

Wesley Grove Messenger

May 2023

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Years ago, a sociologist noted that more and more Americans were bowling alone. In 2000, Robert Putnam wrote that fewer Americans were bowling in leagues together. He talked about the decline of “social capital” in American life since 1950 and defined “social capital” as the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular community that enable that community to function effectively. A declining social capital means that those networks are shrinking and those relationships are diminishing. He listed various institutions that were losing members, and surprise, surprise! One of them was churches. Fewer and fewer people were going to church then, and unfortunately, that trend continues to gain momentum every year. Wesley Grove certainly can attest to that. I have heard several of you say that you miss the days when more folks were present with us... when Sunday School was full... when the choir was larger... and I know that there are specific folks that you all miss.

I wish I could offer you a simple solution to reverse this trend. I wish I could say we can do this or that and turn the trend of declining church membership around. Or this one little trick will work... I promise! But no one would believe that. For if it were true, we wouldn't be in the spot we are in now.

But I can offer you one suggestion. YOU can invite someone to join us at church. YOU know someone in your life that needs a prayerful, caring community. YOU know a person that is hurting who has lost “social capital” in his or her networks of relationships. When Jesus was nearing the end of His life, he addressed His Disciples, saying that they had learned from Him for three years as their master and Lord. Yet, given what was about to happen on the Cross, their relationship with Him was going to change. He insisted that they were now His friends. FRIENDSHIP. That is the only answer to declining social capital. That is why I am encouraging you to invite a friend to church on Sunday, May 7. It isn't that it is good for Wesley Grove (although it is), it is also good for your friend, and for you, and for all of us. We all need friends.

Here are a few tips that might help when you invite a friend to church...

1. Pray before you invite your friend. God will give you the wisdom and courage to ask them to join you at church, and this is indeed the hardest part... the asking.
2. Ask this person to go WITH you. Plan to meet them at your/their house and carpool together. Or just meet them in the church parking lot and walk in together. Let them know you are going to be looking for them, and they will have a friend there with them. Heck, in this new world we all live in, you could even share the Zoom link and invite them to join you in church virtually.
3. Share with them what church will look like: explain the dress code, whether they should bring Bibles, how long the service will last, who is leading the service, etc. Take away as much of the unknown as possible.
4. Be sure to follow up. After the service, ask them how they liked it, whether they would want to come again, and then let Pastor Karen or me know if you think we should contact your friend. Assure them they are not required to come back, but tell them that we would love to have them come again!

These are just a few ideas. I am praying that this special day in the life of our church goes well. Thank you for inviting your friends to Wesley Grove!

In God's Peace,
Pastor Nick

Lectionary Readings

May 7, 2023

Bring a Friend Sunday



Pastor Nick, preaching

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14



May 14, 2023

Mother's Day

Pastor Karen, preaching

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21



May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

Heritage Sunday

Pastor Nick, preaching

Acts 1:1-14

Psalm 47, 68, 93

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Ephesians 1:15-23

John 17:1-11

Luke 24:44-53



May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday

Memorial Day Weekend

Pastor Karen, preaching

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39



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

March 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	\$1,454.26
Organist / Pianist	\$300.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$111.25
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$490.00
Programs	\$486.87
Property Insurance	\$1,694.25
Administrative Expenses	\$275.35
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	\$2,648.61
Miscellaneous	\$7.98
Total Expenses	\$11,767.81

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,165.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,167.34
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$7,332.34

Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

It's decision time: Do you have a large enough collection of "fleas and elephants" to rent a space at the **Spring Community Yard Sale**, or will you donate them to the church to sell instead? You have until Friday, May 12 at noon to decide which way you'll go, and either way, please let Tammy (301-253-0044) know.



The event itself kicks off Saturday, May 13, at 9 am and runs until 2 pm; if you can help, please contact Becky (240-338-3211) or Brian (240-338-3210). Donations of baked goods packaged for individual sale are always appreciated. We do ask that you avoid items with icing or frosting as they will be outside and temperatures can get quite warm. Throughout the day, we'll be selling not only those baked goods, but also cooked-to-order breakfast sandwiches, burgers hot off the grill, and more. Please plan to stop by, eat, shop for treasures, and buy yourself a baked treat to finish off the day!

Our church family will gather again the next day, Sunday, May 14, at 9:30 am, to share a **fellowship breakfast in honor of Mother's Day**. Men, if you can help prepare, serve, and/or clean up, please let Brian know.



