

Wesley Grove Messenger

May 2021

*Our mouths were filled with laughter; our tongues with songs of joy.
Then, it was said among all the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."*

~~~ Psalm 126:2-3 ~~~



**LOL**

*(Laugh Out Loud)*



Laughter is a gift from God for sure. God wants His children to laugh and to be happy. There are so many Bible verses in which God wants us to laugh and be joyful. The well-known verse from Philippians 4:4 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice!" And Psalm 32:11 tells us, "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart."

Moreover, God put laughter into Sarah when He gave her a son at such a very old age – her precious Isaac, whose very name means "he will laugh." Sarah confessed that God made her laugh when He presented her with such a special gift, and all who heard her good news laughed with her.

We all know that laughter is good for our health. Laughing can strengthen our immune systems, boost our moods, diminish our pain, and even protect us from the damaging effects of stress. Laughter sounds like the best medicine ever. Even Proverbs 22:17 tells us that "a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." God grants all of us this precious gift of laughter, which has the power to heal, renew, and enhance our physical, mental, and emotional health. Laughing is an amazing gift *and* the best medicine. It is also free, fun, and easy to use. Our Loving God takes good care of all our physical, mental, and emotional needs. Laughter is, indeed, a gift from God.

Although, nowadays, it often seems there is nothing much to laugh about. Life with Covid and so much uncertainty in our world makes it so tough that anxiety and sadness can come upon us all of a sudden. The world appears to become more and more chaotic and dangerous daily, and it's filled with almost unsolvable problems. All of these things, including our own personal troubles, weigh us down with pain, anxiety, depression, and even anger. Although we should not ignore our sorrows, our pain, and the ugliness of the world, it is very important for us to remember the gifts of laughter and joy that God sends into our lives. He truly really wants us, His Children, to be happy.

So, have faith, stay cheerful and positive, and don't let our own problems and the tribulations of this world pull us down with negative feelings. Look closely and recognize the daily joys that God brings into our lives, and actually laugh out loud with and within God, our Father, who wants us all to be happy and to enjoy our lives!

In God's peace,  
Pastor YouJung

# Lectionary Readings

**May 2, 2021**

Acts 8:26-40  
 Psalm 22:25-31  
 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:1-8

**May 9, 2021**

*Mother's Day*  
 Acts 10:44-48  
 Psalm 98  
 1 John 5:1-6  
 John 15:9-17

**May 13, 2021**

*Ascension Day*  
 Acts 1:1-11  
 Psalm 47  
 Ephesians 1:15-23  
 Luke 24:44-53

**May 16, 2021**

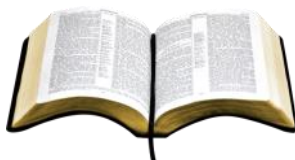
*Ascension Sunday*  
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
 Psalm 1  
 1 John 5:9-13  
 John 17:6-19

**May 23, 2021**

*Day of Pentecost*  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-35  
 Romans 8:22-27  
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**May 30, 2021**

*Trinity Sunday*  
 Isaiah 6:1-8  
 Psalm 29  
 Romans 8:12-17  
 John 3:1-17



## March 2021 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

|                                                 |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BWC Mission Share                               | \$1,413.58        |
| Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)           | \$1,473.76        |
| Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary) | \$389.86          |
| Church Secretary's Wages                        | \$1,128.50        |
| Choir Director's Salary                         | \$0.00            |
| Worker's Compensation Insurance                 | \$0.00            |
| Payroll Taxes                                   | \$86.33           |
| Capital Improvement Costs                       | \$0.00            |
| Grass Cutting Costs                             | \$0.00            |
| Groundskeeper Costs                             | \$0.00            |
| Custodian's Salary                              | \$210.00          |
| Programs                                        | \$179.39          |
| Property Insurance                              | \$1,484.25        |
| Administrative Expenses                         | \$121.44          |
| Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses            | \$368.44          |
| Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses         | \$29.57           |
| Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost        | \$286.67          |
| Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution       | \$313.18          |
| Trustees - Maintenance Costs                    | \$1,045.75        |
| Miscellaneous Church                            | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                           | <b>\$8,530.72</b> |

### Income

|                                             |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Collections                          | \$4,535.00        |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint              | \$2,042.92        |
| Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon             | \$1,522.66        |
| Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year | \$0.00            |
| In and Out Income                           | \$0.00            |
| Rental Property Monthly Payment             | \$1,000.00        |
| Miscellaneous                               | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                         | <b>\$9,100.58</b> |

## Worship & Meeting Updates

We have great news to share! Beginning this Sunday, May 2, we will once again sing our beloved hymns during our 10 am worship services. The CDC has announced that as long as we remain masked, conditions appear to be safe for us to raise our voices together in praise and sing out loud to our Almighty God. As a congregation that loves music and singing, we are so very thankful for this return to our previous life. Please remember that you must continue to wear your mask over your mouth **and** your nose and maintain social distance while inside the church building.

We also have another exciting change that also begins this Sunday. Immediately after the service, please go directly outside as usual, and if you then wish to remove your mask to socialize, you may. Pastors and liturgists will also have the choice of whether or not to wear masks while they are reading or speaking during the service.

