

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

March 2025

From the Desk of Pastor Nick...

There is a famous hymn in the United Methodist Hymnal titled “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days,¹” which is usually sung on the First Sunday of Lent, and maybe even on every Sunday throughout the Lenten Season. Whenever I sing this hymn, I am reminded that Lent has begun. Since 1873, when it was first published, this hymn has served as a marker of the Season just as much as Christmas carols mark the Season of Christmas and two great hymns, “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” mark the beginning of the Advent Season.

The hymn was written by Claudia Hernaman, who was born in Surrey, England, in 1838. Claudia was the daughter of an Anglican minister, and she married a minister as well. She was very concerned about the religious education of children and wrote more than 150 hymns to teach them about the Christian Faith.

The hymn, “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days,” was written to illustrate that Jesus’ 40-day journey into the wilderness to fast (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13) serves as a paradigm for the 40 days of Lent. Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to spiritually prepare Himself for the beginning of His ministry. This time of fasting provided Jesus with insights about what His ministry should be and gave Him clarity on how to go about being the Messiah God had sent Him to be. In this way, the Season of Lent echoes for us this wilderness journey of Jesus, so that we also remember to take the time to fast and discern what kind of Christian God is calling us to be.

This hymn provides the narrative framework for us to perform this self-reflection. Ms. Hernaman wrote it in such a way that Christ’s life serves as a model for how we should confront our own temptations during our own Lenten journeys. The first two stanzas focus on how Christ responded to temptation, and the last three stanzas encourage us to model our behavior based on His example. The classic Lenten themes are present throughout this wonderful hymn. In stanza one, the focus is on fasting and prayer. Stanza two focuses on struggling with Satan and with sin. In stanza three, we are encouraged to “die to self” and meditate on Scripture. Penitence is encouraged in stanza four, and finally, stanza five reminds us to look forward to the joy of Easter.

The sufferings and temptations of Lent have become a metaphor for human life, with Heaven as the Easter reward at the end. I can’t wait to sing this hymn with all of you on the First Sunday of Lent as we begin our journey toward the Cross together, and ultimately, to our Easter reward. Praise be to God!

For more information, see www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/historyofhymns. There is a great article written by Dr. C. Michael Hawn on this hymn, which served as the source for much of this column.

Lectionary Readings

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28-43

March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philemon 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:6-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



January 2025 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,335.81
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	\$1,907.40
Organist / Pianist	\$300.00
Music Director	\$400.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
BWC Annual Conference for Lay Delegate	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$196.66
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$4,582.50
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$490.00
Programs	\$1,055.14
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$512.47
South Damascus Charge Treasury	\$122.24
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$4,088.83
Parsonage Property Taxes	\$0.00
Montgomery County Solid Waste Tax	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$16,489.55

Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,356.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee from Sprint	\$2,299.33
Rental Property Income	\$4,000.00
Evening Circle Yearly Contribution	\$4,000.00
Total Income	\$17,655.33

The Lenten Season
is upon us.

*What are you giving up
for Our Lord this year?*



Daylight Savings Time

begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 9.
Please remember to set your clocks
ahead one hour
before you go to bed this night.





Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Check your potluck recipes, pack up your favorite games, and get ready for our Annual Games Night on Saturday, March 15, at 6 pm. Rick and Tammy Monarch will once again host the event at their home located at 9620 Watkins Road. Please sign up in the vestibule to let our hosts know how many will attend and what type of dish you plan to bring.

March will also feature Coffee & Conversation on Sunday, March 9. Please plan to stay after the worship service for a time of fellowship with your church family.

Looking ahead to April, Becky and Brian Lewis will host our annual Fellowship Breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20, at 6:15 am. You don't need to bring a thing; just plan to warm up, eat a good breakfast, and enjoy some Easter morning fellowship with others in your church family. Please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you plan to join us for this special breakfast.

Please make note of the following additional dates for the first half of this year:

- Friday, May 9: Spring Yard Sale Set-up, 1-4 pm, Hall.
- Saturday, May 10: Spring Yard Sale (Set-up 7 am; Event 9 am-2 pm, Clean-up 2 pm) – Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 if you or a friend would like to reserve a space.
- Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:30 am, Hall.
- Sunday, June 8: Education Sunday, Coffee & Conversation, 12 pm, Church (Hosts: Bob & Cathy Burke).
- Sunday, June 15: Father's Day Breakfast, 9:30 am, Hall.

Dates for the second half of the year will be forthcoming.



Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

The Season of Lent is beginning in just five days, and during this season, we will read, study, and discuss the book called *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton, a United Methodist pastor in Leawood, Kansas. Each of this book's six chapters focuses on a different preaching or teaching of Jesus during His three years of ministry here on the Earth.

