior,  
Jesus Christ,  
continue to bless you abundantly  
throughout coming year  
and  
grant you the peace  
and serenity  
to enjoy these blessings  
from God.*



Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [office@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:office@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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

## *Christmas Events*

Wednesday, Dec. 5 —  
UMW Luncheon  
Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, Dec. 8 —  
Christmas Party for Friends with Special Needs

Sunday, Dec. 9 —  
Caroling and Holiday Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 16 —  
Christmas Cantata

Monday, Dec. 24 —  
Christmas Eve Service



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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