

Wesley Grove Messenger

October 2024

From Pastor Abby's Desk...

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



This past week, something major happened to me! As many of you all know, I got married! As I continue to process the day, I am struck by the fact that everything feels different, yet it also feels the same. No longer am I responsible for just myself, but my spouse, too. No longer do my decisions merely just impact me and my family, but my new family, too. The homily that our pastor gave was focused not on the traditional First Corinthians passage, but on Ruth, specifically Ruth 1: 16-17, which is as follows:

“Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

This scripture is not something Ruth says to her later spouse, Boaz, but to her mother-in-law, Naomi. However, the love in these words still resonates deep within me. Ruth, a recent widow, had the opportunity to go home to her family. No, she didn't just have the opportunity to return to her family, Naomi *sent* her home. In an act of defiance and love for her late husband's mother, Ruth instead responds that Naomi is her family now, that Naomi's people are now her people, and Naomi's God is Ruth's God. In Jewish tradition, Ruth is the first conversion story; in our tradition, I think this story should speak to just how powerful love, friendship, and loyalty are.

Back in 2020, my family's small business had to shut down. We used to own an Irish-themed store, because after my grandparents immigrated here from Ireland, they missed their homeland so much and they wanted to share their culture with the community. Before it closed, James and I bought matching Claddagh rings — rings that have two hands holding a heart with a crown — and we decided then that these would ultimately become our wedding rings. James has no ties to Ireland, yet he adopted a significant practice of my family's culture because it was important to me. On the inside of our bands, the words, “Love. Loyalty. Friendship,” are inscribed. These three words are the meaning of the Claddagh: the heart representing love, the crown representing loyalty, and the hands representing friendship.

As the reality of our wedding day and our new life together sets in, I am struck by how true these words are in all types of love — not just the romantic type of love that was shared by us on Saturday, but in the friendship type of love that was shared between Ruth and Naomi, or the family and community type of love that is shared here at Wesley Grove. Ruth had every reason to leave Naomi now that her husband was gone, for there was nothing tying them together. Yet, not only did she cling to Naomi, but even death couldn't separate them. While I am very new to married life, I do believe that love, loyalty, and friendship need to be the backbone of this new life, and how lucky are James and I that we have such beautiful examples of this exact type of love laid out for us in the Scriptures.

Lectionary Readings

October 6, 2024

World Communion Sunday

Pastor Nick preaching

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 25 or 26

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

October 13, 2024

Pastor Abby preaching

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalm 22:1-15

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

October 20, 2024

Laity Sunday

Frank Miller preaching

Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 27, 2024

Pastor Nick Preaching

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

Hebrews 7:23-28



August 2024 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,432.38
Senior Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$835.33
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$663.17
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,144.44
Organist / Pianist	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$138.29
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$420.00
Programs	\$407.62
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$163.09
South Damascus Charge Treasury	\$120.91
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,566.08
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$0.00
Montgomery County Solid Waste Tax	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,891.31



Education News

Our one-room Sunday School has resumed meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the hall. This class is co-led by Pastor Nick, Pastor Abby, and Tammy. Everyone is invited and welcome to join us as we discuss the various connections between assorted comic book superheroes and Biblical figures. This topic may sound a bit strange, but it promises to be very interesting!

Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,810.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,299.33
Rental Property Income	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$8,109.33



Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon



**Saturday, November 16
9 am to 3 pm**

Make plans to come out and join us as we begin the Holiday Season with our annual Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon! We plan to have almost 30 assorted crafters selling a variety of handmade wares from note-cards and beaded jewelry to knitted scarves and dried flower arrangements to Christmas ornaments and wreaths.

The church will also 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 beverages and lunch items including homemade soups and freshly made sandwiches throughout the day as well as delicious home-baked goods. All donations of cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, 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 am and 4 pm on Friday, November 15, the day before the bazaar.

If you can help on the day of the bazaar 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 Mary Jane Walter
- 27 Braden Green
- 30 Charlie Stone



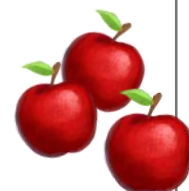
Damascus HELP Food Collection

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

Over the next four 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, and/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 27.



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

For the Christian Fellowship Committee, October will be a month of preparation for the busy Holiday Season on the horizon!



We would like to have Coffee and Conversation after the worship service on Laity Sunday, October 20; please let Becky know if you would be able to host this event.

