

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

January 2021

*“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; and now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

~~~ Isaiah 43:18-19 ~~~



**Happy  
New Year!**

Greetings in Christ, My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last year, we experienced drastic changes in our lives in so many ways due to the pandemic. It was a painful and stressful year for many people, but we were also able to find the good things that God brought out during this health crisis. It was indeed a time of suffering and uncertainty, but at the same time, we had more opportunities to give thanks and to find that God is our one and only hope. It was a time for us to lament and rejoice together. 2020 will always be an unforgettable year for all of us.

However, as we enter into this new year, we do not want to let it become a unending treadmill like last year. Nor do we want just to sit back and remain in the past. Our story has not ended. God's renewing work is still going on. Isaiah 43:19 reminds us not to dwell on the past. Instead of focusing on everything that has gone wrong, we need to ask God how He will use our failures and regrets to improve the future. We should joyfully expect God's power to turn our time of failure and regret into one of strength and success in this new year.

We should look forward to 2021 with hope. We should anticipate all the amazing things God will do because He is already at work doing these new things for all of us. And we should know that the best is yet to come.

I hope we all take some time to pray and plan for this new year. We may want to pray that 2021 becomes a year in which we can experience more profound and real intimacy with God. We should pray to ask Him to open our eyes and ears widely to see and hear the great and marvelous things He will do in our lives next.

God is already at work doing new things for us, and He is doing things that may seem impossible to us, but He can get them done. So, as we enter into 2021, do not be afraid of the changes in our lives. Just know that He will go before us and prepare a way for us, and know that God will take care of us.

*I Wish All of You a Happy New Year Filled with Many, Many Blessings!*

*Pastor YouSung*

# Lectionary Readings

**January 3, 2021**

***Epiphany Sunday***

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

**January 10, 2021**

***Baptism of the Lord***

Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 19:1-7  
 Mark 1:4-11

**January 17, 2021**

***Human Relations Day***

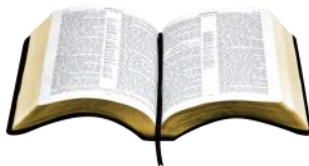
1 Samuel 3:1-20  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

**January 24, 2021**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

**January 31, 2021**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28



Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer to serve as our liturgist during a Sunday morning worship service.



## November 2020 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Apportionments                               | \$1,245.83        |
| Pastor's Salary (1/3 of Total Salary)        | \$1,430.84        |
| Assoc. Pastor's Salary (1/3 of Total Salary) | \$463.20          |
| Pastor's Benefits                            | \$0.00            |
| Pastor's Professional Expenses               | \$21.58           |
| Church Secretary's Wages                     | \$1,105.63        |
| Choir Director's Salary                      | \$0.00            |
| Workers' Compensation Insurance              | \$34.03           |
| Substitute Musician Payments                 | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                                | \$87.26           |
| Capital Improvement Costs                    | \$0.00            |
| Gross Cutting Costs                          | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs                          | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary                           | \$472.25          |
| Parsonage Expenses                           | \$245.61          |
| Programs                                     | \$382.38          |
| Insurance                                    | \$0.00            |
| Office Expenses                              | \$42.77           |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs                 | \$723.62          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        | <b>\$6,255.00</b> |

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### Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,960.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,042.92
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,478.31
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$1,674.52
(from Salem UMC and Mt. Tabor UMC)	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,155.75</b>

## Missions News

*Judy Hughes, Chair*

Our Missions Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Faith Connections Holiday Family Giving Program. We collected enough in monetary donations to cover all of the needed gift cards plus to make a very nice donation to Damascus HELP, which that organization used to buy food for additional needy families living within our community. All of these gifts helped local families to celebrate a very merry Holiday Season. Thanks again to all of you who contributed!

