


Wesley Grove **Messenger**

November 2020



*“Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines;
even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren;
even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,
I will still rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!
The Sovereign Lord is my strength!
He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.”*

~~~ Habakkuk 3:17-19 ~~~

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since the pandemic began back in March, time has flown so quickly. It's been almost eight months – spring is just a memory, summer is long gone, and fall is here. As I look back over these past eight months, I realize this pandemic has changed so many things in our lives. Our church buildings were closed for more than six months. We shifted our worship services from in-person to online. Then, we turned to outdoor worship services while still offering online worship at the same time. And just recently, we reopened our sanctuary and started to worship gratefully inside once again while adhering to the safety rules. This pandemic has changed how we worship, work, learn, and interact.

Unfortunately, many people have suffered during this time, either personally or by dealing with the health and economic problems of family, friends, and other loved ones. Since Covid hit us, our families, community, and country so hard and so badly, it could be challenging to find reasons to be thankful this year. But Habakkuk 3:17-19 reminds us that we are supposed to be thankful, regardless of our conditions, since God is unchanged and He provides salvation for us, always. Even in the midst of this storm, there are still so many blessings from God for which we are thankful.

November is regarded as the month of gratitude, and I invite all of you to count your blessings every single day this month. You may find that God has given you more than you think. If there are things that you have taken for granted and missed thanking God for, now is the time to remind ourselves of what they are and to thank our Lord for them. Take a little time each day to remind yourself for what you are grateful and write these blessings down on your calendar. Or jot them down on small pieces of paper, put them in a jar, and then read them aloud on Thanksgiving Day. Or just simply count your blessings while praying to God with a heart full of thanksgiving.

I hope each of you will take the time to count your blessings every day in November and ponder on them throughout the month. By doing this, you will find that God has, indeed, remained steadfast and unchanged, even in the midst of this pandemic, because He never ceases to love us and to be our salvation.

With grace and love,  
*Pastor YouJung*

## Lectionary Readings

### November 1, 2020

*All Saints Sunday*

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10,22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

### November 8, 2020

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

### November 15, 2020

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

### November 22, 2020

*Christ the King Sunday*

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

### November 29, 2020

*First Sunday in Advent*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



## November Birthdays

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 David Wilson    | 14 Marcus Hull     |
| 6 John Briggs     | 17 Jed Snow        |
| 11 Jay Swearingen | 18 Ron Benson      |
| 12 Lois Kemp      | 23 Brian Hottinger |
| 13 Mary Knox      | 28 Kelsey Kunkle   |
| Becky Lewis       | Jane Shaub         |



## September 2020 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Apportionments                 | \$1,245.83         |
| Pastor's Salary                | \$1,430.84         |
| Associate Pastor's Salary      | \$463.20           |
| Pastor's Benefits              | \$608.67           |
| Pastor's Professional Expenses | \$99.07            |
| Church Secretary's Wages       | \$1,052.25         |
| Choir Director's Salary        | \$0.00             |
| Worker's Comp Insurance        | \$39.00            |
| Substitute Musician Payments   | \$0.00             |
| Payroll Taxes                  | \$80.50            |
| Capital Improvement            | \$0.00             |
| Grass Cutting Costs            | \$1,485.00         |
| Groundskeeper Costs            | \$0.00             |
| Custodian's Salary             | \$300.00           |
| Parsonage Expenses             | \$1,271.75         |
| Programs                       | \$876.78           |
| Insurance                      | \$1,484.25         |
| Office Expenses                | \$94.96            |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs   | \$913.57           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | <b>\$11,445.67</b> |

### Income

|                                                                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections                                                                  | \$3,075.00         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint                                                      | \$2,042.92         |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon                                                     | \$1,478.31         |
| BWC Technology Grant                                                                | \$800.00           |
| In and Out Income                                                                   | \$0.00             |
| Rental Property Monthly Payment                                                     | \$1,000.00         |
| Monthly Donation from Evening Circle<br>(for 4 months — September through December) | \$1,200.00         |
| Parsonage Expense Reimbursements<br>(from Salem and Mt. Tabor)                      | \$1,674.52         |
| Miscellaneous                                                                       | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                                                 | <b>\$11,270.75</b> |

## Holiday Missions Project

*Judy Hughes, Chair*

As we all know, the Advent and Christmas Seasons are going to look a little different this year. Our usual gift buying for needy families in our community will be a little different too. Instead of buying and wrapping gifts for the individuals in each family, Faith Connections has asked us to purchase gift cards in \$25 increments. The adults in each family will receive grocery gift cards, and the children will receive ones to Walmart, Target, etc. that they can redeem for items that they need and want. Watch in our weekly bulletins for more information on this holiday giving project.

