

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

April 2024



My Brothers and Sisters  
in Christ:  
Blessings of Easter  
to All of You!



Do you recognize the first building pictured? Maybe you recognize it as the Roman Colosseum, but you probably didn't know that it is properly titled the Flavian Amphitheater and was named after the family of Vespasian Flavian and his son, Titus. Vespasian began the building of this massive amphitheater, and his son finished it in 80 AD. It was built to glorify the Flavian Family for their many exploits and serve as a reminder to all of Rome how great this family was.

The second picture is taken from a scene depicted on the Arch of Titus. It is another great structure in Rome that was built to celebrate the many wonderful deeds of the Flavians – Vespasian and Titus. You may notice that it depicts soldiers carrying a large menorah. This picture represents the spoils of war from Titus' conquest nearly 1500 miles away from Rome. Titus defeated the Jewish Nation in 70 AD and destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. He returned to Rome with hundreds of thousands of Jewish slaves and large amounts of money captured from this city. This capital was used to solidify his family's rule in Rome until the death of his younger brother, Domitian, in 96 AD.

Titus laid waste to both Judah and Galilee. His conquest didn't just impact the ruling dynasty of the largest empire of the time, it also sent a huge shockwave through the entire Jewish world. That shockwave resulted in what many would claim was, and still is, the most significant turning point in the history of world religions.

There was a small Jewish sect comprised of followers of a crucified Jew named Jesus. In the aftermath of the ruin of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple, and the diaspora of a hundred thousand Jewish slaves captured by Rome, this group would break from Judaism and form a separate and distinct religion that we now call Christianity.

If you would like to learn more about how the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD impacted the development of Christianity and other turning points in the history of The Church, please join us as we, the entire South Damascus Charge, will examine in ten sessions the most decisive turning points in the history of Christianity. We will begin our study on Thursday, April 4 at 7 pm in the fellowship hall, and we will also livestream our sessions via Zoom, using this link:

[https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/6074136456?\\_ga=2.141441015.47320166.1711775137-346300696.1690841668](https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/6074136456?_ga=2.141441015.47320166.1711775137-346300696.1690841668)

Peace to each of you,  
*Pastor Nick*

# Lectionary Readings



## April 7, 2024

Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1-2:2  
 John 20:19-31

## April 14, 2024

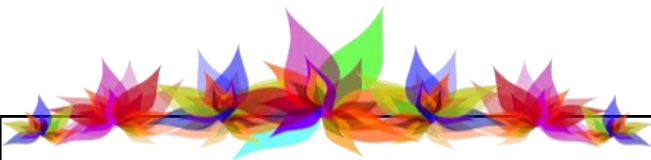
Acts 3:12-19  
 Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48

## April 21, 2024

Acts 4:5-12  
 Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10:11-18

## April 28, 2024

Acts 8:26-40  
 Psalm 22:25-31  
 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:1-8



## April Birthdays

- 1 Randy Falk
- 5 Katie Ketchum Vitullo
- 8 Judy Briggs
- 16 Sally Swearingen
- 17 Mike Sherwood  
Kenny Benson
- 19 Cara Lynagh
- 23 Michael Mirani
- 25 Scott Iles
- 28 Kris Kemp Kepner



## February 2024 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,432.38
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,610.33
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$417.67
Church Secretary's Wages	\$690.03
Organist / Pianist Wages	\$400.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$52.79
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$434.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Wages	\$420.00
Programs	\$158.00
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$128.45
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$402.58
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Costs	\$305.00
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$342.20
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$15.34
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,546.10
Miscellaneous	-\$15.34
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,453.45</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,286.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,232.36
Rental Property Income to church	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Yearly Evening Circle Contribution	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,518.36</b>

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

The Christian Fellowship Committee has a challenge for you: **Think Green!** Green ingredients, that is Our Spring Potluck will take place on Sunday, April 21, following the worship service, and in honor of spring and Earth Day on April 22, we'd like everyone to bring a dish that includes **at least one green ingredient**. This is the time to get creative and think beyond lettuce and celery, and see what you can come up with! The committee will provide paper goods and drinks. Please sign up in the vestibule to give us an idea of how many will attend.



Although that's the only event on our April schedule, May follows closely behind, and before you know it, our Spring Community Yard Sale will be here on Saturday, May 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Start cleaning out those closets, and let Tammy know at 301-253-0044 if you'd like to rent a space for \$20 or have items to donate for the church to sell. Additional details will follow in the May newsletter.



## Kinship Singers

You are invited to the inaugural concert of this new local choral group. Its first concert will be held on Saturday, April 6 at 7 pm at Damascus UMC. The music will honor the paths of people, both past and present, who call our local area home and will explore the larger theme of finding your way back home. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online at Eventbrite by searching Kinship Singers.

## We're Looking for 2024 Graduates!



Please email or call the church office if you know of anyone in our extended Wesley Grove Church Family who will be graduating this spring from high school, college, graduate school, or trade/technical school. Just like in years past, we will highlight these folks and their accomplishments in the May issue of this newsletter.

