

Wesley Grove
December 2016/
January 2017

Messenger

From John's Pulpit

GOD GAVE HIS SON

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters."
Galatians 4:4-5

When we think of Christmas, we think of the arrival of Jesus:

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."

In reality, it was also a departure. For us, a child was born. But for God the Father, a Son was given. In heaven, the time had come for the departure of God's Son. We even have a record of Jesus' farewell words to the Father. He said, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure." Then I said, "Behold, I have come in the volume of the book it is written of me to do your will, O God." Hebrews 10:5-7

Jesus literally left the throne in heaven to go to a feeding trough in a manger. He went from the presence of angels to a stable of animals. He who was larger than the universe became an embryo. Scripture sums it up well: "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor." 2 Corinthians 8:9

While we rejoice at His arriving, in heaven there is sadness at His departure. The giving of the Son was a big sacrifice on the part of the Father and His angels. And no one who has ever lived has even remotely affected human history the way Jesus Christ has. He has been opposed, censored, banned, and criticized by every generation since His birth, yet His influence continues unabated. There has never been anyone like Jesus, because Jesus was not just a good man: He was the God-man who came and walked this earth. And that is what we should celebrate every day.

It is my prayer that we continue with thanks giving, and with praises of adoration even after the season ends to honor God's generous gift to us: Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. Blessings.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

Lectionary Readings

December 4, 2016: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

December 11, 2016: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Luke 1:47-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11

December 18, 2016: 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, 2016: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2016: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1:1-4
 John 1:1-14

January 1, 2017: Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

January 8, 2017: 1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, 2017: 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 John 1:29-42

January 22, 2017: 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Ecumenical Sunday

Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2017: 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

October 2016 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,413.50
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.70
Pastor Benefits	\$1,308.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$930.00
Payroll Taxes	\$83.76
Grass Cutting	\$595.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Handy Man	\$1,025.50
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$987.60
Office Expenses	\$151.50
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Trustees - Building & Maintenance	\$2,278.69
Total Expenses	\$11,064.00

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$5,855.00
Sunday School Collections	\$105.85
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,815.11
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,313.46
Farm Park Fundraiser Proceeds	\$600.00
Use of Hall	\$240.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$269.30
Total Income	\$10,198.72

December Birthdays

1	Ben Allman	14	Chris Lee
3	Cathy Burke	19	Ciarra Crawford
4	Michelle Johnson	20	Ollie Gray
6	Dave Wilson	29	Roberta Grimes
11	Joshua Park	30	Peter Hughes
12	Michael Davis	31	Lorie Falk
	Mollie Davis		

January Birthdays

8	Gregg Lynagh	17	Daniel Briggs
11	Betty Duvall	20	Lewis Burdette
16	Brian Lewis	30	Joe Mallon

Administrative Council Meeting

November 14, 2016

In attendance: Bob Burke, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Pastor Karen Davis, Lewis Burdette, Andi Brickman, Tammy Monarch, Judy Hughes, Doug Gaither, Randy Falk, Ollie Gray, Jim Kemp.

Devotional: Ollie Gray shared the 11/8 Daily Bread words "Life is Real." She then shared a poem "The Lord in Heaven will care for you."

Good News Items: Charge Conference went well. We have been very busy with successful events, Cantata, Turkey & Oyster Dinner, Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Animals, and serving the Damascus Fire Department annual banquet.

Action Items: Doug Gaither made a motion to accept the September 12, 2016 minutes as written and published, Tammy Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Missions - Jackie Hottinger: Missions is donating cranberry sauce and lemonade to Faith Connections for the community Thanksgiving dinner. We will sponsor four families for the Christmas holiday baskets. We are also collecting for the nursing homes.

Christian Education - Tammy Monarch: The Sunday School will present the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Advent Bible study group will start in January.

Finance - Randy Falk: Randy presented the proposed 2017 budget, followed by a question and answer period. He then made a motion to

accept the budget of \$148,498.53 as presented. Rick Monarch seconded, vote taken and approved.

Trustees - Andi Brickman: Renter is moving out on December 1. We will have to maintain the heat through the winter. Condition of home will be evaluated after move out.

Christian Fellowship - Tammy Monarch: Lots of events coming up - Meet and Greet with Santa, Live Nativity, caroling at nursing homes, youth event and Daytime Circle Golden Bull holiday luncheon.

Communications - Tammy Monarch: WGUMC has a presence on Facebook and the Everything Damascus website. Wi-Fi will be extended to the Education Building by the end of the year.

SPRC - Ollie Gray: SPRC is working on schedules for the South Damascus charge.

Worship - Doug Gaither: Christmas Eve services will be at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. The Advent wreaths will be lit by mentors and their confirmands. Pastor has been asked to be more creative with communion. Look for "Who's Joining" to be spotlighted on the bulletin board.

Old Business: Deposit was given for the new cemetery signs and still working on the AED purchases.

