

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

November 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

When the calendar turns to the month of November, magical things start to happen. The leaves change from green to yellow to gold to orange to red and then on to brown. Brilliant purple, red, yellow, and orange mums start popping up on my deck. (Magically, of course, since I personally don't buy them or plant them!) Big purple heads of cabbage are magically planted around the house. I have often wondered if I have a Carla gnome at my house. The days are getting shorter as it begins to be get dark about 5:30, and by 6, it's completely dark outside. And the temperatures... Well, it's chilly in the morning, but warm in the afternoon. College football is in full swing, and college basketball is just taking off. I love putting on an old flannel shirt and a warm vest and spending a few hours outside in the cool fall air. The month of November is my favorite month --- I just love the fall!

November is also the month of my favorite holiday --- Thanksgiving. So many people love Christmas, but for my money, Thanksgiving is the best. Carla and I established a tradition in our family that dates to our early days together in Fort Worth, Texas. I worked at a church which had both a Thanksgiving Eve service and a Sunday morning service, so we didn't have enough time to drive home to Arkansas to spend time with our extended families. That meant that Carla and I stayed in Fort Worth and spent time with other young seminarian couples. Together, we all had a huge feast on Thanksgiving Day, and then we all watched football. It is literally the only day of the year other than Super Bowl Sunday that I actually sit down and watch the NFL. Later that evening, we would go to the movies together. So for years now, going to the movies on Thanksgiving Day has been a tradition in the Works household. Both of our kids watched their first movies in theaters on Thanksgiving Day. One year, Carla and I went to watch *Toy Story 2*, another year we took both our kids to see *Moana*, and one year, we went to see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Although all those things make Thanksgiving Day special for me, I think the thing that makes this holiday the most special is that it has always been a time to take four days off to spend with my family, and just relax, and think about how grateful to God I am for all that He has blessed me with. Christmas is such a crazy time of year — buying and wrapping presents, decorating the house, the yard, the tree, flying or driving to Arkansas, and then taking all those decorations down again. Christmas can truly wear you out, but Thanksgiving is a time just to rest, relax, and be thankful — it's four simple days to slow down and think about God's graciousness.

In the Old Testament, there is a harvest festival a lot like our Thanksgiving Holiday. Shavuot is this festival that roughly equates to Thanksgiving. It's also called the Festival of Weeks. Farmers would tie a ribbon around the first fruit of wheat to appear in their fields. Then, at harvest time, they'd trim those first fruits of wheat and offer them as offerings to our God. By the time of Jesus, this was one of the three most important pilgrimage festivals. Families would collect their first fruits of wheat, journey to Jerusalem, and then offer these to the Lord in the Temple. They would also take time to express how thankful they were that God had given them the Law. The Festival of Shavuot commemorates the giving of the five Books of Moses. You can read about this festival in Leviticus 23 and in Deuteronomy 16.



--- continued on page 4 ---

Lectionary Readings

November 7, 2021

All Saints Sunday

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Psalm 42 or 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 14, 2021

Baptism and Confirmation Sunday

1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10

Psalm 113

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21, 2021

Christ the King Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 132:1-12

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28, 2021

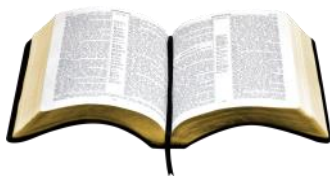
First Sunday in Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



November Birthdays

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

September 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	\$1,464.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$308.35
Payroll Taxes	\$112.00
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$1,215.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$232.25
Property Insurance	\$1,535.25
Administrative Expenses	\$228.15
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	\$1,083.26
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$10,803.32

Income

Weekly Collections	\$4,528.53
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	\$7,632.74

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed this coming Saturday night, November 6. We want to make sure everyone is on time for worship on Sunday morning!



Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee has decided to partner with Mt. Tabor UMC this holiday season on a joint community service mission project. During the month of November, we will collect the following items in new, unopened packages for the Open Heart Mission in West Virginia:

- Men's, Women's, and Children's Long Underwear in Large Sizes (XL, 2XL, 3XL).
- Men's, Women's, and Children's Regular and Heavy Duty Socks

These items can be brought to the labelled collection boxes in the vestibule from November 1-28. At that time, our boxes will be added to Mt. Tabor's and then delivered to West Virginia in plenty of time for Christmas Day.

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who donated both apple and pumpkin-flavored foods to the Damascus HELP Food Pantry during the month of October. All of these special foods will help some families within our community have a more "flavorable" Thanksgiving Season!

Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

The Worship Committee invites everyone to the sanctuary on the morning of Saturday, November 27, to help decorate it for the Advent Season, which begins the very next day. We will begin at 9:30 am, and we usually finish up by lunchtime. Please join us if you can as the more volunteers we have, the quicker we all get the job done. Please note that we are asking folks to wear masks for this event. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep us all safe and well.



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Come and celebrate the three baptisms and two confirmations of our newest church members on Sunday, November 14, with a brief fellowship reception following the worship service. Plan to welcome these new members and share a time of fellowship with our church family. Refreshments will be served outdoors if weather permits.

Items from our Fall Craft Sale are available for purchase from now until Christmas Eve in the fellowship hall. Please see Tammy or Becky to make arrangements if you're looking to check off some items on your gift list.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for the following events during the upcoming Advent Season:

- Community Christmas Tree Lighting, Thursday, December 2 at 7:30 pm
- Christmas Caroling Parade, Sunday, December 19 at 4 pm

Look for more details in our upcoming weekly bulletins and in the December issue of this newsletter.

Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

You are all welcome to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 in the fellowship hall for Sunday School. We usually have a very interesting, and sometimes lively, discussion with varying ideas and opinions from folks 10 to 75 years of age. This month, our topics include Catholicism compared to Protestant denominations, our Confirmation Vows, and the many names of Christ. We will begin our four-week Advent study on November 28.



Flu Shots

If you haven't gotten one yet this fall, please do. All of the major health organizations recommend that we all get them every year. These vaccines are readily available at doctors' offices, local pharmacies, and even in the grocery stores. In most cases, they are free as most health insurance companies cover the cost, which is considered preventative care.

With so much publicity surrounding the coronavirus vaccines, it is easy to completely forget about flu shots this year. Please get yours today. Many of you might also want to consider both the pneumonia and shingles vaccines as well. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to determine if these vaccines are wise choices for you.

Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference for the South Damascus Charge will be held on Monday, November 8, at 4 pm. This year, like last 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 new Central Maryland District Superintendent, the Reverend Dawn Hand.

Use this link to join this Zoom meeting—

<https://bwcumc.zoom.us/j/96442277904>

Meeting ID: 964 4227 7904
One Tap Mobile

+13017158592, 96442277904# US (Washington, DC)

If you plan to participate, please let Tammy know by Saturday, November 6, so that she can give you all of the needed documents prior to this conference.

— continued from page 1 —

The other thing about this festival is that it foreshadows the Coming of the Messiah. Traditionally, in Jewish synagogues, the Book of Ruth is read aloud on this day. Ruth is the great grandmother of King David. This was a symbolic statement from the synagogue communities that they were awaiting the arrival of the Son of David. Our harvest festival of Thanksgiving is also a festival where we begin to wait on the arrival of the Son of David. Traditionally, the Christmas Season begins the day after Thanksgiving, and in most years, Advent officially begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. In this special season, we as Christians also begin to wait for the Coming of the Messiah.



So, as November gathers steam, remember to set aside a little time to rest, relax, and focus on how grateful you are to God for all His many blessings and to prepare yourself for the Coming of the Son of David in our midst for Advent is right around the corner. Thanks be to God.

Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Nick

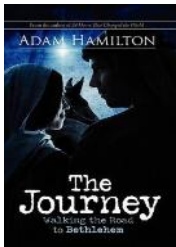
Home for the Holidays?

If you are going to be home for Thanksgiving and you are the one who is responsible for making the traditional secret family recipe stuffing and would like some already torn up bread from which to make it, please contact Tammy. We have an abundance of small bread pieces in the freezer that we tore up for our last turkey and oyster dinner that was cancelled due to Covid-19. We would love to help you out and clean out one of our freezers at the same time!



Advent and Christmas

Are Just Around the Corner...



Advent Book Study

Our book study during the four weeks of this Advent Holiday Season will feature *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton. Some of you may remember this book as we used it for the basis of our discussion about 10 years ago, and like all good books, it's meant to be re-read and revisited, especially this year as it celebrates the 10-year anniversary of its first publication. We will meet on Zoom and discuss the chapters of this book on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. Please let Tammy know by Wednesday, November 17 if you plan to join us for this study, so that we'll be sure to order enough books for everyone.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

For those of you that like to plan ahead, please mark your calendars now for our annual Christmas Eve Worship Service on Friday, December 24 to begin at 9 pm. You are also welcome to attend one of our sister churches' earlier services that day; Salem UMC will hold its service at 4 pm and Mt. Tabor UMC at 6 pm.



