

# Wesley Grove Messenger

October 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.*

I have a beautiful life. Everywhere I look is beauty. I have two daughters who brighten my life with their inward and outward beauty. I live in a beautiful house surrounded by the beautiful countryside of Woodfield, Maryland. I have friends whose souls are as beautiful as the Kingdom of God itself. And I am the pastor of three beautiful churches whose members daily fill the world with delightful discipleship. How blessed am I to live in a world filled with God's beauty!

The hymn, "All Things Bright and Beautiful," was written by Foliott Pierpoint, a classical scholar who lived a leisurely life in the lovely town of Bath, England. This hymn praises God for a host of beauties -- things that we encounter in everyday living, but often fail to appreciate -- the beauty of the Earth and skies, the beauty of each hour, the joy of ear and eye, and the joy of human love. It also expresses thanksgiving for the Church -- and for Christ.

So often, we expect God to show up in BIG ways. We want spectacle, drama, fireworks. We look for signs and symbols of God's coming. We plan and prepare and organize our calendars anticipating that God will bless our many activities. But the Kingdom of God doesn't come with the waving of wands and the snapping of fingers. It comes in quiet and often secret ways. Sometimes, we just need to take time to look around us and enjoy the beauty that God has bestowed upon us.

I think St. Augustine said it best...

"Question the beauty of the Earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air, amply spread around everywhere, question the beauty of the sky, question the serried ranks of the stars, question the sun making the day glorious with its bright beams, question the moon tempering the darkness of the following night with its shining rays, question the animals that move in the waters, that amble about on dry land, that fly in the air; their souls hidden, their bodies evident; the visible bodies needing to be controlled, the invisible souls controlling them; question all these things. They all answer you, 'Here we are. Look! we're beautiful.'" --- *Sermons, 241, Easter: c.411 A.D.*

This fall, I encourage you to take some time to enjoy the beauty of God's Earth. Revel in its complexity and its diversity. And determine to be more intentional about seeing and appreciating the many beauties and joys that God has placed at our disposal.

In God's peace,  
Pastor Karen

## Lectioary Readings

**October 3, 2021**  
**World Communion Sunday**

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
 Psalm 25 or 26  
 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
 Mark 10:2-16

**October 10, 2021**

Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
 Psalm 22:1-15  
 Hebrews 4:12-16  
 Mark 10:17-31

**October 17, 2021**

**Laity Sunday**  
 Proverbs 38:1-7, 34-41  
 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
 Hebrews 5:1-10  
 Mark 10:35-45

**October 24, 2021**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
 Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22  
 Hebrews 7:23-28  
 Mark 10:46-52

**October 31, 2021**

Ruth 1:1-18  
 Psalm 146  
 Hebrews 9:11-14  
 Mark 12:28-34



### August 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	\$1,021.75
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$78.17
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$154.58
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$525.21
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	\$764.27
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,169.04</b>

### Christian Education

Our one-room Sunday School and Confirmation Class has resumed meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the hall. This class is co-led by Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy. Folks of all ages and all levels of Christian educational backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend these classes. Please feel free to join us any Sunday morning!

#### Income

Weekly Collections	\$4,578.92
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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,683.13</b>



# Fall Craft Sale



**Saturday, October 30  
9 am to 3 pm**

Make plans to come out and join us as we revive one of our many pre-Covid traditions! This craft sale will be similar to our past ones, but with a few changes due to current health restrictions and mandates. Masks will be required for anyone entering the hall.

We plan to have about 20-30 assorted crafters selling a variety of handmade wares from fused glass and beaded jewelry to knitted scarves and dried flower arrangements to Christmas ornaments and wreaths. Some of these folks will be set up outside in the parking lot between the church and the hall, and some will be set up inside our fellowship hall.

The church will have many wonderful items to sell including holiday gift baskets, painted wooden figures, table linens, ornaments, and Christmas decorations. If you have any craft items to donate, please let Tammy know.

As in past years, we will sell lunch items and beverages throughout the day as well as delicious baked goods. All donations of home-baked cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, and rolls will be gratefully accepted as will any homemade candies, jellies, jams, salsas, pickles, etc. Please bring these donations to the hall between 11 and 4 on Friday, October 29.



If you can help this day with selling crafts or working in the kitchen, please contact Becky at 240-338-3211 or Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer your services.

## October Birthdays

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



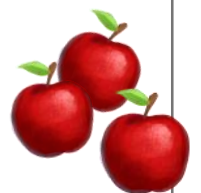
## Damascus HELP Food Collection

It's October, and that means it's fall, and it's time for pumpkins and apples!

Over the next five Sundays, we will collect foods for the Damascus HELP Food Pantry that feature these two fall favorites.

