

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

January 2022



From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A time-honored tradition in our culture is the New Year's Resolution. At the start of each new year, we re-examine our lives and agree to engage in healthier habits, or we try to eliminate a bad habit from our lives. Often these New Year's resolutions don't make it out of the month of January. We frequently give them up. I know in my own life that seems to have been the custom.

But when I became active in the Methodist tradition, I learned of another New Year's habit. John Wesley adopted a prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his mother and father that he rewrote it for the Methodist community. Traditionally, he encouraged Methodists to pause each new year and participate in a covenant renewal service, where Methodists would pray the Covenant Prayer and rededicate themselves to a life of following Jesus in the coming year.

This Covenant Prayer is a reminder that being a Christian is more than just a system of beliefs, but rather, it is a commitment to a life of discipleship and devotion. As this new year begins, I encourage you to pause for a moment, pray this prayer to yourself, and then make a pledge to God that you are renewing your covenant to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ in 2022.

Here are the words of the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer:

*I am no longer my own, but Thine.
Put me to what Thou wilt; rank me with whom Thou wilt.
Put me to doing; put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by Thee or laid aside for Thee,
exalted for Thee, or brought low for Thee.*

*Let me be full; let me be empty.
Let me have all things; let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to Thy pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, O Glorious and Blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on Earth,
let it be ratified in Heaven.*

Amen.

*In God's peace,
Pastor Nick*

Lectionary Readings

January 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



January 16, 2022

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January 30, 2022

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

January Birthdays

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



November 2021 Financial Report

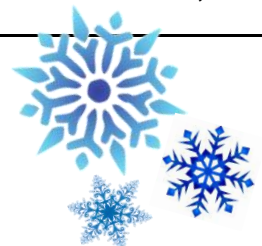
Rick Monarch, Treasurer

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	\$1,113.25
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$85.16
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$1,080.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$230.33
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$335.84
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	\$1,822.95
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,292.59

Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,133.30
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$40.00
Payment for serving DVFD Annual Banquet	\$450.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$10,727.51



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

A great big “thank you!” to everyone who helped make our two Christmas Season events — the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Christmas Caroling Caravan — a pair of huge successes! We expanded our fellowship from just within our church family to the entire Woodfield Community, and by doing that, we helped to make the Christmas Season special for many of our neighbors. Look for both of those events to be back bigger and better than ever in 2022!

The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Monday, January 31, at 7:30 pm, to begin planning for 2022. Expect a slow start due to present pandemic concerns, but be assured that many of our favorite events – two yard sales, a craft fair, and so on – will be back later in the year.



Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to our two Holiday Giving Projects this Christmas Season — whether by donating long underwear and warm socks, wrapped presents for the kids, and/or money toward the purchase of grocery store gift cards for the three community families that we supported this year. Please know that all of these items helped to make Christmas a little merrier and a little brighter for those receiving these gifts as well as for those giving these gifts. We thank you all!



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, January 2, but that we will resume our class on the following Sunday, January 9. On this day, we will begin with a small fellowship breakfast and then fill gallon-size baggies with foods and toiletries for the homeless within our community. If we do not finish this service project on the 9th, we will complete it the following Sunday, January 16.

Once these bags are finished, we will begin our next study, which will be focused on the Holy Lands — how they looked and felt in the time of Jesus compared to how they look and feel now. We will base this study on a variety of resources, including a book called *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford as well as numerous slides taken by Pastor Nick on his travels to Israel and the surrounding area.

Please feel free to join us any Sunday. We are an open group of mixed ages with many different levels of Biblical expertise. We all enjoy continuing to learn and spending time doing that together!





Gifts for Jesus

Each year on January 6, Christians remember the Wise Men who came to honor and worship the Baby Jesus. As we all know, they brought three gifts to this newborn baby — gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In honor of them and their precious gifts, all of us are being asked to bring gifts to church on Epiphany Sunday. However, instead of bringing these three special gifts, we will be bringing individually packaged foods and toiletry items to fill plastic bags for the homeless within our community.

Donations can consist of:

- canned meats (tuna, chicken, sausages...)
- cups of gelatin, pudding, and fruit
- boxes of granola bars
- packages of crackers, cookies, chips
- bottles of hand sanitizer
- small packs of sanitizing wipe
- cases of bottled water
- boxes of hand and foot warmers
- small packs of tissues



Please bring these items to the worship service on Epiphany Sunday, January 2, to be blessed, just as the Magi presented their gifts to the Baby Jesus more than 2,000 years ago.



2022 Calendars

There are plenty on the table in the vestibule from just about every non-profit organization that you can think of — both full wall size and pocket size. Please help yourself to as many as you would like!

Good-Bye to the Christmas Season

On Sunday, January 9, after the worship service, we will take down and put away all of the beautiful Christmas decorations in our sanctuary and vestibule. Please make plans to stay if you can and help us with this annual project. The more folks we have helping, the quicker this job will get done. After we all finish, let's plan to enjoy a fellowship lunch together as a church family. Further details about lunch will be forthcoming.



How many words can you make from the letters in

RESOLUTIONS?

Remember they must be English words. Abbreviations, acronyms, and slang words are not allowed.

Here are a few to get you started...

1. rest	11.
2. nest	12.
3. less	13.
4. lesson	14.
5. rot	15.
6. lot	16.
7. not	17.
8. note	18.
9. louse	19.
10. Louise	20.

Good luck! Please let the church office know how many you are able to make.

January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Happy New Year</i>
2 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> No Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	3 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	4 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	5 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at Linda's House	6	7	8
9 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— Take Down Christmas Decorations	10 7:30 PM— Administrative Coun- cil Meeting	11	12 7:30 PM— Worship Committee Meeting	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	17	18 <i>February</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	19 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ J&P's in Damascus 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	24 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting 31 7:30 PM—Fellowship Committee Meeting	25	26 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	27	28	29
30						



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

We Wish All of You Very Happy and Heathy 2022!

As you're making your
New Year's Resolutions,
how about resolving to attend church
a little more in this coming year?

You can do this in one of two ways —
either in-person or on Zoom —
every Sunday morning at 11 am.

We'd love to have you,
and there's always a pew open
for you and your family!

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