In the meantime, make sure you have the following dates marked on your calendars:

Friday, November 15: Bazaar Set-up, 11 am until about 5 pm



Saturday, November 16: Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon, 9 am to 3 pm

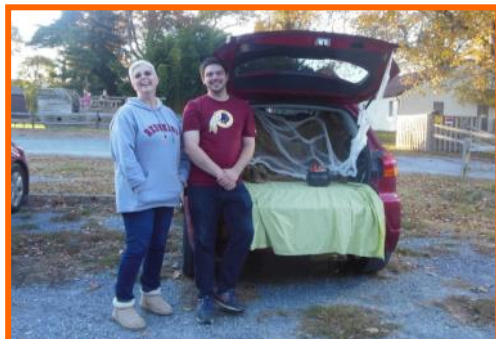
Sunday, November 17: Fellowship Luncheon, 12:30 pm



Wednesday, December 4: Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, 7 pm

Thursday, December 12: Christmas Luncheon at Morgan's American Grille in New Market, 1 pm

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Caroling & Dinner at the Monarchs' Home, 4 pm



CROP Walk



On Sunday, October 6, Damascus will hold its 53rd CROP Walk. This event will take place from 2-4 pm at Damascus Regional Park. 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 all around the world.

Looking Back...

Do you recognize these photos from our community Trunk-or-Treating event in 2014? Just who are those red-masked little kids? Send your guesses to Tammy.



The answer will be shared in next month's newsletter.





It's Bingo Time!

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will host its fall fundraiser night consisting of a fried chicken and ham dinner and 20 games of bingo on Friday, October 25. The doors will open at 5 pm; dinner will be served from 5:30-7:00; and the games will begin at 7 pm. Tickets cost \$50 each and are available from Jim and Lois Kemp. Call them at 301-253-2859 to reserve yours today!



Church Conference

Our annual South Damascus Charge Church Conference will be held on Saturday, November 9 at 12:30 pm. One of our BWC elders will preside over this livestreamed conference. Please let Tammy know if you plan to participate, and she will provide you with the necessary documents ahead of time as well as forward you the Zoom link.



Lunch Out

On Wednesday, October 16, we will join together for our monthly fellowship luncheon at The Links at Challedon Golf Course restaurant, located on Route 27 just north of Mt. Airy, at 12 pm. Everyone in our church family is invited and welcome to join us!

Community Dinner and Bake Sale



St. Paul UMC on Rt. 108 in Laytonsville will hold its fall fundraiser dinner on Friday, October 18 from 4:00-7:30 pm. The menu includes all of your delicious barbeque favorites — pulled pork, chicken, and assorted sides. Adult dinners cost \$20; dinners for children (ages 8-12) are \$15; and young children (ages 0-7) are free. For more information, call the church at 301-963-2185 or visit its website at...

www.stpaulaytonsville.org



Damascus Street Festival

The Town of Damascus will hold its first-ever "Festival on Main Street" on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19-20. The Montgomery County Planning Department is responsible for organizing this event, and it promises to have something for everyone — food, music, play equipment, and entertainment!

The festival hours on Saturday are from 1-6 pm, and on Sunday, they are from 10 am to 2 pm, but please note that Main Street between Woodfield Road and Ridge Road will be closed from 6 am on Saturday morning until 6 pm on Sunday evening.

So make plans to come and join others in our community to celebrate small town life in Damascus and see what this festival is all about!

Administrative Council Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2024

In Attendance: Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Linda Chatterton, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works

Opening: Bob began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Devotions: Linda delivered a prayer.

Prayer Requests:

- Jeff Monarch needs continued prayers as he is getting weaker and more tired each week.
- Pastor Nick's 39-year-old cousin, Dana Maldonado, passed away this morning leaving behind a 3-year old child.

Good News: Rick and Tammy visited with Mary Ann Davis on their travels to OC. They went out to lunch with her and her daughter, Debbie. Mary Ann appeared well and shared some of her memories and thoughts of Woodfield.

Minutes: The July meeting minutes were voted on and unanimously accepted as printed in the August newsletter.

Old Business: None to report.

New Business:

- Steven is now a certified Lay Servant after successful completion of his training. Bob signed the certificate on behalf of WGUMC.
- Tammy shared a little more about the BWC restructuring, which included an update from our short-term HUB committee.

