

# Wesley Grove Messenger

June 2022

## My Salty Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“You are the salt of the Earth; but if the salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.” That’s what Jesus says in Matthew 5:13.

Mark Kurlansky writes in his book, *Salt: A World History*, “from the beginning of civilization until about one hundred years ago, salt was one of the most sought after commodities in human history.” Here are some other interesting things I found out about salt:

- The ancients believed that salt would ward off evil spirits.
- Religious covenants were often sealed with salt.
- Salt was used for various medicinal purposes: to disinfect wounds, check bleeding, stimulate thirst, and treat skin diseases.
- Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt; hence our English word, “salary.”
- Brides and grooms rubbed salt on their bodies to enhance fertility.
- Around 10,000 years ago, dogs were first domesticated using salt; people would leave salt outside their homes to entice the animals.
- And of course, in all the centuries before refrigeration, salt was essential for food preservation.

We still use salt for all sorts of purposes. Salt accentuates flavors, melts ice, soothes sore throats, rinses sinuses, eases swelling, and cleanses wounds. If we don’t have enough salt in our bodies, we die. But if we have too much? We also die. So, when Jesus calls His listeners “the salt of the Earth,” He is saying something profound.

He is telling us who we are. We *are* salt. We are not “supposed to be” salt, or “encouraged to become” salt, or promised that “if we become” salt, God will love us more. For better or for worse, we ARE the salt of the Earth. We spiritually impact the world we live in. Also, He is telling us that we are precious. Jesus addressed His famous Sermon on the Mount to the poor, the mournful, the hungry, the sick, the outcast, the frightened. “*You*,” He told them all, “*You* are the salt of the Earth.” You are essential. You are worthwhile. You are treasured. He bestowed great value on those who did not consider themselves valuable, and He is still doing this. For us. Now. Finally, salt is meant to enhance, not dominate. Christian saltiness. It heals; it doesn’t wound. Salt *fails* when it is the dominant flavor. It destroys the rich potential all around it. It ruins what it tries to enhance. It repels.

So, what do we do? Well, our call is NOT to lose our saltiness. Not to retreat or hide or choose blandness, instead of boldness. We are called to live wisely, creatively, and in balance. To learn — as my mother put it when I was a little girl — “how to check for salt.” To be blessed, to be salt, to be followers of Jesus, is to take seriously what our identity signifies. We are the Beloved Children of God, worthy of love and respect, and God is using us to change the world.

We are the salt of the Earth. That is what *we are!* May your pouring out — and mine — be for the life of the world as we share the kingdom of spice and zest, the kingdom of health and wholeness, the kingdom of varied depth and flavor and complexity. Be the salt of the Earth!

In God’s peace,  
Pastor Karen

# Lectioary Readings

**June 5, 2022**

*Pentecost*

*Holy Communion*

*Pastor Nick, preaching*

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-35

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

**June 12, 2022**

*Trinity Sunday*

*Christian Education Sunday*

*Last Day for Sunday School*

*Pastor Karen, preaching*

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

**June 19, 2022**

**\*\*\* Worship Changes to 10 AM \*\*\***

*Father's Day*

*Pastor Nick, preaching*

1 Kings 19:1-15a

Psalm 42

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

**June 26, 2022**

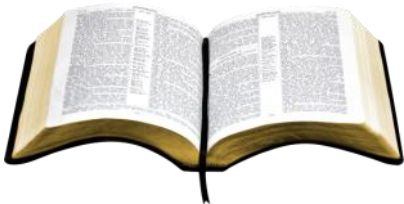
*Pastor Karen, preaching*

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62



Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer to serve as our liturgist during a Sunday morning worship service.



## April 2022 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,281.91
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,503.25
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,484.60
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$113.58
Capital Improvement Costs	\$3,080.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$490.00
Programs	\$105.36
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$173.13
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$375.83
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$319.45
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,941.49
In and Out Expenses	\$350.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,021.55</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$11,236.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Use of Hall	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$350.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,690.21</b>

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*



They say if at first you don't succeed, try again, and that's exactly what we'll do on Saturday, June 4, when we'll hold the Spring Community Yard Sale from 9 am to 2 pm.

It's not too late to reserve a space by calling Tammy at 301-253-0044, or if you have items to donate for the church to sell, drop them by the Fellowship Hall by 3 pm on Friday, June 3. If shopping is more your thing, plan to come out, search for bargains, and treat yourself to a breakfast sandwich or something from the grill (with fries, of course!), and a baked goodie to take home. We're looking for donations of baked goods, preferably packaged as individual desserts without frosting; you can drop them off on Friday as well or early in the day on Saturday.

