

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk...



In the Book of Genesis, God creates a garden in which Adam and Eve can live. The Garden of Eden is depicted as a place of perfection, a place where humanity belongs and walks with the Creator in perfect harmony and union. There are trees to provide food and a river to sustain life in this garden of perfection. We know that Adam and Eve couldn't remain in this garden after their fall. They were removed from it, and all their human descendants must live outside this garden, which was planted for humanity to live and thrive in.

At end of the Book of Revelation, there is another garden depicted. It is the Garden of Eden restored, a place for the descendants of Adam and Eve to once again walk in harmony and union with the Creator. Just as in the Genesis narrative, in the final chapter of the Book of Revelation, a tree of life is depicted. Revelation talks about this tree and says that it is in the middle of the great eternal city, the new Jerusalem. It produces 12 different kinds of fruits, which bloom in each successive month.

According to John, this tree provides fruit for all to consume and leaves for the healing of the nations. All the people of the world will find sustenance and healing here in this eternal garden under this amazing tree of life. It really is the Garden of Eden restored. But how did the Biblical story go from one garden of perfection to this last garden where paradise is restored? This answer occurred in a third garden.

This third garden is a small and ancient one in Jerusalem, and it is home to many ancient trees. In fact, the trees in this garden are more than two thousand years old. I was able to see and take pictures of them in 2012. This is the ancient Garden of Gethsemane. In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus takes His disciples here on the night in which He is arrested. He asks them to pray while He goes a little further into the garden to pray as well. In His prayer, Jesus asks His Father for this cup to pass from Him. He doesn't want to die, and so, He begs God to change His plans for humanity. Yet Jesus concludes in this little garden that He must forfeit His life to save all of God's children and restore them to the eternal garden of paradise. Here in this garden, Jesus commits Himself to bringing all of us back to the original garden of communion with God.

When I walked among the trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, I was struck by how beautiful this garden is; yet, it is just a pale shadow of the beauty of Eden and of the Garden of Paradise that awaits us. I stood in awe and wonder as I thanked God for this garden and the beauty He bestowed upon it.

Plan to join us this Lenten Season as we walk with Jesus during His final days here on Earth — throughout the Holy City of Jerusalem, including the Temple, the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, and on to Golgotha where He was crucified and the tomb where His body was laid. We'll read and study the book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, by Amy-Jill Levine. It is our hope that you will all learn some additional insights about this last week — called the Passion — of Jesus' life before His Glorious Resurrection on Easter morning.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Nick

Lectionary Readings

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45



January 2023 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,184.16
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,563.42
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$405.50
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,290.86
Music Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$98.75
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$536.45
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$278.33
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$390.85
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$296.66
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$332.23
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,290.60
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,144.23

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,638.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,167.34
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,805.34



Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Look up the recipe for your favorite appetizer or dessert, dig your favorite game out of the closet, and plan to join in the fun of Games Night on Saturday, March 25. Rick and Tammy Monarch will host this event in their home at 9620 Watkins Road. Please bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share and any games that you'd like others to enjoy. The "competition" gets underway at 6 pm. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room on Sunday mornings.

The Monarchs will also host Coffee and Conversation after the worship service on Sunday, March 12. Please plan to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship with your church family.

Speaking of fellowship meals, a look ahead to April shows two opportunities for sharing:

- "Sonrise" Service Breakfast in the Hall on Easter Sunday, April 9.
- Dinner & Movie Night at the Hall on Saturday, April 15.

And of course, it's never too soon to start cleaning out your closets and planning for our Spring Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 13. It'll be here before we know it!

Daylight Savings Time

begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 12.
Please remember to set your clocks
ahead one hour
before you go to bed that night.



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

The Season of Lent has begun, and we are starting our Lenten Book Study on Wednesday nights both in person at Mt. Tabor UMC and via Zoom at 7 pm. This study, which will be led by our two pastors, is based on the book called *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine, and will focus on the sacrificial risks that Jesus took on our behalf during the last week of His life. If anyone else would like to join us, please know it is never too late! Just let Tammy know, and she'll get a copy of the book to you.

