

# Wesley Grove Messenger

October 2020



*The Lord God Almighty said,  
“So now, go. Moses, I am sending you to Pharaoh  
to take my people, the Israelites,  
out of Egypt and into a new land  
flowing with milk and honey.”*

~~~ Exodus 3:8, 10 ~~~



The burning bush scene in the Book of Exodus is surely among the Top Ten best known Biblical stories. It has been immortalized in countless ways in our culture. An entire generation of Americans grew up with Cecil B. DeMille's rendition of it in the epic movie, "The Ten Commandments." For a younger generation of viewers, the scene has been animated by DreamWorks' "Prince of Egypt." You know the story...

Perhaps it was a Wednesday afternoon, as the sun burned hot in the sky over the desert of Midian. It was just another day, one of many tedious, boring days, that had been spent wandering through the wilderness in search of answers. In the shadows of his memory were thoughts of a life that had long since passed. He was no longer a "Prince in Egypt," but a poor shepherd on the backside of the desert, eking out an existence in the land where he had finally chosen to settle down. At least, here was some peace.

Moses really didn't miss the regalia of Egypt. The power, prestige, honor, and glory of Egypt was nothing more than a dream that had faded into oblivion because Moses knew, that somehow, he was where he needed to be. But where would he go from here? What plan for his life did God have in mind? Was this all there was? Would he simply live out the rest of his life tending sheep and living the life of a nomad in the desert country? I'm sure that Moses had many questions in his heart, and not a whole lot of answers. All he knew to do was to take the next step, live the next day, and wait for God to make the next move.

When Moses saw a bush that was burning, but not being consumed, his curiosity was piqued. He needed to know more. He needed to take a closer look. "When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, the Lord called him out of the bush." This is, perhaps, a small point, but when God set a bush ablaze, he didn't choose a bush right in front of Moses. It was within sight, but at enough distance that Moses would have had to go out of his way to explore it. And he did. And it was this *holy curiosity* that brought Moses to a wondrously burning bush, which turned out to be so much more.

We are called to look more closely. Listen more intently. Search out the nooks and crannies of the world around us, and hear the cry of people we might not normally hear. And then, set on fire, we do what God does and what He asks us to do. Bring on God's holy freedom – freedom from oppression, hatred, fear, sin, and even death itself.

The mission field isn't always right in front of us. Sometimes, we need to follow our instincts off the beaten path to get a closer look, and then, sometimes, we may just hear the grand and awesome Voice of God when we do.

*Pastor Karen*

# Lectionary Readings

**October 4, 2020**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19  
 Philemon 3:4b-14  
 Matthew 21:33-46

**October 11, 2020**  
 Exodus 32:1-14  
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
 Philemon 4:1-9  
 Matthew 22:1-14

**October 18, 2020**  
**Laity Sunday**  
 Exodus 33:12-23  
 Psalm 99  
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
 Matthew 22:15-22

**October 25, 2020**  
 Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
 Matthew 22:34-36



## October Birthdays

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 2 Louise Burdette | 21 Joyce King    |
| 3 Cooper Verner   | Abby Crawford    |
| 6 June Ward       | 25 Allan Snyder  |
| 9 Don Hobbs       | Mary Jane Walter |
| 16 Paul Eisenhaur | 30 Charlie Stone |
| 18 Tim Horner     |                  |
| Alicia Wilson     |                  |



## August 2020 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Apportionments                 | \$1,245.83        |
| Pastor's Salary                | \$1,434.84        |
| Associate Pastor's Salary      | \$0.00            |
| Pastor's Benefits              | \$709.38          |
| Pastor's Professional Expenses | \$0.00            |
| Church Secretary's Wages       | \$1,151.00        |
| Choir Director's Salary        | \$0.00            |
| Worker's Comp Insurance        | \$0.00            |
| Substitute Musician Payments   | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                  | \$57.26           |
| Capital Improvement            | \$0.00            |
| Grass Cutting Costs            | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs            | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary             | \$135.00          |
| Parsonage Expenses             | \$564.63          |
| Programs                       | \$407.00          |
| Office Expenses                | \$35.97           |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs   | \$883.26          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | <b>\$6,624.17</b> |

### Income

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections                   | \$7,091.00         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint       | \$2,042.92         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon      | \$1,478.31         |
| MoCo Public Health Emergency Grant   | \$10,000.00        |
| In and Out Income                    | \$0.00             |
| Rental Property Monthly Payment      | \$1,000.00         |
| Monthly Donation from Evening Circle | \$0.00             |
| Parsonage Expense Reimbursements     | \$1,674.52         |
| (from Salem and Mt. Tabor)           |                    |
| Miscellaneous                        | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                  | <b>\$23,286.75</b> |

## Worship Services

With the return of cooler temperatures, our weekly Sunday worship services will move back inside this month beginning on Sunday, October 4. Our worship time will remain at 10 am. We will also continue to livestream our services each Sunday morning on Zoom. Please join us there if you cannot be with us physically in the church sanctuary.