In addition to circling the Yard Sale date on your calendar, please mark it for a couple of other opportunities to share food in fellowship with your church family. On Sunday, June 12, we'll honor our graduates and Sunday School students with Coffee and Conversation following the service, and the following week, Sunday, June 19, **everyone** is



welcome at our **Annual Father's Day Breakfast**. Please note the serving time of **9 am**, as our worship service time changes to 10 am for the summer on this

day. Any woman who can help with this breakfast, please contact Becky at 240-338-3211.

The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet on Thursday, June 23 at 7:30 pm, either in or outside the Fellowship Hall, depending on the weather. We'll be making plans for the fall and the Advent/Christmas seasons before taking a break for the remainder of the summer.



## Fundraiser

### FRIED CHICKEN DINNER

**Friday, June 17**

Mt. Tabor UMC (one of our two sister churches) on Route 108 in Etchison will host a carry-out fried chicken dinner fundraiser from 4-7 pm. All dinners include four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a roll and cost \$17. Placing your orders in advance by calling 301-253-3871 and leaving a message (including your name, number of dinners, and pick-up time) is strongly recommended although drive-up ordering is certainly possible. Home-baked goodies will also be available for purchase during this event.

## June Birthdays

- 1 Paul Verner
- 2 Betty Eisenhaur
- 4 Brianna Powell
- 6 Jim Burns  
Bob Burke
- 7 Tim Lee
- 11 Tim Benson
- 12 Scott Verner
- 14 Sam Allman
- 15 Ruth Hobbs
- 17 Jennifer Hyde Cano  
Ralph Ketchum, Sr.
- 19 Mehrle Staley  
Danny Wilson
- 27 Emilia Cano  
Penelope Cano
- 29 Bruce Walter
- 30 Adam Wilson



### Free Rides to COVID Vaccinations

Regency and Barwood Taxi Services, in partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, are providing free round trip transportation for Montgomery County residents aged 65+ or with disabilities to and from COVID-19 vaccination and booster appointments. Call 301-990-9000 or 301-984-1900 to set up your ride. You will be asked your name, phone number, and trip details; then you will receive a code for your trip, which you will provide to your driver. You must wear a mask, and you will be asked to sign a voucher at the end of the trip.

Mark your calendars now for...

## Christmas in July



**Worship Service**  
Sunday, July 24  
10 am

Plan to join us to hear the miraculous story of Our Savior's Birth and sing your favorite carols at a time of the year other than December. *After all, why should something so wonderful and so amazing only be shared once a year?!?!?* Christmas cookies and punch will be served after the service.

## PENTECOST 50 DAYS AFTER EASTER

On the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, the Heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Twelve and enabled them to speak in many different languages to those assembled before them — both Jews and Gentiles. Peter addressed the crowd, telling of Jesus' Glorious Resurrection and pleading with them to repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus the Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Many agreed, and about 3,000 were added to the growing number of Christians that day.



# June 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting at the Monarchs' Home	2  Conference	3 1-5 PM— Drop-Off, Set-Up, and Pricing for Yard Sale	4 7:30 AM— Set-Up 9 AM to 2 PM— Spring Yard Sale 2:00 PM— Clean-Up
5 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Wear colors of fire.</i>	6	7 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	8  BWC Annual	9	10	11
12 <i>Education Sun.</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	13	14	15 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Ledo's in Damascus	16	17 4-7 PM— Fried Chicken Carry-Out Dinner at MTUMC	18  <i>Deadline for July Newsletter Submissions</i>
19 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:00 AM— Breakfast 10:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Note time change.</i>	20	21 7:30 PM— Missions Commit- tee Meeting	22	23 7:30 PM— Fellowship Com- mittee Meeting	24	25
26 10:00 AM— Worship Service	27 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	28	29	30		



# **Wesley Grove United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

## **As a Church Family that...**

- \* covenants to walk together in Christ's peace,
- \* believes that all persons are created equal,  
and
- \* affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

**We Welcome All to Our Work and Worship,**  
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,  
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic  
circumstance.

**We're on the Web!**  
[wesleygroveumc.org](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

# *Rescheduled*

## **Community Yard Sale**



**Saturday, June 4  
9 am to 2 pm**

**Come to help, browse, eat,  
and enjoy!**

Contact Tammy if you would like  
to rent a space or  
Becky if you can volunteer this day.

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

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