

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

November 2024

From the Desk of Pastor Nick...

*What is **holy** in your life? What do you have in close vicinity right now that you consider holy? What matters to you more than anything else?*

Sometimes, it is important to ask ourselves these questions. I traveled to Iona this summer on a pilgrimage to see one of the oldest centers of Christian faith on the Isle of Britain. For many years, I had wanted to visit Iona because it is the birthplace of Celtic Christianity in Britain. While I was visiting the abbey there on the tiny island, I saw an ancient relic on display — the actual bones of St. Columba's right hand. St. Columba had painted the first illuminated text of the Bible on British soil with that very hand. This manuscript of the Gospel is so important to the Celtic missionaries that they have spent 1,400 years protecting and caring for the hand that wrote and drew it. Over the years, thousands of Christians have traveled hundreds of miles to come to this remote island, all in the hopes that they might cast their gaze upon this hand of St. Columba. This single relic is part of the reason the monastery on Iona has become so important. People want to be close to it, and not because they feel if they are in close proximity to it, they will be blessed, but rather because of the blessing they receive from reading the Biblical manuscript that this hand wrote. St. Columba's hand is a vehicle for God's grace to reach them. This relic is a visible reminder that God has acted in their lives.

Now, I'd like for you to spend a few minutes as you are reading this and think to yourself --- what do you have near you daily that is a visible reminder of God's grace at work in your lives?

Directly behind my head as I sit here at my desk writing this article is a collection of trinkets that I have collected from all over the world. From Samaria, I have a small jar of water from Jacob's well. From Ireland, I have a small, green, Connemara marble cross. From Corinth, I have a tiny owl made from Corinthian bronze. But the most important things I look at every day are the pictures I took while standing under the dome in the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where Christ was crucified. Almost every day, I look at these mementos, and I remember God's grace. These things are holy to me. They remind me of God's actions in my life.

Again, what mementos do you have that help you to remember God's love for you? While the medieval British people loved the relics of a dead saint's hand and I love to look at photographs of a 1,700 year-old building, I'm sure that you have something that speaks to you. Take a moment right now and name that object aloud. Go and get it; touch it; and from this point on, from time to time, stop and express your gratitude to God for His mercy shown to you through this holy relic in your own life.

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Lectionary Readings

November 3, 2024

All Saints Sunday

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

November 10, 2024

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

Psalm 42 or 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

November 17, 2024

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

Psalm 113

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 24, 2024

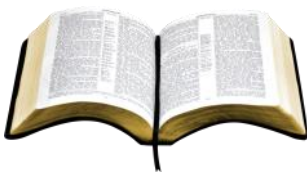
Christ the King Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 132:1-12

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37



November Birthdays

2 David Wilson
6 John Briggs
11 Jay Swearingen
12 Lois Kemp
13 Becky Lewis
14 Marcus Hull

17 Jed Snow
18 Ron Benson
23 Brian Hottinger
28 Kelsey Kunkle
Jane Shaub

September 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	\$1,733.49
Organist / Pianist Salary	\$0.00
Music Director Salary	\$500.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$183.36
Capital Improvement Costs	\$25,448.02
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$700.00
Programs	\$385.43
Property Insurance	\$2,525.25
Administrative Expenses	\$149.32
South Damascus Charge Treasury	\$120.91
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,449.36
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$0.00
Montgomery County Solid Waste Tax	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$36,126.02

Income

Weekly Collections	\$6,183.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,299.33
Rental Property Income	\$2,000.00
Use of Hall Rental Fees	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$10,682.33

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed this coming Saturday night, November 2. We want everyone to be on time for our worship service on Sunday morning!





Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

November always brings fast-falling temperatures, even faster-falling leaves, and Wesley Grove's traditional start to the Holiday Season: our annual Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Luncheon on Saturday, November 16, from 9 am to 3 pm. Everyone's help is needed to make this event a success, and if you're thinking "I can't make crafts," we need help in lots of other ways: help with setup and the event itself, cookies and cakes and pies to fill the bake table — and even just coming out to shop and buy lunch is a form of help!