So, as you are grocery shopping this month, be creative, look around, and pick up some extra apple cider, pumpkin muffin mixes, applesauce, apple jellies, pumpkin-flavored teas and coffees, apple snack bars, pumpkin pop-tarts, or Apple Jacks cereal to donate. These foods will all help needy families within our community to celebrate some of the flavors, tastes, and smells of fall.

Please bring all donations to the collection site in the vestibule by Sunday, October 31.



## Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021

### In Attendance:

Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Judy Hughes, Jim Kemp, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Terri Sherwood, and Pastor Nick Works.

**Opening:** Bob began the meeting at 7:31 pm.

### Devotions:

Cathy read from a poem about women working on the road to life. The main focus being that basic common sense leads to a happy and joy-filled life given to us by God. She then led us in prayer.

### Prayer Requests:

\* Susanne Mershon, a good friend of Cathy's, has MS and is at home with Hospice. We pray for a peaceful end to her life.

### Good News Items:

\* Our Parsonage Clean-Up Day was successful with 14 volunteers present. We trimmed bushes, cut down trees, cleaned out gutters, and pulled a lot of weeds.

\* Jonathan Works will be home from Army Reserves basic training this Friday.

\* Roberta's living facility is out of lock-down, and she can once again leave her room and see people.

\* Our Fall Community Yard Sale is once again happening this Saturday and our church picnic on Sunday!

\* The Damascus Lions Club is eating and meeting here once again.

### Old Minutes:

Rick motioned to approve the minutes from our July meeting, Steven seconded, and all were in favor.

### Old Business:

\* Trustees and any others who can help will paint fresh lines on our parking lot spaces this Thursday.

### New Business:

\* The Church received a request for a donation to help support the Strawbridge Home and Shrine in New Windsor. Tammy passed this on the Missions Committee.

### Committee Reports:

**Communications** – We continue to send cards to all in need just to let them know that their church family is thinking of them and praying for them. We have added several updates to our Facebook page. Our 2022 budget request has been given to the Finance Committee.

**Education** – Our weekly Sunday School/confirmation class will resume on Sunday, September 26 at 9 am with Pastor Karen, Pastor Nick, and Tammy all planning and teaching these lessons. We plan to hold Confirmation Sunday in late October or early November. Pastor Nick is also beginning a virtual group study tomorrow night on the Apostles' Creed. All are invited and encouraged to "Zoom" in at 7:30 pm.

**Fellowship** – Our Fall Community Yard Sale is this coming Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. Let Becky know if you can help. Our annual Church Picnic will take place after our outdoor worship service the next day. Plan to come at 10 am for the service and then spend the afternoon eating some delicious foods and enjoying some time with your church family. We hope to host a "hybrid indoor/outdoor" fall craft sale in late October. Tammy is currently surveying crafters to determine their interest and availability. Mark your calendars with these Christmas events --- Thursday, December 2 for our annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony and Sunday, December 19 for a new event, our Community Christmas Caroling Parade. More details on both of these events will be forthcoming.

**Finance** – Our income and expenses are continuing to do well. All of our bills are paid, and we have money in the bank. In August, our expenses exceeded our income, but otherwise since March 2020, our income has been higher than our bills during most months. We are beginning to work on the 2022 budget. All committee chairs have been given budget request worksheets and asked to return them to Rick by Wednesday, October 20.

**Missions** – Thanks to all who donated school supplies to fill the backpacks of needy students in our community when they returned to school two weeks ago! We are currently collecting canned vegetables for Damascus HELP. We are meeting on October 11 to prepare our budget request, think about our mission projects for next year, and hopefully plan our community holiday giving projects for this Christmas Season if we get input from Faith Connections before then.

**SPRC** – On behalf of this committee, Terri recommended a 2% raise for Pastor Karen for 2022. Rick seconded this motion, and all were in favor. We will meet this Sunday during the picnic to discuss some issues dealing with the various Church Conference reports and then submit this information by October 1. We have not yet advertised for a new Music Director, but we plan to speak with a music student at Montgomery College to determine his level of interest and availability in 2022. Hiring for this position is in limbo due to the current Covid situation.

**Trustees** – Parsonage Clean-up Day on August 28 was very successful with 14 people there to help. During this time, it was noted that a downspout on the right-hand side of the garage is missing and will be replaced. We will repaint our parking lot lines this Thursday, September 16 at 9 am. Kitchen work is coming along with Terri and Jimmy taking care of this. Jim is working with roofers to determine the feasibility of placing gutter guards on the metal roof of the rental house. He is also looking into replacing the HVAC system in that house. He estimates the current one to be 40-50 years old. Pastor Karen mentioned that one of the pieces of playground equipment by the pavilion is broken and needs to be repaired.