And finally, socially distanced committee meetings may resume in-person inside the hall **with masks** or outside at the picnic tables **without them**. We suggest that outdoor meetings begin at 7 p.m. rather than 7:30 p.m. Please contact Tammy if you wish to schedule a meeting for your committee within the next few months. Many have not met since early 2020.

If you have not checked your church mailbox in a while, please do so soon as a few have mail in them that has been there for some time. When you do, please note that all boxes have been relabeled, and some have moved due to the changing of positions and additions/deletions to our committee roster.



## May Birthdays

4 Marne Hughes Rammling  
 5 Judy Hughes  
 6 Cherie Morris  
 7 Donnie Hottinger  
 9 Susie Cooper  
 10 Lou Lynagh  
 11 Karen Davis  
 14 Jeff Lewis  
 21 Sue Ketchum  
     Frank Miller  
 25 Clark Kunkle



**Congratulations  
 and  
 Best Wishes  
 to**

**Joel & Alba Ketchum  
 on the Birth of their Son**

**Ian Alexander**

**on Friday, April 23 at 1:08 pm**

Ian weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz.  
 and measured 18 inches long.

His grandparents, Sue and Skip, are thrilled that he has joined their family!



## Graduates within Our Church Family

*These young people are graduating from high schools and colleges this spring, and we want to celebrate them all...*

**Benjamin Robert Allman** will graduate from Damascus High School on Friday, June 4. Ben plans to attend Salisbury State University, but at this time, he is unsure as to what his major will be. He plans to work locally and vacation with his family this summer before starting college in the fall. Congratulations to you, Ben, and to your parents, Steve and Karen, and to your very proud grandmother, Suzie Diddle!

**Michael Albert Mirani**, the son of Andre and Jenni, will also graduate from Damascus High School on June 4. He performed exceptionally well in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT), an invitation-only, certificated, four-year program at DHS. He is passionate about computer design and programming; thus, he plans to major in those areas at Montgomery College, where he will begin in the fall. Congratulations and best wishes, Michael, for your future college experience!

Also, graduating from Damascus next month is **Jack Lee Oliver**. His parents, Jim and Mindy, are thrilled that he has chosen to attend their alma mater, the University of Maryland, in the fall. He has been accepted into the Robert H. Smith School of Business and plans to major in business administration and business/management information systems. Jack is a student athlete, an AP Scholar, and graduates with more than 240 community service hours as well as a certificate from the AOIT. During this summer, he plans to continue working at The Red Rooster and vacation in Hawaii with his family. Much success to you, Jack, in all that you do!

**Lillian Elise Davis Hagy**, known to all of us as Lily, is graduating from Loch Raven High School in Towson during the last week of May. She decided herself to speed things up by taking extra classes online and in the summers, so that she would be able to graduate one year early. Her parents, Pastor Karen and Steve, are, of course, very proud of her and her accomplishments. Congratulations and best wishes, Lily!

**Pastor YouJung Jung** also graduates this spring on Monday, May 10 from the Wesley Theological Seminary in NW Washington, DC. She has taken courses, studied, and served as a student pastor all to prepare her to receive her Master of Divinity degree. During her four years there on campus, she also worked in the Admissions Office to help new and prospective students learn about the school and its programs. In addition, she happily agreed to play the piano whenever the school or praise team asked that of her. She is extremely thankful for her WG church family, which mentored and supported her with prayer and understanding along the way. Pastor YouJung, we are all so very happy for you as you earn this graduate degree, and we're excited to have been part of your Christian journey!

*All of us at Wesley Grove want to wish these young men and women many congratulations and much success as they move forward with their educations, careers, and all of their future endeavors. Best wishes to all of them, and may our Gracious Lord continue to bless them each and every day!*



## Dinner and a Movie!



On Friday, May 7, we will once again gather in the hall (with our masks on, of course!) to view a family-friendly movie. This time, our featured film will be "Home Alone 2." We will begin the movie at 8 pm, and refreshments will be provided. Please let Tammy know if you plan to attend, so that we can set up enough socially distanced seats for everyone to remain safe and well.



On that same evening, Mt. Tabor UMC will host a carry-out fried chicken dinner fundraiser from 4-8 pm. All dinners include four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a roll and cost \$15. Placing your orders in advance at 301-253-3871 is recommended although drive-up ordering is certainly possible. If you want to pick up your dinners and then join us at the hall to eat them together, please let Tammy know. We will plan to eat at 6:30 pm, and beverages will be provided.

## The Ascension of Christ

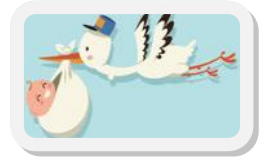


Jesus rose to Heaven forty days after His Resurrection.

In the United Methodist Church, we will recognize His Ascension this year on Sunday, May 16.

To honor this miracle, please wear white to church on this day.

Announcing...



The Birth of

**David Asher Black**

On Friday, April 23

David is the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of Sarah and David Black of Lander, WY and the 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild of Wayne and Dawn King.