If you are able to donate some time, please let Tammy or Becky know. Workers are needed for setup on Friday, November 15, starting at 11 am; during the event itself; and most especially, helping with clean up starting around 3:30 pm.



We would welcome donations of any homemade baked goods — cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, rolls, fudge, and candy. We would also greatly appreciate any jars of homemade jelly, jam, salsa, pickles, etc. Please drop off these items on Friday from 11 am to 5 pm, or on Saturday by 9 am.

Please let Tammy know if you're making something for sale at the church booth.

If you can't make it on Saturday, items from the church booth will remain on sale throughout the Holiday Season, but remember the best selection is always available on Saturday, when you'll also be able to purchase your favorite foods from our menu of homemade soups and sandwiches for breakfast and lunch.

Speaking of lunch, the Christian Fellowship Committee will provide lunch after church on Sunday, November 17, and

everyone is welcome. You don't need to bring a thing: just come and enjoy a fellowship meal with your church family.

As noted above, the Bazaar is just the start of holiday activities at Wesley Grove. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

- Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, Wednesday, December 4, 7 pm.
- Christmas Luncheon at Morgan's American Grill, Thursday, December 12, 1 pm.
- Christmas Caroling and Dinner at the Monarchs, Sunday, December 14, 4 pm.

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 are currently studying the parallels between the superheroes of the DC and Marvel Universes with Jesus and the Biblical stories of God's Universe. This topic makes for a very interesting and meaningful discussion. Who knew that there are so many similarities?!?!? Please feel free to come and join us any Sunday!



Worship News

Cathy Burke, Chair

The Worship Committee invites everyone to the sanctuary on the morning of Saturday, November 30, to help decorate it with greens and ornaments for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. We will begin at 9 am, and we usually finish by lunchtime. Please join us if you can as the more volunteers we have, the quicker we all work together to complete the task of beautifying God's House for Christmas.

Holiday Happenings Are Just Around the Corner...



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

This year, on Wednesday, November 27, our Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held at Salem United Methodist Church located at 12 High Street in Brookeville. Make plans to join us at 7 pm on the eve of our national holiday of giving thanks to the Great One, who is Our Lord and Savior. Let's all gather together to celebrate and praise the Lord for all of the blessings that He has given us in the past year. After the service, we are invited to stay, visit, and enjoy some light refreshments.



Advent Book Study

During the four weeks of Advent, our South Damascus Charge will read and discuss *An Unlikely Advent: the Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story*, written by Rachel Billups, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

If you would like to participate, you will have two choices for times and methods of meeting. You can either join us in-person at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall **or** virtually via Zoom at 7 pm on the four Monday nights during the month of December. Please let Tammy know if you plan to participate by Sunday, November 17, so that she can order the correct number of books, and also let her know which way you plan to participate.



Poinsettias

Once again this year, we'll be decorating the Sanctuary with brilliant red and white poinsettias in memory and in honor of loved ones beginning on Sunday, December 22 and lasting throughout the Christmas Season. Order forms will be available in the vestibule later this month and in the December newsletter. The cost is \$10 per plant. Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 with any questions.

Annual Tree Lighting

Our Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 7 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 Eve Worship Services

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



Christmas Luncheon

Mark your calendars now for our Wesley Grove Church Family Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 12 at Morgan's American Grill on Route 144 in New Market. We'll gather there in the back party room at 1 pm. The cost is \$25 per person, and this includes a choice of several sandwiches or salads, one side, a non-alcoholic beverage, dessert, tax, and tip. Please RSVP by signing up on the list in the vestibule and giving your cash or check made payable to Wesley Grove UMC to Tammy by Thursday, December 5.



A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank all of you who donated apple and pumpkin flavored foods and beverages during the month of October to our ongoing food collections for Damascus Help. These items will help some in our community to have a more "flavorful" Holiday Season!



For the month of November, we will collect sweet potato and cranberry flavored foods and beverages. So, when you are out grocery shopping this month, consider purchasing an extra bottle of cranberry juice, a can of sweet potatoes, or a box of cranberry muffin mix. Please bring all of these items to the display in the vestibule.