Also in May, Becky and Brian will host Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, May 7, in support of the Worship Committee's "Invite a Friend" Sunday, and looking ahead to June, the Burkes will host Coffee and Conversation



on June 4 in support of Christian Education Sunday, and the women of the church will prepare and serve breakfast on Father's Day,

June 18, at 9 am. (**Note:** Our worship service time changes to 10 am for the summer months on this same Sunday.)

The Christian Fellowship Committee will meet via Zoom on Thursday, June 1, at 7 pm to plan events for the second half of the year. Look for updates in the bulletin and in the July newsletter, so you can plan accordingly!



Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

Get ready to travel back in time! This committee is organizing a Methodist heritage field trip in mid-June to New Windsor, MD. We will visit the Home and Shrine of Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist pastor in America, during its Annual Colonial Day Festival, held on Saturday, June 17. This fun and informative event lasts from 10 am to 4 pm and includes folks in period costumes portraying members of the Strawbridge family as well as others from that same time period in the 1700s.



We plan to meet in the fellowship hall parking lot to carpool together. Or if you would rather drive yourself, the address is 2650 Strawbridge Lane. Once we are all there, we will gather for a guided tour of the property and then have some additional time to explore on our own. Various vendors will be set up on the premises selling lunch and assorted craft items.

If you would like to join us on this "back-in-time" adventure, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule.



Graduates within Our Church Family

These young people are graduating from high schools and colleges this spring, and we want to celebrate them all...

Kenny Benson, the son of Ron and Debbie Benson, will graduate later this month from McDaniel College in Westminster, MD with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. While in college, he continued to play his favorite sport, lacrosse. In fact, his mom tells us that this semester was his best yet in both academics and athletics. Way to go, Kenny! We are very proud of you and wish you much success in all you do!

Emma Lynagh, the youngest child of Greg and Cara Lynagh, is graduating this month from Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD, where she has spent the past four years majoring in psychology, earning grades that places her on the Dean's List, participating in Greek Life as a ZTA sorority sister, and spending the summers working in Ocean City. She plans to attend graduate school in the near future. Emma, we all congratulate you in a job well done!

Tyler Mirani, the youngest son of Andre and Jenny Mirani, will graduate from Damascus High School on Thursday, June 1. He plans to move with his family to North Carolina this summer shortly after graduation. Congratulations and best wishes to you, Tyler, from all of us here in your Wesley Grove Church Family! May you experience much satisfaction and success in whatever and wherever the next phase of your life takes you!

May Birthdays

- 4 Marne Hughes Rammling
- 5 Judy Hughes
- 6 Cherie Morris
- 7 Donnie Hottinger
- 9 Susie Cooper
- 10 Lou Lynagh
- 11 Karen Davis
- 14 Jeff Lewis
- 21 Sue Ketchum
Frank Miller
- 25 Clark Kunkle
Kate Works

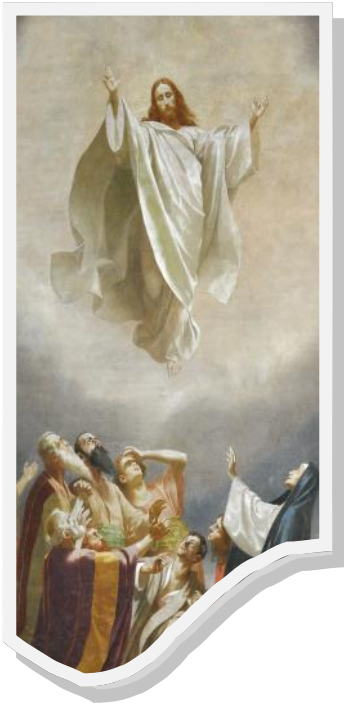


Fishing, Anyone?

Join us on Tuesday, May 16 for a great day of fellowship, fun, and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay! We will meet in the parking lot of our Fellowship Hall at 4:30 that morning to carpool to the Bay together. Be sure to bring appropriate clothing, food for lunch, plenty of cold drinks, and sunscreen. The cost will be determined after we know how many are interested, so please sign up in the church vestibule. If you have any additional questions, please contact Henry King at 301-831-7442.