New Business: UMM will be setting up the nativity scene on December 1.

Devotions for next meeting will be Becky Lewis. Next meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by Pastor Karen with a prayer at 9:22 p.m.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Fasten your seatbelts and hang onto your loose belongings – when the Christmas Coaster comes to a stop, it will be January! The Christian Fellowship Committee has several activities planned to keep the Advent season a busy one, but be sure to read **all** committee articles in this issue, because there are many, many other activities going on as well.

We'll start December, as always, with our annual "Meet and Greet With Santa" on Saturday, December 3, in the Education Building. The Real Santa welcomes our Special Needs friends from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and the community children from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Everyone receives a free 4 x 6 photo with Santa, and crafts, milk, and cookies round out the afternoon. Bring your children and grandchildren, and spread the word throughout the community!

If you made reservations to attend the Daytime Circle Christmas Luncheon, don't forget that Wednesday, December 7, is the day to meet at the Golden Bull for a 12:30 p.m. holiday feast. Many thanks to Mary Jane Walter, Louise Burdette, and Judy Hughes for coordinating this yearly event.

Carol Stone has planned an exciting Christmas outing for the youth of the church on Friday, December 9, with an evening at Rock and Jump followed by a pizza party at Gentleman Jim's in Gaithersburg. Participants will meet in the Education Building parking lot at 5 p.m. to carpool; please sign up in the Greeting Room so Carol can make accurate reservations. Instead of a gift exchange this year, the youngsters will be collecting items to take to our local nursing homes, which brings us to the following weekend, when we have

you booked for Saturday **and** Sunday! Pray for good weather on Saturday, December 17, for our Live Nativity at the park at the intersection of Routes 124 and 108. We need **lots** of participants to play the roles of shepherds, wise men, angels, and the Holy Family; if you can participate, please let Becky Lewis or Tammy Monarch know, or just show up! Then on Sunday, December 18, we will hold our annual Christmas caroling outing to our local nursing homes and other individuals. We will meet at the Education Building at 4 p.m. to split into groups, and after we've finished caroling, the Christian Fellowship Committee will provide a dinner at the home of Tammy and Rick Monarch, 9009 Kimblehunt Drive. Please sign up in the Greeting Room to give us an idea of how many to expect, and also see the Missions Committee's list in the Greeting Room of donated items that would be appreciated by our nursing home residents. The final Fellowship event for December takes place on Thursday, December 22, when Randy and Elaine Falk host the Evening Circle/United Methodist Men Christmas Dinner at their home at 21 Clearwater Court at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend; please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share.

January promises to be much calmer, with Soup Sunday on January 15 following the worship service the only church-wide event. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room to bring soup, bread or muffins, or dessert as you join your church family for a fellowship meal. Also on the January calendar are UMM breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 16 (Presidents' Day) and Ladies Lunch Out at noon on Wednesday, January 18. The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building to set the calendar for 2017. Look for **lots** of dates in the February Messenger!

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

There is a basket in the Greeting Room with food tags and gift wish list tags for the Christmas baskets for four local needy families, and there are also boxes for the corresponding donations. Please remember to wrap your gift and attach the tag provided with the person's name on it. All of the gifts and food items are due on Sunday, December 18. If you would like to donate money for the perishables or to purchase a gift, or donate a turkey, please see Jackie Hottinger.

We are also collecting toiletry and personal care items and trinkets for the residents at Pleasant View Nursing Home and Montgomery Village Health Care Center until Sunday, December 18. If you would like to donate some goodies to these very needy people to help brighten their lives and their holiday, it will be greatly appreciated. These items do not need to be wrapped. There are lists available in the greeting room for this project. In addition to the list of toiletry items, magazines, books, stationary, gently used costume jewelry, and purses are always welcome. The Christmas carolers will deliver these to the nursing homes.

Many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen on Halloween. We had wonderful help! Thank you to everyone who participates in any and all ways in our Missions' projects throughout the year. We have a wonderful congregation that is always willing to help others. It makes us appreciate how blessed we all are.

No Newsletter in January

There will be not be a January issue of The Messenger. Please listen carefully to announcements in church and read the bulletin calendar, as more dates may be added.

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

All fall, we have been reading, studying, and discussing proof from both the Old and New Testaments that Jesus lived and died for us. He is REAL – the Bible tells us this and then goes on to prove it! And everything we've learned for the past three months is leading up to the birth of one very special baby.

Throughout this Advent season, we will focus on the feelings we experience during the days and events leading up to the birth of Jesus, including the hope of what's to come as we prepare for our Messiah, and the peace, love, and joy that come with His arrival. Each Sunday, we will light an Advent candle to recognize these feelings we have as we journey together toward our Savior's birth: hope, peace, joy, and love.