Missions News

Linda Chatterton, Chair

We at WGUMC definitely put our *faith into action* in October! Brian Lewis and I began a collection of cleaning and personal hygiene supplies for the people affected by Hurricane Helene. We announced in church on Sunday, October 6 that this collection had to be to my house by that Tuesday because we had connected with one of the Baptist churches in Mt. Airy, and it had a truck leaving for North Carolina on that Wednesday morning.

So, without much notice at all, eleven households responded — and boy did they! All items were sorted, boxed, and labelled. One box was completely filled with nothing but just toothbrushes and toothpaste! And 29 more were filled with work gloves, bars of soap, razors, scrub brushes, Brillo pads, sponges, and towels, to name just a few things.



When we delivered these boxes, the volunteers at the Baptist church were thrilled, especially because we had taken the time to sort and label. I then explained why we weren't working with our own United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and one of the volunteers responded that she didn't think God was going to sort, box, and label us as Baptists or Methodists when we get to Heaven!

I know several others within our church family donated money directly to UMCOR, which is always greatly appreciated and used exclusively for folks in need.

Thanks to all of you in our Wesley Grove Church Family who donated. This was a labor of love and a job well done — we should all be very proud!

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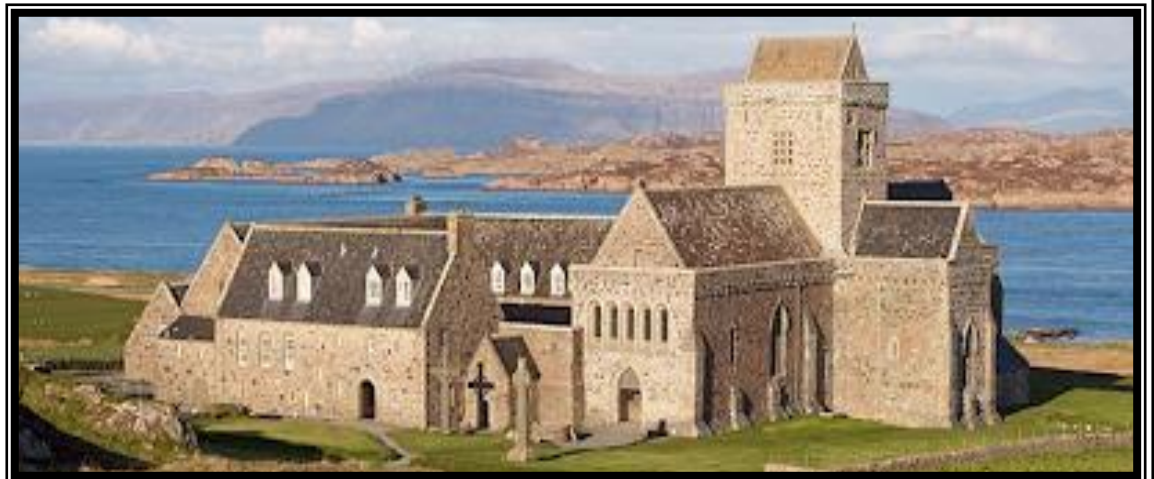
The Shrine of St. Columba, in which the bones of St. Columba's hand have been stored for nearly 1,000 years.

Collection of items, including a photo of Jesus Pantocrator (Ruler of All Things) in the Dome of the Holy Sepulcher; olive wood chalice from Jerusalem; tiny urn with water from Jacob's well; Corinthian bronze owl; Connemara marble cross; and Knock pottery cross.



The Celtic Cross with its complete loops and circles representing God's never-ending love for all of us.

The Abbey on the tiny Isle of Iona, overlooking the Sound of Iona in Scotland.



November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 All Saints Day 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	4 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	5 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	6	7	8	9 12:30 PM— Virtual Charge Conference via Zoom
10 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15 11:00 AM— Setup for Craft Ba- zaar	16 9 AM — 3 PM Holly Days Craft Bazaar and Lunch- eon
17 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— Fellowship Lunch	18 <i>December Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Deadline for Participating in the Advent Book Study</i>	19 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	20 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ J&P in Damascus	21	22	23
24 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	25 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	26	27 7:00 PM— Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ Salem UMC in Brookeville	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30 9:00 AM— Decorate Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas



**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!**

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

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