Remember that we also offer Wesley Grove collegiate scholarships to those in our congregation who have actively participated in the life of this church while attending middle and high school. If you would like to receive an application, please contact Tammy in the church office. All applications are due back by Tuesday, April 30. Recipients will be notified in mid May.



## BINGO, Anyone???

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will host its spring Dinner and Bingo Fundraiser next month on Friday, May 3. Just like in the past, the doors will open at 5 pm, fried chicken dinners will be served starting at 5:30 pm, and the 20 games of bingo will begin at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining the group of us from Wesley Grove attending this event, please contact Jim and Lois Kemp at 301-253-2859 by April 21 to reserve your tickets, which cost \$50 per person. If you decide to wait and buy them at the door, the price increases to \$60 per person. All proceeds benefit our local fire department and Celebrate Damascus in July.



## Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2024

**In Attendance:** Steven Arndt, Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works.

Bob started the meeting at 7 pm.

**Devotions:** Rick began with a reading called “Do Angels Exist?”, which caused us all to stop and reflect for a moment on our own thoughts of angels.

### Prayer Requests:

- Sally Lewis’ blood clot dissolved with medication, and she is now home recuperating.
- Greg Lynagh will have back surgery again this Wednesday, March 13, at SGAH.
- Jeff Monarch’s bone marrow transplant is scheduled for April 4 at Hopkins in Baltimore.
- Tim McGee is recovering from his recent stem cell transplant at Georgetown Hospital.

### Good News:

- New church roof project has been completed.
- Joe Mallon’s 90th birthday celebration went well.
- Ron Fritz is back on his feet. He has returned the money that we sent him in January with an additional donation to the church.

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes from our January meeting, as printed in the February newsletter, were approved by all members.

**Old Business:** None.

### New Business:

Steven announced that he will not be able to attend Annual Conference this May because of a travel conflict. He asked Tammy (our alternate) if she could attend the conference, but she could not confirm at this time due to Jeff’s upcoming transplant, so we might be looking for another alternate.

### Committee Reports:

**Communications** — Ten greeting cards have been mailed since our January meeting. Church announcements are being kept current on Facebook, (WGUMC, Mt. Airy Community, and Damascus Community) and our church website. The photo gallery on our website is also current.

**Education** — Sunday School continues to go very well. Lenten Book Study is winding down and has been doing well with attendance. Pastor Nick will start a 10-week study based on the history of The Church, both on Zoom and in-person (place TBD).

**Fellowship** — Game Night and Pot Luck Dinner at the Monarchs’ this Saturday, March 16 at 6 pm.

**Finance** — There was some continued discussion about the already approved use of several annuities for expenses at the hall and church maintenance projects that have already been completed.

**Lay Leadership** — No new report this month.

**Missions** — No new report this month.

**SPRC** — Becky will meet this Wednesday, March 13, with D.S. Rev. Dawn Hand about our charge’s next actions regarding Pastor Karen’s retirement and replacement.

**Trustees** — Church roof is complete and its bill will be paid at the end of June when several of our annuities mature. Tri-State HVAC has completed all church furnace repairs and the bill for our air conditioning replacement will be paid in full at the end of June as well. Leaks in the hall roof once again need to be addressed. We have purchased a special roof coating and when the weather is agreeable, we will paint the current roof with this product. We also are working to ensure that we do not have any problems this spring with mice or other rodents.

**Worship** — Our charge Maundy Thursday service will be held at Salem UMC and Good Friday service will be held at Wesley Grove UMC, both at 7 pm.

### Pastors’ Reports:

**Pastor Karen** has begun to organize herself in preparation for her upcoming retirement and move. She and Tammy are working to clean up our church membership rolls. She thanked our church family for the wonderful support over the past eight years since she was appointed to our charge.

**Pastor Nick** has been keeping up with his 2024 outreach goals and visitation. He very much enjoys leading our weekly Sunday school lessons and is looking forward to teaching his church history classes when they begin in early April.

### Next Meeting:


Bob volunteered to lead devotions at our next meeting on Monday, May 13, at 7 pm, and he adjourned this meeting at 8:07 pm.







# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	3 3:00 PM— Book Club Mtg. @ Cathy's House	4 7:00 PM— Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom	5	6 7:00 PM— Kinship Singers at DUMC
7 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion <i>Pastor Nick to</i>	8	9	10	11 7:00 PM— Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom	12	13
14 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	15	16 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	17 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at The Buzz in Green Valley	18 7:00 PM— Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom	19 <i>Deadline for May Newsletter Submissions</i>	20
21 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— "Green" Pot-Luck Luncheon	22	23	24	25 7:00 PM— Church History Class @ WG Hall and via Zoom	26	27
28 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	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)

**EASTERTIDE**

Is Upon Us

*Alleluia  
and  
Amen  
to Our  
Risen Lord!*



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