

Wesley Grove Messenger

September 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

Every Sunday, we stand up, and we affirm our faith. Typically, we stand together and recite the Apostles' Creed. We confess that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth. We also believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. I, for one, actually love that we say this week after week. I grew up in a Baptist church that did not believe in creeds. We didn't affirm our faith on a regular basis. Although I do not claim to be Methodist, I have worked in four different United Methodist churches before I arriving here but I have never served at a church that professed the Apostles' Creed (or any creed, for that matter) on a regular basis.

Given that we affirm this statement of belief every Sunday, I would like to explore this creed a little more. For example, did you know that the Apostles' Creed was supposedly developed by the Twelve Apostles, each apostle in turn making one affirmation? It was comprised in Jerusalem before they left the city to go on their missionary journeys. The structure goes something like this:

1. I believe in God, maker of Heaven and Earth;
2. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
3. Who was born of the Virgin Mary,
4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried,
5. And on the third day, rose from the dead.
6. He ascended into Heaven,
7. is seated at the right hand of the Father,
8. and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
9. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
10. The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
11. The forgiveness of sins,
12. The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Now, you may notice that this is pretty neat and tidy, in fact it seems a little forced. But this is the legend. And that is what it is — legend. In truth, while the Apostles' Creed began to be developed in the 2nd Century, it didn't take its current final form until the 7th Century. The Nicene Creed, on the other hand, is much older and was developed in its current form at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 AD.

Having said all that, I would like to invite you over the next few months to join me on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month at 7:30 pm to learn more about the Apostles' Creed. Now, I can imagine what you are thinking... Does this crazy Arkansas pastor expect us to sit at our computers to talk about theology for five Tuesday nights this fall?!?!? Well, sort of, but I want to assure you that we are going to be looking at these texts in conjunction with several popular movies from the past 50 years. We may examine clips from movies like *Oh, God!* and *Bruce Almighty* as we look at our affirmation statements about God. We will also view several less-known (and strange!) movies like *What Dreams May Come* when we talk about resurrection and life everlasting. I will not be asking you to watch all of these films in their entirety, instead just clips of them, and I will provide you with a viewing guide for each week. And, of course, Zoom gives us the ability to watch some of these movie clips together during our study.

This study will last for five consecutive Tuesday nights this fall --- Sept. 14 & 28, Oct. 12 & 26, and Nov. 9. I do hope you will join me. Here is the Zoom link that we will use for these sessions: <https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/4161376593>. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom on Tuesday nights at 7:30 this fall!

Blessings,
Pastor Nick

Lectionary Readings



September 5, 2021

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20



July 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	\$915.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$70.00
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$1,080.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$202.03
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$135.36
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	\$1,186.21
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,213.66



Return to Fall Schedule

Beginning on Sunday, September 26, our worship service time will return to 11:00 a.m. On this day, we will also resume our one-room Sunday School and Confirmation Class. This class will begin at 9 am and will be co-led by Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy. Folks of all ages and all Christian education backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend these classes. We plan to continue our confirmation lessons for 5-6 weeks and then conclude with our confirmands taking their confirmation vows during our regular worship service on Sunday, October 31.

Income

Weekly Collections	\$4,162.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,266.21



Fall Community Yard Sale

Saturday, September 18
9 am to 2 pm

To reserve your \$20 space now,
call Tammy at 301-253-0044

Rental tables are available
for an additional \$5 each

If you can help this day,
contact Becky at 240-338-3211
to volunteer your services

We are also asking for donations of
individually wrapped baked goodies to sell

September Birthdays

- 1 Carol Stone
Lauren Horner
- 7 Tina Green
- 10 Sally Lewis
Shane Kepner
- 11 Doug Gaither
- 23 Max Lynagh
- 24 Tony Bowie
- 27 Luke Horner
- 30 Jackie Hottinger



Electronic Giving

Our two newest ways to give are not being utilized, so our Finance Committee is considering cancelling these services. We plan to keep them one more month and see if they are used. If not, we will cancel them in October. If you would like to give to the church electronically, please begin doing so this month. 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 monetary gift that will automatically arrive in our church bank account from yours. You can also text this phone number — 301-720-0138 — and give as you wish. If you have any questions about either of these two services, please call Tammy at 301-253-0044.