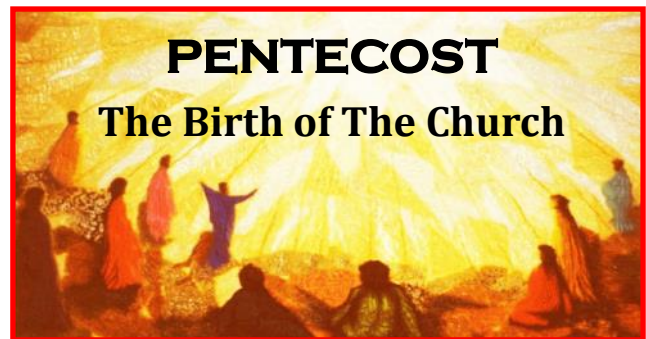
THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST



Jesus rose to Heaven 40 days after His Resurrection to live with His Father.

This year, in the United Methodist Church, we will recognize His Ascension on Sunday, May 21.

To honor this miracle, please wear white to the church service on this day.



PENTECOST

The Birth of The Church

Fifty days after Jesus arose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven and fired up the Disciples to go out to teach and preach and baptize in the Name of Jesus Christ.



They were given the ability to speak in foreign languages, so that all could listen and learn about Jesus and His love. In all, about 3,000 were baptized that day, and The Church was born!



To honor this miracle, please wear the colors of flames — reds, yellows, and oranges — to the church service on this day, Sunday, May 28.

Does Anyone Know of Any In-Home Caretakers?

My 90+ year old parents reside in Mt. Airy near the Safeway shopping center. They had been living independently until recently when my mother fell and broke her tailbone and pelvis. My father is getting slower and requiring more assistance, but my mom is not always able to help. They currently have daily in-home care from 10 am to 2 pm, but we are looking for more full-time assistance. If anyone knows of any potential caretakers, please let me know at 301-520-4773. I would greatly appreciate it. Thanks so much.

Mary Jo Smith

Community Concert



Common Bond Quartet

Saturday, May 20
6 pm



Mt. Tabor UMC
on Rt. 108 in Etchison, MD

All are welcome and invited.

A free will offering will be collected to present to the group at the end of the concert.



Henry and Joyce King

would like to announce the births of their two newest great-grandchildren...



Shiloh Chasin Black was born on March 8 to Sarah and David Black of Lander, Wyoming. Shiloh is the grandson of Wayne and Dawn King.

Bo Riley Haas was born on March 29 to Taylor and Travis Haas of Franklin, Tennessee. Bo is the grandson of Neil and Teri King.

Congratulations and best wishes to the entire King Family!

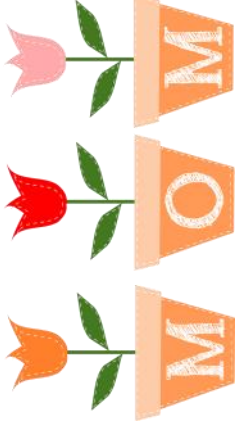
Did You Know...

that **May Day**, which is celebrated annually on May 1, marks the halfway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice?

Since ancient times, it has been the day when many farmers thought it was safe to plant their summer crops. Thus, celebrating this day by dancing and singing is a tradition that has continued for hundreds of years.



May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	2 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	3	4	5	6 11:00 AM— Visitation 12:30 PM— Memorial Service for Bill Radcliffe
7 Bring a Friend 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	8 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	9 7:00 PM— Memorial and Scholarship Committee Meeting	10 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at Mt. Airy Inn	11	12 1-5 PM— Setup and Pricing for Yard Sale	13 7:30 AM— Setup 9 AM to 2 PM— Spring Community Yard Sale
14 Mother's Day 9:30 AM— Breakfast 11:00 AM— Worship Service	15	16 4:30 AM— Chesapeake Bay Fishing Trip	17	18 Ascension Day <i>Deadline for June Newsletter Submissions</i>	19	20 6:00 PM— Community Concert at Mt. Tabor UMC
21 Ascension Sunday 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Please wear white.</i>	22 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	23	24 7:00 PM - Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom	25 3:00 PM— Book Club Mtg. @ Judy's House	26	27
28 Pentecost 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service <i>Please wear yellow, orange, and/or red.</i>	29 1:00 PM— Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC 	30	31 BWC	1 Annual (May 31 through	2 Conference June 3)	3 (in Baltimore)

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 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



Spring Community Yard Sale

**Saturday, May 13
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.

Donations of home-baked goods
would be greatly appreciated.

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

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
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Gaithersburg, MD 20882