Thanks to all of you who donated pumpkin and apple foods for our two week October challenge! Now, we are being challenged again for the first two weeks in November to bring in foods that we typically think of as Thanksgiving foods — items made from cranberries and sweet potatoes. Think relishes, canned products, baking mixes, breakfast bars, etc. Please bring these foods to the small altar table in the vestibule on Sunday, November 8 and 15. They will then be delivered to Damascus HELP before Thanksgiving. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions!

## Notes from Our Discussion on Racism

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**In Attendance:** Pastor Karen Davis, Pastor YouJung Jung, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Carol Stone, Steven Arndt, Linda Chatterton, Judy Hughes, Joe Mallon, Mary Jane Walter, Joyce King, Henry King, Sally Swearingen, Mary Jo Smith

### Welcome - Pastor Karen

Philippians 4-9: *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone... God is*

*near... Whatever is pure, commendable, worthy of praise, think of these things. The God of Peace will be with you all.”* Let us all inhale God’s spirit and exhale God’s love. May the Spirit help us to find unity. Lord, let us hear your voice and internal wisdom. Open our hearts for your love and just to breathe. Amen.

Karen then read aloud our WG Mission Statement from our weekly bulletin.

### Definitions of Racism – Linda Chatterton

*Prejudice:* Pre-judgment about another person or groups of people (examples – Scouts, nerds in HS, professional athletes, gangs, Jehovah Witnesses).

*Discrimination:* An action based on a prejudice, such as ignoring, exclusion, threats, slander.

*Hatred:* An extreme dislike of someone or something, often resulting in violence.

*Racism:* In today’s world, this is a structure, not an event or an intention. This is backed by legal authority and institutional control. It doesn’t have anything to do with “good and bad.”

What people of color are experiencing is most often invisible to us as white people.

Today, as good Christians and followers of God, we need to define ourselves as *anti-racist* — meaning we need to educate ourselves, speak out when we see racial injustices in our world, and resist the racist systems and laws in our society. This is extremely challenging, but we are a moral and ethical people capable of moving forward and supporting that all lives matter.

A thought for us all to consider — *“Racism may not be my fault, but it is my responsibility to do something that will help promote positive social change.”*

**Open Discussion** occurred for about 45 minutes with most people in attendance adding to the conversation.

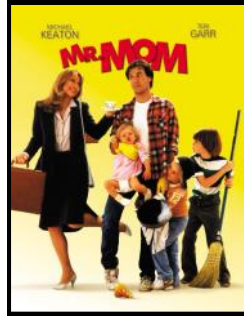
### Closure - Linda

Where do we want to go from here Do we want to make a motion to send something to our Ad Council? Are we ready for this, or do we need more time for exploration and discussion? The consensus was that we, as a church family, need more time to reflect, pray, discuss, and read over the BWC document, “Commitment to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church.”

### Closing Prayer – Pastor YouJung



## Family Movie Nights Continue



Join us on the evening of Friday, November 13 for a time to be together watching another age-old classic from the 1980s. The featured film will be "Mr. Mom," starring a very young Michael Keaton and Teri Garr. We will gather in our fellowship hall dining room at 8 pm. We ask that you wear face masks, and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you all there!



## 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. 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.

## 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 and to discuss any areas of need with our District Superintendent JW Park.

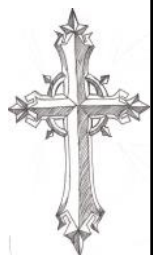
To participate in this Zoom conference, you will need to preregister using this link —

[https://bwcumc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUudOCqqTotHNQIQx13Zb84sb\\_chBcV0pXi](https://bwcumc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUudOCqqTotHNQIQx13Zb84sb_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 don't forget.