Damascus HELP Food Collection

During the month of September, we will once again be collecting food for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry. This non-profit organization helps to provide food, rides, and medical supplies to those in need within our Damascus/Clarksburg community.

Canned vegetables are always needed although the Pantry seems to have an abundance of green beans and corn most of the time. So, for this month, we will collect cans of vegetables based on the following schedule...

- * Sunday, Sept. 5 – Peas and Carrots
- * Sunday, Sept. 12 – Assorted Beans (lima, navy, black, pinto, northern white, kidney, etc. ... but not green)
- * Sunday, Sept. 19 – Tomatoes and Potatoes (white and sweet)
- * Sunday, Sept. 26 – Other Vegetables (sauerkraut, collard/turnip greens, okra, spinach, asparagus, beets, etc. ...)

Please bring all donations to the collection site in the vestibule by Sept. 30.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair



Not sure what to do with all the stuff you've cleaned out of your closets during the past year and a half? We have the answer for you: rent a space at the Fall Community Yard Sale, set for Saturday, September 18, from 9 am to 2 pm. Please contact Tammy or Rick at 301-253-0044 to reserve a space for \$20; tables are available for an additional \$5.

Or, if your closets were reasonably clean and you have only a few items, we'll gladly accept donations for sale at the church booth. You can drop these items off at the hall anytime prior to Thursday, September 16. If you want to drop them off that day, we will accept items from 11 am-2 pm and then again that evening from 7-9 pm.



In addition, we are asking for donations of home-made baked goods. Individually wrapped packages of cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. are always in high demand at lunchtime, but we will also accept whole cakes, pies, and loaves of bread to sell at our bake sale. Please leave these items in the hall kitchen on Friday, September 17, or deliver them before 9 am on the day of the yard sale.



We also needs LOTS of help: setting up at 7 am, selling items at the church booth throughout the day, helping with food sales, and most especially, cleaning up at the end! Please see Becky or Brian to find out how you can help.

We'll reward you for your hard work

the following day, Sunday, September 19, when we hold our Annual Church Picnic following Outdoor Worship at 10 am. We'll have a social time with a few snacks and drinks immediately after the service, with our potluck lunch at noon. After lunch, there'll be more social time with corn-hole and horseshoes available, and we'll wrap up with dessert around 2 pm. Please note that due to Covid restrictions and concerns, we encourage everyone to remain outdoors at all times.



Both of these events will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

The Christian Fellowship Committee met on August 16 and set several other dates for the upcoming months, including our...

- Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 2.



and



- Community Caroling Parade on Sunday, December 19.

More details about these two events will be provided in the future.

The Committee also discussed plans for our Annual Holly Days Craft Bazaar, including the possibility of holding the event earlier in the fall and including an outdoor component. Tammy is conducting a survey of her regular crafters to determine interest, and the Committee will then move forward based on these results. Watch for further updates and details in church on Sunday mornings and in future bulletins and newsletters.



Thank You from *Faith Connections*

Thank you for donating backpacks, school supplies, and monetary funds to our annual Damascus-Clarksburg Area School Supply Drive! We were so excited to be able to help lots and lots of students as they re-enter their schools this year. With your help, we provided more than 130 students in elementary, middle, and high schools with new backpacks and school supplies.

We are so grateful for all who donated, including Cedarbrook Community Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Damascus Grace Fellowship Church,, Damascus UMC, First Baptist Church, Greenridge Baptist Church, Montgomery UMC, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, The Meltzer Group, Tri-County Baptist Church, Upper Seneca Baptist Church, Wesley Grove UMC, and many individual families. We also had a wonderful donation of new fiction books from Woodworkers for Children Charity's "Reading Is Terrific" program.