As always, if you are willing to participate in our worship services by reading the Scriptures, singing a solo/duet, playing an instrument, preaching a sermon, helping with the technology and livestreaming, etc., please let Tammy know at 301-253-0044. We would welcome help of any kind, especially on Sunday, October 18, which is Laity Sunday. This is the Sunday each year in the United Methodist Church when our members take over the worship service and our pastor can sit back, listen, meditate, and just enjoy the service.

Due to coronavirus restrictions and our determination to remain safe and healthy, you will notice that many safety precautions have been put in place when we are all gathered together in our church sanctuary. We ask that we all work together to follow these guidelines, which are listed to the right. Most make good common sense for all times, and all are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to help control the spread of this horrible virus. We all must do our part to keep each other well and healthy in the days and months ahead.

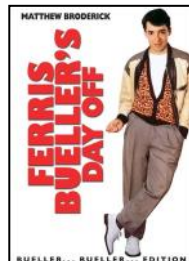
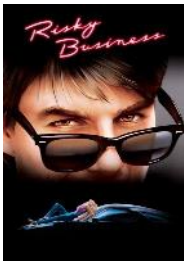
## Safety Guidelines

1. Wear a mask. *(Some will be available if you should forget yours or need a new one.)*
2. Avoid touching anything that is not absolutely necessary.
3. Touch doors, handles, and knobs only on the NanoSeptic sanitizing paper.
4. Stop at the dispenser and sanitize your hands as you enter the church.
5. Follow all social distancing signs and arrows.
6. Stand and sit at least six feet apart from other family units.
7. Know that there will be no ushers or greeters in the vestibule or during the service.
8. Refrain from shaking hands or hugging others.
9. Touch only your worship bulletin, not others in the pile.
10. Place your offering in the brass plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.
11. Sit as a family unit in the pews, choir loft, and vestibule *(if necessary)* near a blue X.
12. Do not sit in the pews that have been roped off.
13. Feel free to use the hymnals and Bibles in the pew racks.
14. Know that we will continue to use the small pre-packaged kits for communion. Please dispose of your empty cup and paper lid in a trash receptacle as you exit the church.
15. Refrain from singing the hymns, although humming is encouraged.
16. Follow all directions for sanitizing the restroom after using it.
17. Wait for the pastor to dismiss your row at the end of the service.
18. Do not linger in the vestibule or on the front porch.
19. Instead, socialize outside in the parking lot while remaining at least 6 feet apart.



## Family Movie Nights Continue

Join us on the evenings of Friday, October 2, 16, and 30 at 8 pm for a time to be together watching three age-old classics from the 1980's. The featured films will be "Top Gun," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," and "Risky Business." If the weather cooperates, we will be outside. If not, we will move into our fellowship hall dining room. We ask that you wear face masks and bring your own chairs and drinks. Snacks will be provided. Hope to see you all there!



**Due to virus restrictions**, many of the usual activities and events that we all enjoy in the fall will not occur this year. Please remove these from your calendars, and know that we hope to re-establish them in the coming year.

Our current cancellations include...

**October** — MoCo Fall Harvest Farm Festival

Fall Turkey & Oyster Dinner

Special Needs Halloween Party

**November** — Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon

**December** — UMC Christmas Luncheon  
Nursing Home Caroling and Dinner  
Christmas Cantata

## Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference for the whole South Damascus Charge will be held on Saturday, November 21 at 11 am. This year, all church conferences in the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held virtually, and we invite all of you to join us for this annual time to highlight our strengths with our District Superintendent JW Park.