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.

## Advent Book Study

We will be hosting a book study during the four weeks of the Advent Holiday Season. We will meet and discuss the chapters of the book on Monday nights at the hall beginning at 7 pm. If possible, we will also livestream these book discussions on Zoom. Please let Pastor Karen or Tammy know by Sunday, November 15 if you will be joining us for this study. We want to make sure that we order enough books for everyone.



## Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas

Like so many other things, this too will be done differently this year. Instead of many of us gathering together on a Saturday morning to decorate our church, we will be completing this task in small family groups over a two-day period. We will begin on Friday, November 27 and continue on Saturday, November 28 until we finish. If you and your family members are willing to do a part of this job, please contact Sue Ketchum at 301-253-5864 and let her know which day(s) you are available, and then she will assign you a time and a job to complete. Thanks in advance for everyone's help to make our sanctuary glorious at Christmas time!

## Christmas Eve Worship

For those of you that like to plan ahead, please mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve worship service to begin at 9 pm. Due to social distancing and not wanting to overcrowd our sanctuary, we are asking folks to make reservations by calling Tammy at 301-253-0044. You will be assigned a seat, which will be marked with your family name. The service will also be livestreamed for those of you wishing to stay home and safely worship from there.



## Annual Tree Lighting

We will still host our annual outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony this year, but unfortunately to promote safety and social distancing, a few restrictions and changes will need to be in place. First, this event will only be for our church family, not for the whole community. Second, everything will be held outside, including refreshments. And third, we are changing the previously announced date to Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30 pm. We would love to have several readers and soloists as well as bakers and servers. Please let Tammy know if you are willing to fulfill any of these roles.

## Poinsettias



As usual, we still plan to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful red and white poinsettias on the Sunday before Christmas. Order forms for these flowers will be available in the next newsletter.

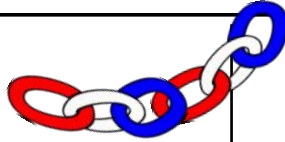
## Holiday Bake Sale



Our sister church, Mt. Tabor UMC, is planning a holiday bake sale fundraiser. They will be selling bags of a dozen cookies for \$5.00 and 3"x5" loaves of bread for \$4.00. Cookie flavors include chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, and snickerdoodle. Bread flavors include pumpkin and cranberry. All purchases must be pre-ordered by Saturday, November 28. Call 301-253-3871 or text 301-401-8105. Pickup will be on Saturday, December 5 from 10 am until 12 pm.

## Be WE, Not ME

*Contemporary Thoughts  
from Frank Miller*



Christians all read the Bible, though for different reasons and at different times — to gain solace and hope through the Gospels, for social lessons and encouragement from the Epistles. And to understand the evils of Satan and other threats, we focus on the history of how our forefathers and mothers faced them in the Old Testament.

There is no better time to read the Old Testament than now, since we seem to be in an OT fight with the descendants of Babylon, Sodom, and Gomora, all trying to create the societal chaos of “ME.”

ME is a dangerous attitude, and ME has no empathy. So, why is it so much trouble?

ME is fun – for me - and you don’t matter.

The problem comes when you realize that to fight ME, you have to become ME, and you slide into the same zero-sum game attitude of ME:

- for survival
- for retribution
- for self-satisfaction
- for ME, because it *is* always about ME, right?

The only way to escape from this downward spiral of ME, ME, ME is to re-instill an attitude of WE, that will recognize and empathize with others. But WE must be very careful not to create competing WE’s.

WE must avoid creating the conditions for WE-THEY, which is just an extension of ME.

WE must stop fighting, and start talking. Better yet, start helping and healing under the concept of WE, in its broadest sense.

WE use an open hand to pull up, not slap down.

WE clinch a fist in determination, not anger.

WE build, not break.

WE combine, not divide.

WE invite, not ostracize.

WE don’t use religion as a reason to hate, nor do WE disguise hate as religious.