In addition to this support of supplies and monetary donations from these families and area churches, we had a great



group of energetic kids and adults help collect, sort, and pack these items before delivering them to the schools. This continues to be a wonderful and



fun community project for all involved!

Again, the generosity of all of you to donate supplies, your time, and your talents to help others is truly a blessing that sets Damascus and Clarksburg apart from so many other small towns. Thank you to all of you for making a huge difference in the lives of so many financially-impacted students within our community!

Babies, Babies, Babies!



Congratulations to the following grandparents, great-grandparents, and their kids on the births of these new babies!

Wren Penelope Moulhem was born on July 30 to her parents, Omar and Amanda. She joins her 15-month older sister, Scarlett, and of course, their proud grandma, Debbie Pesce, is ecstatic about both granddaughters!

Layton Brooks Dunn is the second grandson of proud grandparents, Andre and Jenny Mirani. He was born to their daughter, Anna, and her husband on August 8. Layton is their second son, as they already have a 10-year-old boy.

Amyra Joy Potter was born on August 17 as the second child of Hannah and Elijah Potter of Castroville, Texas, the fifth grandchild of Wayne and Dawn King of Lander, Wyoming, and the ninth great-grandchild of Henry and Joyce King.

A big, huge congratulations to all of these families, and may Our Most Gracious Lord continue to bless you all!

**Enjoy a Great Dinner and help
out one of our sister churches!**



CARRY- OUT FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

Friday, September 17, 2021
4 – 7 PM

½ Chicken Dinner – \$17.00

All meals come with mashed potatoes,
gravy, green beans, and a roll.

Mt. Tabor UMC

Corner of Hipsley Mill Road
and Route 108
Etchison, Maryland

To Order

Call and Leave a Message
@ 301-253-3871

OR

Drive In, Order There, and Pick up
during the Dinner

*All money collected goes toward
Mt. Tabor's mission projects.*



CROP Walk

On Sunday, October 3, Damascus will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the CROP Walk. This event will take place from 2-4 pm at Damascus Regional Park, just as it has in recent years. Registration for all walkers will begin at 1:30 under the picnic shelter at the beginning of the trail.

If you are free this day, consider heading outside and joining in this annual walk to raise funds to fight hunger both here in our community and around the world. A special 50th year celebration will occur after the walk.

If you do plan to participate, please let Tammy know, and she will provide you with additional information, flyers, and collection envelopes.

Annual Church Conference



Please mark your calendars now for our annual South Damascus Charge Church Conference on Monday, November 8 at 4-5:30 pm. Our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Dawn Hand, will be presiding over this livestreamed conference via Zoom.

For those of you needing to complete reports and documents for this conference, please do so by Friday, September 24 and submit them to Tammy by that date. She then has to enter all of this data and upload it to the Baltimore-Washington Conference website prior to Friday, October 1.

September 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at the Monarchs' Home	2	3	4
5 10:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	6 Happy Labor Day!	7 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 10:00 AM— Worship Service	13 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	14 7:30 PM— Group Study on the Apostles' Creed on Zoom	15 12:00 PM— Ladies Lunch Out at Carterque in Mt. Airy	16 9:00 AM—Painting New Parking Lines 11-2 & 7-9 PM— Yard Sale Drop-Off and Set-Up	17	18 9 AM to 2 PM— Fall Community Yard Sale
19 10:00 AM— Outdoor Worship Service 12:00 PM— Church Picnic	20 <i>Deadline for October Newsletter Submissions</i>	21 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	22	23	24 12:00 PM— All Church Conference Data due to the Church Office	25 11:00 AM— Sharon Johnson's Memorial Service
26 9:00 AM— Return to Confirmation Class/Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	27 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	28 7:30 PM— Group Study on the Apostles' Creed on Zoom	29 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting (location TBD) 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	30		

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: 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

Join Us!

Sunday, Sept. 19
beginning at 10 am

Outdoor Worship & Pot-Luck Picnic



Bring
lawn chairs
and
a dish (or two)
to share!

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To unsubscribe, please call the Wesley Grove UMC Office (301-253-2894) or email wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882