To participate in this Zoom conference, you will need to preregister using this link —

[https://bwcumc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUudOCqgTotHNQIQx13Zb84sb\\_chBcV0pXi](https://bwcumc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUudOCqgTotHNQIQx13Zb84sb_chBcV0pXi)

Unfortunately, you will not be permitted to join this conference if you do not register in advance, so please do so now to ensure you

We know that these days can be tough in lots of different ways. If you need help with food, rides to doctor visits, depression, anxiety, etc., please call 301-253-0044 or email the church office at Wesleygrove208@verizon.net.

Our two pastors and office manager are here to help. We have a variety of resources available and access to many others. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us.



May our Almighty Lord continue to watch over and bless each of you and your families richly in these challenging times.

## Voting Information

Election Day is fast approaching on Tuesday, November 3, and your vote matters. If you are not currently registered to vote, it is not too late. The deadline for voter registration is Tuesday, October 13.

County Executive Marc Elrich continues to tell us that mail-in voting is the easiest and safest way to vote in Montgomery County. You can still request a mail-in ballot by texting the letters VBM to 77788 or by visiting either the County Board of Elections website at [777vote.org](http://777vote.org) or the Maryland State Board of Elections website at

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1>

The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, October 20.

If you have already requested a mail-in ballot, they are beginning to arrive now. Once you have completed your ballot, you can return it in one of two ways. You can simply drop it in the U.S. mail, or you can place it in one of about 40 drop boxes available around the County. Please know that these drop boxes are safe. They are being secured to protect your ballot from fraud, and they are not a transmitter of COVID-19. The two closest ones in our area will be located at Damascus High School on Ridge Road (there by October 17) and at the Damascus Recreation Center on Oak Drive (there now).



If you are a registered voter, you should have already received your sample ballot, but if not, you can access one here — [sample ballot](#).



## Flu Shots

If you haven't gotten one yet this fall, please do. All of the major health organizations are recommending that we all get them this year, and they are saying that October is the best month in which to get the shot. These vaccines are now readily available at your doctor's office, local pharmacy, and even in the grocery store. In most cases, they are free as most health insurance companies cover the cost, which is considered preventative care.

There is great concern this year that the symptoms of both the flu and the coronavirus can be so similar that folks who contract one of these diseases will not be able to determine which one it is until they are tested. Therefore, having had the flu shot will help you to know.

Many of you might also want to consider both the pneumonia and shingles vaccines as well. Talk to your doctor to determine if these are wise choices for you.

## You Are Invited...

- to be courageous,
- to be faithful,
- and
- to be a Christian.

Join us on Wednesday, October 7 as we begin to discuss what it means to be an Anti-Racist Church and how we might become one. We ask that everyone come with an open mind and a willingness to listen and discuss with Christ at the center of our beings. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tammy at 301-253-0044, so that we can plan for enough social distanced seating.

## Administrative Council Meeting

September 14, 2020

Meeting opened by Bob Burke at 7:34 pm.

### In Attendance:

Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Carol Stone, Becky Lewis, Steven Arndt, Linda Chatterton, Judy Hughes, Terri Sherwood

### Devotions:

Cathy shared from Hebrews 4:12-16: We shouldn't ignore God's truth. It is meant to touch the soul of ourselves, and Christ reminds us to believe in it. We should encourage, comfort, and pass on God's blessings to others daily.

### Prayer Requests:

- Kathryn Davis – pneumonia, back pain, pleurisy
- Betty Duvall – pinched nerve in her back
- Mike Sherwood – memory problems

### Good News Items:

- We are averaging 30 in combined physical and virtual attendance each Sunday.
- Our church family is remaining free of Covid-19.
- Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Becky and Brian today!

### Old Business:

- Defibrillator - Skip is looking in to purchasing another one to hang in the church.
- Summary of Saturday's Annual BWC Conference was provided by Steven...
  - + Annual Budget 2021 approved by those present.
  - \* About 96% of BWC churches have been able to pay their mission shares during this pandemic.
  - \* BWC reduced its annual budget spending by \$1,800,000.
  - \* BWC staff will not receive raises this year or next.
  - \* 7 BWC churches will close this year, including Mt. Carmel in Sunshine. Funds from the sale of these properties will return to the BWC.
  - \* All pastor pensions and health insurance plans remain fully funded.
  - \* BWC is providing some relief to its churches by waiving our pension and health insurance bills for Oct, Nov, and Dec.
    - + Anti-Racist Church discussion occurred, including...
    - \* 144 churches and individuals have already made the commitment.
  - \* Goal is for all BWC churches to sign this by May 22, 2021.