Annual Tree Lighting

Our Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will occur very soon on Thursday, December 2 at 7:30 pm. As in past years, this ceremony will take place outside on the driveway in front of our fellowship hall. We would love to have several Scripture readers and musical soloists or duets as well as cookie bakers and refreshment servers. Please let Tammy know if you are willing to serve in any of these roles.

Christmas Luncheon

Mark your calendars now for the return of our Wesley Grove Church Family Christmas Luncheon at the Twin Arch Tavern in Mt. Airy! This annual favorite, which sadly did not occur last year due to Covid-19 and its many cancellations, will happen again this year on Tuesday, December 14 at noon. More details and a sign-up sheet will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.





Finance News

Jim Kemp, Chair

An annual budget is a monetary plan. It's the amount of money you think you will need to pay for all of your expenses in the coming year. The other part of this plan is to know that there will be enough income to pay those expenses and from where that income will come. Then, you keep track throughout the year to make sure your spending is at or under your budget. If it is over in any one category, you try to spend less elsewhere to make up that difference.

All of our church committees submitted their 2022 budget requests to the Finance Committee with very few changes from 2021. A few dollars were cut, and others re-allocated, such that our overall 2022 church budget is only about \$5,000 more than this year's.

In both 2020 and 2021, our expenses have been well below budget, which is a good thing, because our income has also been lower than what we expected to receive.

How do we have income, and from where does it come? Naturally, one source is our individual contributions to this church. We also have monthly income from the rental of the land for the flagpole cell phone tower and the rental house between the church and the fellowship hall. But this is never enough money to fund all of our annual budget, so we also hold a variety of fundraisers during the year: turkey & oyster dinners, community yard sales, food booth at the Montgomery County Harvest Festival, bi-weekly Lions Club dinners, DVFD annual banquet, and our annual craft bazaar. Due to Covid-19, we have only had one yard sale, a few Lions Club dinners, and the fall craft sale this year.

Over the next few years, we will be challenged to bring in enough money to cover our budget and all of our essential needs. As we lose members, there will be less coming in. Our turkey and oyster dinners are probably a thing of the past because the ingredients have gotten so expensive, and we barely have enough people to continue to do all the work that is involved. And we don't know the future of the County's Harvest Festival.

Let us conclude by saying that although we are not in dire straits, we do all need to think, and pray, as to how to increase the income for our church. It's going to take every one of us to make our church finances continue to work. The Finance Committee is open to suggestions. Please see any one of us if you have any ideas or thoughts to share. Thanks to all of you in advance for your extra thought and consideration of this very important matter.

You Are Invited...

Taylorsville UMC

4356 Ridge Road

(on Rt. 27, just south of Rt. 26)

Holiday Craft Bazaar

Saturday, November 13

from 9 am to 3 pm

Crafts, Baked Goods, Gift Baskets

Carry-Out Lunch Only

10:30 am until Sold-Out

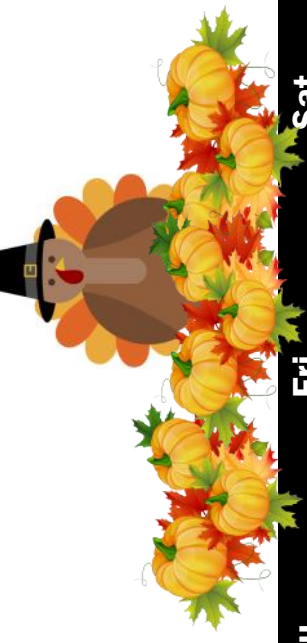
Chicken Strips, Fried Oysters,

Ham Sandwiches,

and

Homemade Soups, Pies, and Cakes

November 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	2 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	3 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	4	5	6 3:00 PM— Installation of New DS, Rev. Hand, at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg
7 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	8 4:00 PM— Annual Church Conference via Zoom	9 7:30 PM— Final Session of Creed Study via Zoom	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Baptism and Confirmation Day</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	15	16 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	17 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Mt. Airy Inn	18 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at Judy's house <i>December Newsletter Deadline</i>	19	20
21 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	22 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	23	24 Time TBD— Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Laytonsville	25 Happy Thanksgiving!	26	27 9:30 AM— Decorate Sanctu- ary for Advent
28 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	29 7:30 PM— Session #1 of Ad- vent Book Study via Zoom	30	1	2 7:30 PM— Outdoor Communi- ty Tree Lighting Ceremony	3	4

 **Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**
Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: 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

**Count your blessings
and
thank Our Lord**



**for
He
is
good**

Amen

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