**Worship** – Our worship time will return to 11 am on Sunday, September 26. Our summer decorations will be replaced with fall ones on this day. Becky, Josh, and Sue met in August to review and organize music as well as to make tentative plans for the fall. Covid restrictions continue to impact our music program. A small choral group will sing at our outdoor service this Sunday and then periodically throughout the fall in our Sanctuary while wearing masks. Our hand bell quartet will also perform occasionally until the end of the year.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Karen reflected on the fact that Betty Duvall always ends their phone calls by saying, "I love you." Love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self – we gather to enact that love tonight. We show our love for each other in various ways – sharing homegrown vegetables after church, planning musical selections to enrich our worship services, sending cards to remind folks that they're not forgotten, and participating in confirmation vows to declare our status as Christians. All of these are ways we show our love for ourselves, each other, and our Most Gracious God. Over the last month, Pastor Karen has made about 60 calls to at-home and hospitalized members, but only a few actual visits although things are starting to finally happen again.

**Upcoming BWC Events:**

- \* Wednesday, September 29 – Our Central MD District listens to the Bishop on Zoom at 7-8:30 pm
- \* October 25-27 – Virtual BWC Annual Conference for our pastors and lay delegates
- \* Saturday, November 6 – Installation of our new DS, Rev. Dawn Hand, at Epworth UMC at 3 pm
- \* Monday, November 8 – Virtual Church Conference on Zoom at 4-5:30 pm for our South Damascus Charge

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 1 at 7:30 pm – Note that this is one week early to accommodate our Church Conference on 11/8. Judy will lead our devotions.

**Closing:** Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.



## Lunch Out

On Wednesday, October 20, we are headed to Frederick to gather Roberta Grimes from her living facility and join together in a fellowship luncheon at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Buckeystown Pike (Route 85) at 12 pm. Everyone in our church family is invited and welcome to join us as we finally get to bring some joy and cheer to Roberta again!



## Electronic Giving

If you would like to give to Wesley Grove electronically, here is the link —

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/wesleygrove>

You are able 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 on a given day each week or month.

You can also text to 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.

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## Missions Committee News

*Judy Hughes, Chairperson*

The Committee will meet this month on Monday, October 11 at 7:30 pm at the hall to finish planning the missions program for the fall. We hope to have heard from Faith Connections by then to know what direction it plans to take for food and gifts this Holiday Season. We will also work on our 2022 budget this night, so if any of you have any suggestions for service projects that Wesley Grove might take on next year, please let me or any other member of the Missions Committee know before this meeting.

Thanks to Tammy for organizing our September and October food drives for Damascus HELP, and thanks to Brian for delivering these items to its Food Pantry behind Damascus UMC.

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



## CARRY-OUT FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

Friday, October 15, 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 Hours

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

## CROP Walk



On Sunday, October 3, Damas-  
cus will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> 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  
50<sup>th</sup> year celebration will occur after  
the Walk.

If you do plan to participate, please show  
up at the Park between 1:30-2:00 ready to  
walk. Be sure to wear the right shoes!

## 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 Superin-  
tendent, the Reverend Dawn Hand, will be  
presiding over this livestreamed confer-  
ence. Registration information and the  
Zoom link will be shared in our upcoming  
November newsletter as well as in our  
weekly worship bulletins and emails as we  
get closer to this date.

Our beloved **Ollie Gray** is moving at the  
end of this month back to her hometown of  
Johnstown, PA. She has lived here in our  
community for the past 30 years,  
and she will be missed. Ollie's  
new address is...

143 Hilltop Drive  
Davidsville, PA 15928



# October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3 World Communion</b> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	11 7:30 PM— Missions Commit- tee Meeting	12 7:30 PM— Group Study on the Apostles' Creed on Zoom	13 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at the Burkes' Home	14	15 4-7 PM— Fried Chicken Carry-Out Dinner at MTUMC	16 in Ohio — <i>memorial service</i>
<b>17 Laity Sunday</b> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	18 7:30 PM— Trustees Meeting <i>Deadline for            November Newsletter            Submissions</i>	19 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	20 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Crack- er Barrel in Freder- ick <i>All 2022 Budget            Requests due</i>	21	22	23
24 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	25 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	26 7:30 PM— Group Study on the Apostles' Creed on Zoom	27	28	29 11 AM— Set-up for Craft Sale	30 9 AM to 3 PM— Fall Craft Sale and Luncheon
<b>Halloween 31</b>						

**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)

**Laity Sunday**

**Sunday, October 17**

**during our regular  
Worship Service  
at 11 am**

Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044  
to volunteer to read Scripture,  
lead a prayer,  
sing a solo or duet,  
and/or preach the message this day.

To unsubscribe, please call the Wesley Grove UMC Office (301-253-2894) or email [WGUMC@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:WGUMC@wesleygroveumc.org)

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church  
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