And he makes the 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild of very proud great-grandparents, Henry and Joyce King.

**Congratulations to the whole King Family!**



**Pentecost**  
and  
**the Birth of the Church**  
are coming!

Please remember to wear the colors of flames - **red, orange, and yellow** - on Sunday, May 23 to celebrate this birthday!

## Looking Ahead...



Each day, life in our world looks a little brighter, a little safer, and a little better.

As the number of Covid vaccines increases and the number of recommended Covid restrictions decreases in both our county and our state, we at WG are beginning to make plans for our future.

Sue Ketchum, the chairperson of our Worship Committee, will soon be sending a questionnaire to all of our previous choir members asking if you are interested in continuing to sing with our chancel choir and also asking if you have any particular requests in a new music director, whom we are hoping to hire possibly in the fall or early winter.

Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet in June to begin making plans for the hiring of this new music director. If you have any suggestions or thoughts to share on this topic, please contact the chairperson, Terri Sherwood, at 301-785-1563.

The Fellowship Committee would like you to put these tentative dates on your calendars for this fall...

Saturday, September 11 — Community Yard Sale from 9 am to 2 pm

Sunday, September 19 — Annual Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic

Let's all continue to hope, pray, and have faith that our Good Lord will see us through these dark and difficult times. He is definitely moving us in that direction for the light at the end of the tunnel is, indeed, within sight!



## Giving to the Church

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone who has continued to give to the Church during these past 14 months. Donations have arrived in a variety of ways — through the mail, dropped off into the black mailbox on the porch, placed in the offering plate, left on the office manager's desk, and literally deposited in her hands at her front door.

We appreciate each and every one of these tithes and treasures — big and small. We also greatly appreciate all the talents of you who have them to give — painting, power washing, contacting banks and vendors, ordering supplies, playing bells, selecting music, decorating the Sanctuary, meeting contractors, etc. It's you — our generous members — who have always, and will always, keep this church going.

We are excited to announce two new electronic ways to give financially!

First, you can click here — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/wesleygrove> to give a one-time gift or to set up a recurring weekly, biweekly, or monthly gift that will automatically arrive in our bank account from yours.

Second, you can text this phone number — 301-720-0138 — to give as you wish.

If you should experience any trouble with either method, please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to let her know, so she can contact our electronic giving company and work out any kinks, if necessary.

Again, we are very thankful for all of you and for all that you have to give to promote the Glory of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, here in His Earthly Kingdom. May our Lord bless each of you and your gifts this day and every day.

# May 2021



| Sun                                                                                                     | Mon                                                           | Tue                                                               | Wed                                           | Thu                                                                                                                             | Fri                                                                                | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                         |                                                               |                                                                   |                                               |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                    | 1   |
| 2<br>10:00 AM—<br>Communion Wor-<br>ship Service in the<br>Sanctuary and via<br>Zoom                    | 3<br>7:30 PM—<br>Finance Committee<br>Meeting (in-person)     | 4                                                                 | 5                                             | 6                                                                                                                               | 7<br>4-8 PM - MTUMC<br>Chicken Dinner<br>8:00 PM—<br>Movie Night<br>“Home Alone 2” | 8   |
| 9 <i>Mother’s Day</i><br>10:00 AM—<br>Worship Service in<br>the Sanctuary and<br>via Zoom               | 10<br>7:30 PM—<br>Administrative Coun-<br>cil Meeting         | 11                                                                | 12<br>7:30 PM—<br>Fellowship Hour<br>via Zoom | 13<br><i>Ascension<br/>of<br/>Our Lord</i>                                                                                      | 14                                                                                 | 15  |
| 16 <i>Ascension</i><br>10:00 AM—<br>Worship Service in<br>the Sanctuary and<br>via Zoom—<br>wear white. | 17<br>Charter Boat Fishing<br>Trip on the Ches-<br>apeake Bay | 18<br><i>Deadline for<br/>June<br/>Newsletter<br/>Submissions</i> | 19                                            | 20                                                                                                                              | 21                                                                                 | 22  |
| 23 <i>Pentecost</i><br>10:00 AM—<br>Worship Service—<br>wear red or orange.                             | 24<br>7:30 PM—<br>Board of Trustees<br>Meeting (in-person)    | 25                                                                | 26                                            | 27<br>3:00 PM—<br>Book Club Meet-<br>ing<br> | 28                                                                                 | 29  |
| 30 <i>Trinity Sunday</i><br>10:00 AM -<br>Worship Service in<br>Sanctuary & Zoom                        | 31<br><i>Memorial<br/>Day</i>                                 |                                                                   |                                               |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                    |     |

# Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

## As a church family that...

- \* covenants to walk together in Christ's love,
- \* believes that all persons are created equal, and
- \* affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

**we welcome to our work and worship all** —  
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,  
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic  
circumstance.

**We're on the Web!**  
[wesleygroveumc.org](http://wesleygroveumc.org)



# Pentecost Sunday

*is May 23.*

*Remember to wear  
the colors of the flame,  
red, yellow, or orange,  
to church this day.*

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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