Feel free to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am at Wesley Grove or on Tuesday evenings at Mt. Tabor at 7 pm or via the Zoom website. Click on "Join Meeting," and then enter this Meeting ID # 6074136456.

Please know that it is never too late to join our lively and interesting discussions. Just show up, and we'll find you a chair!

From Pastor Abby...

I am starting an exciting new project to capture the stories of our historic churches in the South Damascus Charge, and I need your help! Essentially, I would love the opportunity to sit down with each of you for about thirty minutes to hear your story — including your connection to your church and what The Church has meant to you throughout your life.

Whether you were born and raised in your church or came to it in adulthood, your story matters, and I want to hear it! I will record these sessions to create an audio library of your oral histories. There will not be a video component of this project.

If you are interested in hearing more and/or signing up to share your story, please email me at abby.cefalo@gmail.com. In the subject line, please include your name and the church to which you belong to make it easier for me to keep these stories separated within my files!



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 checks made payable to WGUMC) are due back to the church office no later than Palm Sunday, April 13. Plants will be available to take home after the 11 am worship service on Easter morning.



Community Events



Pancake Supper: Tuesday, March 4 is Shrove Tuesday, and we are all invited to Mt. Tabor UMC for pancakes, sausage, and more! This dinner begins at 5 pm and lasts until 7 pm. Please sign up in the vestibule or let Tammy know if you plan to attend, so that she can give MT an approximate count from WG.

Breakfast Buffet: The Damascus Lions Club will hold one of its fundraiser pancake, sausage, chipped beef gravy, biscuit, and egg breakfasts on Saturday, March 15 from 7-11 am at Damascus UMC. Tickets, which cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for children aged 4-10, can be bought at the door or in advance from any Lion.

Safety Presentation: How much do you really know about staying safe from scams and keeping your personal identity from being stolen? There are various ways that we can all protect ourselves from these different forms of theft and fraud.

Mike Conrad, a friend and member of Mt. Tabor UMC, will lead us in a presentation on ways that we can remain safe on Sunday, March 16 in our Fellowship Hall. We will begin at 4 pm and conclude about an hour later with a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Make plans to attend this important meeting, and please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. The more people that are aware of these scams and frauds, the more we can all protect ourselves and our loved ones. Please sign up in the vestibule, so that we can plan accordingly.

Community Concert: The Kinship Singers, a local choral group, of which Cathy, Linda, and Rick are members, will present its spring concert, *Under the Stars*, on Sunday, March 30, at 4 pm at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Damascus. This concert is free and open to the public. If you enjoy hearing a variety of voices singing a variety of genres of music, consider coming and listening to this afternoon of beautiful music!



March Birthdays

- 4 Linda Chatterton
- 8 Steven Arndt
- 9 Kathi Johnson
- 15 Chan Ketchum
- 17 Debbie Benson
- 19 Emma Lynagh
- 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 13 @ 11 am @ WGUMC
- Maundy Thursday** — April 17 @ 7 pm @ Salem
- Good Friday** — April 18 @ 7 pm @ Mt. Tabor
- Easter Sunday** — April 20 @ 6:15 am (outdoor) & 11 am (indoor) @ WGUMC

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	3 3	4 5-7:00 PM— Pancake Supper @ MTUMC 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner	5 7:00 PM— SD Charge Ash Wednesday Wor- ship Service @ WG	6 6	7 7	8 Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed tonight.
9 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:00 PM— Fellowship Hour	10 10	11 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study @ Mt. Tabor UMC and via Zoom	12 12	13 7:00 PM— SD Charge SPRC Meeting @ WG	14 14	15 7-11 AM—Lions Club Breakfast 6:00 PM— Potluck Dinner & Games Night at the Monarchs' Home
16 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 4:00 PM— Safety and Fraud Presentation	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 	18 5:00 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study @ Mt. Tabor UMC and via Zoom	19 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ Lu & Joe's in Mt. Airy 6:00 PM— Finance Com. Mtg. 7:00 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	20 7:00 PM— Ministry Commit- tee Meeting <i>April Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 21	22 22
23 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	24 7:00 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	25 7:00 PM— Lenten Book Study @ Mt. Tabor UMC and via Zoom	26 3:00 PM— Book Club at Joyce's Home in Mt. Airy	27 27	28 28	29 29
30 4 th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	31 31					



Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

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 All to Our Work and to Our Worship,

regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.

*Are you aware and doing everything
you can to stay safe...*

*in your personal life,
while you are online, and
while you are out and running errands?*

Even if you think you are,

*you can always do more and
update the things
that you are already doing.*



Identity Theft and Scams Presentation



Sunday, March 16 @ 4 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Featured Speaker: Mike Conrad

All Are Welcome!

Light refreshments will be served.

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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