WE assume noble intentions.

The modern world has never really escaped from the wars, politics, intrigues, and deceptions of the Old Testament. It is the most widely read and worshiped religious text in the world, with three major religions based on its historical figures. Even with the lessons of Jesus, Christians have generally failed at moving on from the draw of the Old Testament. We still fight each other and treat others’ faiths with contempt.

Christians are not unique in this failure to follow God’s intentions. Jews fight Jews over how to be Jewish. Muslims are so split that they might as well not even try to stay together. Buddhists slaughter each other over the color of their robes, while Hindus created a warrior caste to protect their priests from their own followers.

Yet all of them — these religions— include the teachings of love and hope and empathy for others.

In describing this phenomena within our secular society, *Washington Post* columnist George Will wrote sometime in 2020 about an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish philosopher, José Ortega y Gasset, who dealt with his version of WE called the “mass man.” In his 1932 book, *The Revolt of the Masses*, he described the mass man as one who does not “appeal from his own to any authority outside him. He will tend to consider and affirm as good everything he finds within himself: opinions, appetites, preferences, tastes.” He concludes that the end result is barbarism, which he defines as “the absence of standards to which appeal can be made.” A barbarian exercises “the right to be unreasonable” and will, without need to provide a reason, simply impose his opinion on everything. George Will concluded that “the Barbarians are not at America’s gate. There is no gate.”

Where have we all gone wrong?

I contend that another great philosopher, Flip Wilson, got it right with his famous line, “The Devil made me do it.” It is the Devil in ME, who resides in each of us to varying degrees. I can’t change your Devil in ME, only you can. You can’t change my Devil in ME, only I can.

So, will we, as individuals, throw out ME for WE?

Can we accept others, not seeing them as THEY?

For if we can’t, let us remind ourselves of these words from an earlier time in our country’s history — WE will fall divided.

# November 2020

| Sun                                                                                                                                        | Mon                                                | Tue | Wed                                                                                                  | Thu                                                 | Fri                                                               | Sat                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <b>All Saints Day</b><br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion—<br><i>Daylight Savings Time Begins.</i> | 2<br>7:30 PM—<br>Finance Committee<br>Meeting      | 3   | 4<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual Task Force<br>Meeting                                                       | 5                                                   | 6                                                                 | 7                                                                                                       |
| 8<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                                                                  | 9<br>7:30 PM—<br>Administrative<br>Council Meeting | 10  | 11                                                                                                   | 12                                                  | 13<br>8:00 PM—<br>Family Movie<br>Night featuring<br>“Mr. Mom”    | 14                                                                                                      |
| 15<br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                                                                 | 16                                                 | 17  | 18<br>3:00 PM—<br>Book Club Meeting<br>at Linda’s house<br>7:30 PM—<br>Virtual Task Force<br>Meeting | 19<br><b>December Newslet-<br/>ter<br/>Deadline</b> | 20                                                                | 21<br>11:00 AM—<br>Virtual Church<br>Conference on<br>Zoom— <i>Remember<br/>to pre-register.</i>        |
| 22 <b>Christ the King<br/>Sunday</b><br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                               | 23<br>7:30 PM—<br>Board of Trustees<br>Meeting     | 24  | 25                                                                                                   | 26<br><b>Happy<br/>Thanksgiving!</b>                | 27<br>All Day—<br>Decorate Sanctu-<br>ary for Advent              | 28<br>All Day—<br>Decorate Sanctu-<br>ary for Advent<br>10 AM – 12 PM—<br>Bake Sale Pick-Up<br>at MTUMC |
| 29 <b>First Sunday<br/>of Advent</b><br>10:00 AM—<br>Physical and Virtual<br>Worship Service                                               | 30<br>7:00 PM—<br>Advent Book Study                | 1   | 2<br>7:30 PM—<br>Outdoor Tree Light-<br>ing Ceremony                                                 | 3                                                   | 4<br>8:00 PM—<br>Holiday Movie<br>Night featuring<br>“Home Alone” | 5                                                                                                       |

 **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)

**Count your blessings  
and  
remember to thank  
our Lord**



**for  
He  
is  
good.**

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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