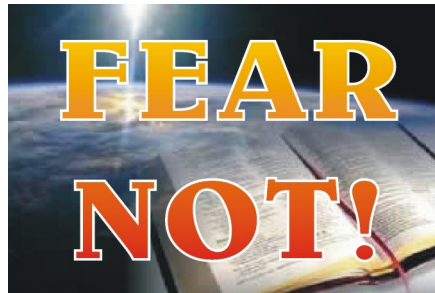


Wesley Grove
March 2017

Messenger

From John's Pulpit...



***When they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
(Acts 4:31)***

Fear is a powerful controller. It either compels us to do what is irresponsible, or it impedes us from living responsibly. The number one reason people don't share their faith is fear. Agoraphobia, the fear of being in public, is one of the fastest growing psychological disorders. Fear of failure, fear of the devil, and fear of humanity are plaguing our society.

Do you know that the most frequent command of Jesus in the Gospels is "Fear not"? In anticipation of Israel's entrance into the Promised Land, God tells His people four times "Be strong and courageous" (Joshua 1). The writer of Proverbs says, "The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1).

The fact that God doesn't look favorably on cowards and unbelievers is made evident in Revelation 21:8: "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Does it surprise us that cowardly, unbelieving people are listed in a rogues' gallery with murderers and liars? This is fearful stuff.

Through Scripture, God is reminding us in this age and time that it is a characteristic of the Spirit-filled life to be bold (Acts 4:31). The early church didn't pray for "divine appointments," they prayed for boldness. Christian friends, it is now obvious that God's kingdom can only be established by faithful and courageous people.

May the good Lord help us to be strong, courageous and bold in all that we say and do to expand His Kingdom.

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

Lectionary Readings

March 1, 2017: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 5, 2017: 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

March 12, 2017: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 19, 2017: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

March 26, 2017: 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

January 2017 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,354.91
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.68
Pastor Benefits	\$928.75
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$1,177.50
Payroll Taxes	\$76.31
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$95.50
Office Expenses	\$29.99
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,031.38
Total Expenses	\$6,984.02

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$6,785.07
Sunday School Collections	\$77.07
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,815.11
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,352.86
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$268.68
Total Income	\$10,298.79



March Birthdays			
1	Joe Laycock	18	Sharon Johnson
3	Becky Norwood	19	Emma Lynagh
12	Steve Allman	24	Gary Rogers
15	Chan Ketchum	28	Jaime Crawford
	Lily Hagy	30	Tammy Monarch
17	Debbie Benson		
	Bill Duvall		

Sunday, March 12
 Don't forget to turn your
 clocks one hour forward or
 you will be late to church!!



Our Church Family: A Living Legacy



Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Did you get a new game for Christmas you haven't tried yet? Got an old favorite you haven't played in a while? You'll get your chance on Saturday, March 18, at 7 p.m., when Rick and Tammy Monarch host an Adult Fellowship Games Night at 9009 Kimblehunt Drive. Plan to bring an appetizer or dessert to share (and don't plan to eat dinner beforehand!), along with any games you think others in the group might enjoy.

Also on the March calendar, the Daytime Circle will meet for the monthly Brown Bag Lunch at the Education Building on Wednesday, March 1, at 12:30 p.m., and Ladies Lunch Out is set for Wednesday, March 15, at noon at Lu and Joe's. A host family is needed for Coffee and Conversation following the service on Sunday, March 19; please let Becky Lewis know if you'd like to provide refreshments for that day.

Looking ahead to April, Easter and warmer weather will usher in the start of a busier season on the fellowship calendar. We'll host our Egg Hunt for both our Special Needs friends and the community's children on Saturday, April 8; breakfast will be provided after the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 16; and we'll host our Spring Potluck Lunch after our observation of Native American Sunday on April 30.



Easter Flowers

Doug Gaither, Worship Chair

Once again this year, we will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning with a variety of brightly colored spring flowers – tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and lilies. All of these will be potted plants suitable for planting out in your yards. Order forms will be in the weekly bulletin, and the deadline for ordering will be April 9. Please consider ordering a flowering plant (or two or three...) to honor or remember your loved ones on Easter morning.



Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thanks to everyone who contributed snacks and drinks for the Damascus Gardens after-school program. The children really appreciate having the drinks and snacks while they get tutoring and homework help every weekday after school.

Please remember we collect food for the Damascus Help food pantry all year round.

Our first meeting for 2017 will be on Monday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. If you have any projects you would like to suggest for Missions, please let any member of the Committee know.

Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

We are presently reading and learning about the last seven days of Christ's life here on Earth. During this time, we are thinking, reflecting, and discussing our thoughts and reactions to the various events in the final days of His life.

As always, please feel free to come and join us anytime - both young and old are welcome. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Education Building, and we would love to have you!

VBS News

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just four months away. It will be held during the week of July 10-14 from 5:30-8:30 in the evening. Therefore, it's time to mark your calendars, hold that week, and start planning and preparing for VBS right now.

This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place in "The Factory of Our Maker," which will be filled with conveyor belts, machines, robotic arms, and other gadgets. So, we are asking all of you to search in your basements, garages, attics, and closets for any items that we could use to decorate the hall to look like an old factory building: black cloth, black tarps, pipes, tubes, ducts, pulleys, gears, and other machine parts. We will probably also need lots and lots of aluminum foil. Please let Tammy Monarch know if you have any items that we could use.

As always, we can use any and all help. If you would like to volunteer to help plan the week, decorate the hall, teach lessons, serve dinner, etc., please let Tammy know by calling her at 301-253-0044. We'd love to have you, your creative ideas, your willingness to help, and of course, your love of kids!

WG Scholarship News

Jim Kemp, Chair

Our Memorial and Scholarship Committee is proud to once again announce that it is seeking students to apply for one or both of our **Wesley Grove Church Scholarships**. Candidates must be active and involved members of this church who currently have GPAs of at least 2.5 and who are planning to attend college full- or part-time this coming fall. If you are interested in finding out more information or receiving an application, please contact Tammy Monarch at 301-253-0044. The application deadline is April 30.



Ash
Wednesday
Service

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

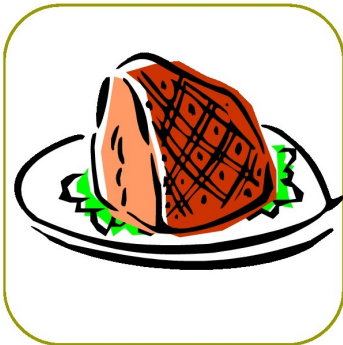
7:30 pm

at

Wesley Grove United
Methodist Church



FAMILY STYLE Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner



**Saturday
March 11, 2017
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**\$15 for adults
\$7 for children ages 5 to 12
Preschoolers eat free!**

***Bake Table Available
Carryout Dinners Available***

**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894
wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org**

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	2 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	3	4
5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	6	7	8 6:00 PM Dinner Set- up 7:00 PM Choir	9 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	10 Dinner Set-up	11 1:00-5:00 PM Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Girl Scout Sunday	13 7:30 PM Admin. Council	14	15 NOON Ladies Lunch Out @ Lu and Joe's 7:00 PM Choir	16 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 7:00 PM Games Night @ the Monarchs
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Coffee & Conversation)	20 7:30 PM Missions Committee	21	22 7:00 PM Choir	23 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	24	25
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	27 7:30 PM Finance Committee	28 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	29 7:00 PM Choir	30 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	31	



**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: office@wesleygroveumc.org

As a congregation that covenants to walk together in Christ's love, believes that all persons are created equal before God, and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we welcome to our work and worship all regardless of race, gender, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic circumstance.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



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

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