### Trustees:

Church Conference documents are complete for our property, parsonage, and insurance policies.  
 Our lawyer is currently reviewing the \$292,000 contract from American Tower to buy out pine tree cell tower lease.  
 Rick met with the Montgomery County health inspector at the hall in March. The results being that if we want to use all of our refrigerators at fundraiser dinners, we will need to replace the two white ones with commercial grade fridges. The same is true for our white freezer. Terri says that a single-door stainless steel commercial fridge should cost us about \$1600. We also need to replace shoe molding in the kitchen under the three sinks.  
 Jim met with the County Fire Inspector at the church earlier this month. We passed.  
 Jim is meeting a person tomorrow morning to clean out our deep fat fryers.

### Finance:

Our church finances are in good shape. Monetary giving has continued to be strong during this pandemic. We are currently in the process of setting up an online giving platform. More info on that will be coming.  
 2021 committee budget requests will be emailed out soon. Return them to Rick by 10/28.

### Christian Fellowship:

Family Movie Nights have been well received.  
 Mt. Tabor is having a carry-out only fried chicken dinner on 9/18.

### Missions:

We provided 7 backpacks filled with school supplies to Faith Connections in August.  
 We will not be filling food baskets at Thanksgiving for local needy families.  
 We might be supplying Christmas presents. Still awaiting info on this.

### Christian Education:

Karen and Tammy will work together to figure out how to continue our confirmation class.  
 Plans are in the works for a virtual adult Sunday School class.

### Worship:

Outdoor services have worked well this summer. Thanks to Rick, Brian, Josh, Becky, and Tammy for setting this up each Sunday.  
 Plans are in the works for a return to indoor worship starting in October. Lots of things need to be considered – seating, cleaning, singing, masking, etc.

### Communications:

FaceBook page and church website are being updated regularly.  
 Sending out lots of cards to ill, injured, isolated, and grieving folks.

### SPRC:

Recommendations for 2021 pastors' salary increases are 3% for Pastor Karen and 1% for Pastor YouJung. Salem can pay their 1/3 portion, but unfortunately, MT says that it can't. Therefore, we agreed to pay 2/3 of this increase (both our and MT's portions).  
 Steven shared that a 1.75% increase was approved for the BWC staff.  
 Rick recommended that Terri call DS Park and let him know that our charge is once again having difficulty with everyone paying a 1/3 portion. He needs to know this when he makes new pastoral placements for 7/1/21.  
 Several shared that they think the pastors could be doing more during these trying times to keep folks positive, encouraging us to have faith and courage, and reminding us all that God does indeed have a plan.

### Pastor's Report:

Karen shared that she has called some of the local churches to see what they are doing regarding the topic of racism in their churches.  
 The BWC Anti-Racist Church Commitment document has lots of new language in it. This will take some time to discuss, digest, decide, and act upon.  
 We decided to have an open racism conversation on 10/7 at 7 pm. All are invited.

### Next Meeting:

- Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 9.
- Devotions will again be provided by Cathy.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

# October 2020

| Sun                                                                                                                   | Mon                                            | Tue | Wed                                                                              | Thu | Fri                                        | Sat                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                       |                                                |     |                                                                                  | 1   | 2<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Movie<br>Night #7  | 3                                 |
| 4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i><br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion             | 5                                              | 6   | 7<br>7:00 PM—<br>First Discussion on<br>Racism                                   | 8   | 9                                          | 10                                |
| 11<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                                            | 12                                             | 13  | 14<br>3:00 PM—<br>Book Club Meeting<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual Task Force<br>Meeting | 15  | 16<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Movie<br>Night #8 | 17                                |
| 18 <i>Laity Sunday</i><br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service<br><b>Nov. Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b> | 19                                             | 20  | 21<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual Task Force<br>Meeting                                  | 22  | 23                                         | 24                                |
| 25<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                                            | 26<br>7:30 PM—<br>Board of Trustees<br>Meeting | 27  | 28<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual Task Force<br>Meeting                                  | 29  | 30<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Movie<br>Night #9 | 31<br><b>Happy<br/>Halloween!</b> |



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



## Enjoy a Safe and Healthy Halloween!

If you live in a neighborhood that usually has trick or treaters, health experts recommend...

- \* decorating your front yard with colored lights and scary scenes,
  - \* prepackaging small goody bags and leaving them out in a bowl on your front porch,
- and
- \* watching the little ghouls and goblins from your windows.

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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