We will continue to collect all types of food for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry, including but not limited to peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese mixes, stuffing mixes, canned vegetables (especially those other than green beans and corn), and diapers (especially the larger sizes of 4-6).

In addition, for the month of January, we will have a special emphasis on collecting cans of soup. Let's challenge ourselves to see how many cans we can collect as a church family in just 31 days, following this schedule...

Week 1 — A-F Soups (*alphabet, bean...*)

Week 2 — G-L Soups (*gumbo, lentil...*)

Week 3 — M-R Soups (*mushroom, potato...*)

Week 4 — S-Z Soups (*tomato, vegetable...*)

Our goal is to collect at least 25 cans per week for a total of at least 100 cans of soup to donate to Damascus HELP in early February. Thank you in advance for helping us to reach this goal!



## January Birthdays



11 Betty Duvall  
15 Delaney Hagy  
16 Brian Lewis  
20 Lewis Burdette  
30 Joe Mallon

## Christmas Books and DVDs

If you borrowed any of these items from our mini-library during the month of December, please be sure to return them to the church vestibule by January 15. At that time, all books and movies will be returned to their owners. Thanks to all of you who loaned items to our holiday library!



## Are You in Need of Help?

*need help?*

This pandemic and time of isolation has made us all weary, fearful, and anxious in lots of different ways. If you need help with food, rides to doctor visits, utilities, 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 at any time.

We ask that our Almighty Lord continue to watch over and bless each of you and your families in these difficult times.



## Family Movie Nights

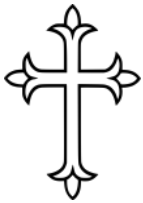


Join us at the hall on two Friday evenings in January for two all-time family comedy classics:

\* *Home Alone 2* — 1/8

\* *Throw Momma from the Train* — 1/22

Both movies will begin at 7:30 pm. Remember to wear your face masks. Popcorn and other snacks will be provided. Hope to see some of you there!



## Worship News

For the winter months, our Sunday worship services will only be livestreamed on Zoom at 10 am. There will not be in-person worship. Based on the latest guidelines from our Bishop, Governor, and County Executive, our Re-Entering Well Task Force thought this would be the safest alternative for our congregation.

Once spring arrives in March or April, we will re-evaluate our situation based on the weather conditions, the possibility of returning to outdoor worship, the increases or decreases in Covid cases, and the number of vaccinated individuals within our community.

In the meanwhile, we would love for folks to volunteer to read, sing, and/or play during our worship services. This can be streamed from the Sanctuary or from the safety of your own home. Please let Tammy know if you are willing to volunteer in one of these ways.

## Fellowship Opportunity

As human beings and as Christians, we need to interact, and to talk, and to share with others. Thus, one of the main things that we are all missing during this period of isolation is time to socialize and just be with our church family.

To help solve this problem and bring us all back together in just a fun and friendly way, we are going to host some Wednesday night fellowship hours on Zoom. During these times, you and your spouse can choose to join some of us to just catch up, chat, see some faces that you've been missing, and hopefully add a few smiles and laughs to all our lives.

We will host two of these virtual events in January on Wednesday, January 13 and on Wednesday, January 27. Both will begin at 7:30 pm and last about an hour. Feel free to join us for all or part of this time. We hope to see you there!

*Announcing the Birth of...*

**Charlie Reed Haas**

November 9, 2020

Proud Parents -

Travis and Tayler Haas of Chesapeake, VA

Prouder Grandparents -

Neal and Teri King of Damascus, MD

Proudest Great-Grandparents -

Henry and Joyce King of Mt. Airy, MD

*Charlie is Henry and Joyce's 7th great grand-*



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>May you be blessed with good health and happiness in 2021!</i>	2
3 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service with Holy Communion on Zoom	4 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	5	6 7:30 PM— Virtual Re-Entering Well Task Force Meeting	7 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at Linda's House	8 7:30 PM— Family Movie Night showing "Home Alone 2"	9
10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service on Zoom	11 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	12	13 7:30 PM— Virtual Church Family Fellowship Hour	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service on Zoom	18 <i>Deadline for February newsletter submissions</i>	19	20 7:30 PM— Virtual Re-Entering Well Task Force Meeting	21	22 7:30 PM— Family Movie Night showing "Throw Momma from the	23
24 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service on Zoom	25 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	26	27 7:30 PM— Virtual Church Family Fellowship Hour	28	29	30
31						

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)



**Happy  
Newyear**

May the Good Lord  
bless each of you  
and your families  
richly in 2021  
with good health  
and happy times!

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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