We will also read and discuss this same book on Sunday mornings during our Sunday School class at 9:30 am in the hall. Please feel free to join us on either day — Wednesdays or Sundays — or both!

Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

Thanks to all of you who donated money towards the Lord's Table last month. We collected \$80, added \$70 more from our Missions budget, and then sent a check for \$150 to help feed the needy in Gaithersburg. We will also be sending \$150 to Damascus HELP to aid in feeding the needy in the Damascus and Clarksburg area. Our next date for cooking and serving at the Lord's Table will be on Monday, May 29. Please mark this on your calendars now.

We plan to organize a church trip to the Strawbridge Home & Shrine in New Windsor for their annual Colonial Day Celebration in June. This event usually occurs on the third Saturday. Further details will be provided in our upcoming newsletters.

Our next meeting will occur on Thursday, October 12, at 7 pm.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order flowering plants for Easter, please pick up an order form in the vestibule. We hope to have daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and Easter lilies all as choices again this year. These plants cost \$12 each; order forms and money (cash or a check made payable to WGUMC) are due back to the church office by Palm Sunday, April 2. Plants will be available to take home after the 11 am worship service on Easter morning.



Did you know...

... that the idea of spring cleaning has its origins in the Season of Lent, which is now upon us?

During this time, we are asked to pray, fast, abstain from something that we enjoy, spend more time with our Lord, serve the community, and/or clean out the clutter in our lives. Basically, we are to live our lives simply, just as Jesus lived His.

One way that we can do this is to clean up and clean out our homes. Each year, we find that we have all stored more and more stuff in our houses, and spring is the perfect time to declutter them and get a "fresh start" again!

If you find that you have things that you no longer want, but someone else may, then you might consider reserving a spot at our Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 13. Call Tammy at 301-253-0044 to book your space.

Or you may find that you have items that belong at the church or at the hall. In recent years, we have noticed that some things seem to be missing or their numbers have decreased. Here is a list of some things that you might find in your homes. If so, and you still use and/or want them, then, indeed, please keep them, but if you no longer have a use for some of these items, then please return them to their appropriate locations.

- Wesley Grove blue aprons
- Choir books and CDs
- Hymnals and Bibles from the pews
- Dishes from the hall kitchen
- Books from the church library
- Church and hall keys

In fact, if you do have a church, hall, parsonage, and/or pavilion key, please let Tammy know, so that she can update the master list in the church office. Thanks in advance for your help with this annual spring clean-up project!

March Birthdays

- 4 Linda Chatterton
- 8 Steven Arndt
- 9 Kathi Johnson
- 15 Chan Ketchum
- Lily Hagy
- 17 Debbie Benson
- 19 Emma Lynagh
- 22 Debbie Snyder
- 24 Gary Rogers
- 27 Carla Works
- 28 Jaime Crawford
- 30 Tammy Monarch




Holy Week Services

Make plans now to join us for these special worship services during the last week of Jesus' life:

- Palm Sunday** — April 2 @ 11 am @ WGUMC
- Maundy Thursday**—April 6 @ 7 pm @ Salem
- Good Friday** — April 7 @ 7 pm @ WGUMC
- Easter Sunday** — April 9 @ 6:30 am (outdoor) & 11 am (indoor) @ WGUMC

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study	2	3	4
5 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	6 7:00 PM— Finance Commit- tee Meeting	7 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	8 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study	9	10	11 <i>Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed tonight.</i>
12 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:00 PM— Fellowship Hour	13 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	14	15 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ Lu & Joe's in Mt. Airy 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study	16	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i> 	18 <i>April Newsletter Deadline</i>
19 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	20	21 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	22 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study	23	24	25 9:00 AM— Hand Bell Practice 6:00 PM— Games Night at the Monarchs' Home
26 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	27 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	28	29 3:30 PM— Choir Practice 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study	30	31	



Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

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Website: 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.

The Lenten Season is upon us.

What have you given
up for our
Lord
this year?



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

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