Committee Reports:

Communications — All of our Facebook sites and church website have the Fall Yard Sale and Holly Days Craft Bazaar advertised on them. Cards have been sent to many folks over the past couple of months.

Education — Pastor Nick has selected a book about the biblical themes portrayed by and within various comic book superheroes — both Marvel and DC. Sunday school will resume on Sunday, September 29 at 9:30 am in the hall.

Fellowship — Fall Community Yard Sale is coming up on Saturday, September 21. Both help and baked goods are needed. All are invited to go to Doc Waters Cidery on Friday, September 27 for an evening of dinner, campfire, and trivia. Pastor Abby is getting married on Saturday, September 21. We will celebrate with her and her new husband at a mini-wedding reception after the service on Sunday, September 29.

Finance — This Committee met earlier tonight and discussed the needed repairs to the parsonage. It agreed

that we had and could spend about \$25,000 for these renovations. Chairperson Rick Monarch brought this recommendation to this meeting for Administrative Council's approval. All who were present agreed to spend this amount. Earlier this year, we agreed to cash out five annuities that matured in June. They totaled about \$140,000 and were used to pay these outstanding bills — new church roof, two new church A/C units, and new hall roof. Tammy will contact DSA to check if it plans to make a contribution for using the ball field this year.

Lay Leadership — This committee met in August to begin its annual search to fill church committee positions. Most folks will retain their positions in 2025. The committee recommended combining our five programming committees (communications, education, fellowship, missions, and worship) into just one committee called our Ministry Committee. A vote was taken, and all agreed. The final Lay Leadership Report will be presented and voted on at our virtual Charge Conference on Saturday, November 9 at 12:30 pm.

Missions — Nothing new to report.

SPRC — Pastor Abby accepted the half-time associate pastor position that we offered and began her ministry with the South Damascus Charge on July 15. Jeremy Eikenberry was hired to enhance our music ministry, and he began last Sunday, September 1. He will lead us in singing and playing the guitar until Eugenia returns later this month. At that point, they will work together to provide music during our worship services.

Trustees — They are in the process of renovating the parsonage to be used for rental purposes. Numerous repairs are needed, including the roof, chimney, floor coverings, smoke detectors, painting, electrical wiring, and window coverings. The cost for all of this work is estimated at \$25,000.

Worship — Our worship service will be held outside on Sunday, September 22 at 10 am, and it will return to our regular 11:00 am start time the following week on Sunday, September 29. Frank Miller will preach on Laity Sunday, which is Sunday, October 20.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Nick shared that he, Pastor Abby, Jeremy, and Tammy are working together to plan our worship services about a month in advance. He also shared that DUMC, MUMC, and our SD Charge are working together to provide youth activities and a confirmation class for middle and high school teens in the Damascus area. The fellowship activities will take place on Sunday evenings, and the classes will occur on Monday evenings. He is trying to visit at least one person per week. He is also working with Pastor Abby to help her in meeting all of our church members, including our shut-ins.

Pastor Abby was not present at this meeting because she currently has a class on Monday evenings.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 4 at 7:00 pm --- Devotions will be led by Carol.

Closing --- Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worldwide Communion Sunday 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 2:00 PM— CROP Walk	7	8	9	10	11	12 5:00 PM— Farmers' Club Dinner at the Hall
13 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Pastor Abby</i>	14 <i>on Honeymoon in</i>	15 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting <i>Ireland thru 10/20</i>	16 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at The Links at Challedon in Mt. Airy	17	18 4:00-7:30 PM— BBQ Dinner and Bake Sale at St. Paul UMC in Lay- tonsville	19 <i>Deadline for November Newsletter Submissions</i> 1:00-6:00 PM— Damascus Festival on Main Street
20 Laity Sunday 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:00 PM— Fellowship Hour? <i>All 2025 Budget Requests Due to Rick</i>	21 10 AM-2 PM— Damascus Festival on Main Street	22	23	24	25 5:00 PM— Chicken Dinner & Bingo Fundraiser at DVFD	26
27 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	28 6:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees	29 3:00 PM— Book Club at Karen's Home 7:00 PM— SPRC Meeting	30	31 Happy Halloween! 		

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

United Methodist Laity Sunday

Sunday, October 20

**during our
Worship Service
at 11 am**

Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044
to volunteer to read Scripture,
lead a prayer, greet worshippers,
and/or sing a solo or duet.

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

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