On December 24, our Sunday School will help present the earlier worship service at 4 p.m. in our sanctuary. Please make plans to attend this family-friendly service of carols, readings, drama, and music. We also promise you the laughter, smiles, and fun spirit of children on Christmas Eve. All of our students – both young **and** old – are excited and eager to present to you the magical story of our Savior's birth! If you normally attend Sunday School (both children and adults) and will not be in church on Christmas Eve, please let Doug Gaither or Tammy Monarch know ASAP, so we can make plans for this special service.

Note that we will not hold Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. We will resume our regular winter classes starting on Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in our Education Building. Please join us!

Christmas Cantata

Forever Christmas




PRESENTED SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

11:00AM AND 7:30PM

**BY: WESLEY GROVE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**





Come join us for cookies, milk
and cocoa, and an opportunity
to meet the real Santa!

Saturday, December 3
Special Needs 2 - 3:30 pm
Community 3:30 - 5 pm

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

301-253-2894

www.wesleygroveumc.org



Craft items from our Holly Days Bazaar remain on sale in the Education Building. You can stop by after church any Sunday or during any events taking place in the Education Building. It's a great place to pick up those last-minute gifts!



Play Station 4, Plus Games!

If you would like to buy any raffle tickets for a PS4, complete with "Call of Duty Black Ops III" and "Guitar Hero Live," please contact Tammy Monarch at (301) 253-0044. Tickets are \$1 and benefit Wesley Grove UMC. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 11, in plenty of time for Christmas. You do not have to be present to win.



Friday, December 9, 2016
5:00 pm—9:00 pm

Meet at the Education Building at 5:00 pm

We will then travel to Rockin' Jump
at 18620 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD

Fees and special sock purchase for jumpers will be taken care of by UMYF leader Carol Stone

*After one hour of jumping we will travel to Gentleman Jim's Restaurant
(around the corner on Snouffer School Road) for pizza!!!!*

We plan to arrive back at the Hall no later than 9:00 pm with smiles on our faces!!!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room or let the office know if you and your children plan to attend by Sunday, December 4.

All jumpers will need to have a online waiver form filled out at mdm.store.rockinjump.com (prior to arrival)



ROCKIN' JUMP
THE ULTIMATE TRAMPOLINE PARK.

A blue-toned illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, three camels are silhouetted against a light blue background. In the background, a stable is visible on the left, and a bright, multi-pointed star shines in the sky. The entire scene is framed by a yellow border.

Live Nativity

December 17th

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for A Night in Bethlehem...

Saturday, December 17th 5:00 - 7:00 PM

At the Gazebo on the corner of Route 124 & Route 108
Damascus, MD

Come enjoy a serene & gentle live display
of the night our Savior Jesus was born.

Warm drinks & cookies will be served.

Presented by:

South Damascus Charge

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church


Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church

Salem United Methodist Church

Asbury United Methodist Church

We're Growing – Let's Stay Focused on Our Youth!

The pavilion, ball field, and playground are used by the youth in the community. Please support these businesses! All of their donations go to support the maintenance of these facilities.



Brian Lewis
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Gift Certificates Walk-ins Welcome
 Tu-Th. 9am-8pm; Fri. 9am-4:30pm; Sat. 8am-4pm



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Deadline for Ordering: December 11

\$10.00 Each

Red or White available

Name: _____

Number ordered: _____

Color: _____

Total Cost : _____

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

Place order forms in basket on the table
 in the Greeting Room or mail to:
 Wesley Grove UMC
 23640 Woodfield Road
 Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Flowers will be available after the Christmas
 Eve Service. Please remember to take yours
 home to enjoy for the Holidays.

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	5 7:30 PM SPRC @ Mt. Tabor	6	7 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Holiday Luncheon @ Golden Bull 7:00 PM Choir	1 9:00 AM UMM Outdoor Nativity Setup	2	3 Meet & Greet w/Santa 2-3:30pm—Special Needs 3:30-5pm—Community
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Cantata 7:30 PM Cantata	12	13	14 7:00 PM Choir	8 15	9 5:00 PM Youth Christmas Outing	10 9:30 AM Cantata Dress Rehearsal
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 Caroling & Dinner	19	20	21 7:00 PM Choir	22 6:00 P M Evening Circle/UMM Party @ the Falks	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Candlelight Service
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 11:00 AM Worship	26	27	28 7:00 PM Choir	29	30	31
Office Closed						

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 11:00 AM Worship Communion	2	3	4 7:00 PM Choir	5 7:30 PM Christian Fellowship Committee	6	7
8 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Epiphany Service	9 7:30 PM Administrative Council	10	11 7:00 PM Choir	12	13	14 9:30 AM Take down sanctuary decorations
15 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Soup Sunday	16 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast	17	18 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	23 7:30 PM Finance Committee	24 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	25 7:00 PM Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Worship Committee	30	31				

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



***Join us for
Christmas Eve Services
Family Service
4:00 pm
Candlelight Service
11:00 pm
Christmas Day
11:00 am***

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

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