

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

May 2018

From Pastor Karen...

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

I have very clear memories of holding each of my daughters just moments after she was born. Both times I remember experiencing a flood of emotions as my swaddled baby was placed in my arms. As I looked into each one's eyes, kissed her fragile skin and held her tiny fingers, I was convinced that I'd never love anyone else as much.

Neither baby had done anything for me or expressed any love for me. I didn't love them because of what they had done, or what they could do. I loved them for who they were: they were mine. My children. And every moment since, I have loved them. On days when they make me proud. On days when they get on my last nerve. On every day in between.

Becoming a mother helped me get a glimpse into the love of God. As I felt the rush of awe and wonder when I held those little bundles of joy in my arms, so must God feel when He sees us. God doesn't love us because of the things we do. God doesn't love us because of our great feats and accomplishments. God doesn't love us because we're good. God loves us because we are His children. On days when we make God proud, on days when we get on God's last nerve, on days we fail to live up to even the most basic expectations, God loves us still. We are beloved children of our loving Creator. When we are swaddled in God's arms, and God looks into our squinting eyes, all God feels is love.

As we live together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us heed these words found in 1 John 4:11:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

When we are proud of each other, when we fail to live up to each other's expectations, when we are getting on each other's last nerve, and every day in between, let us never fail to LOVE ONE ANOTHER as God first loved us.

Peace,

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

May 6, 2018: 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 1 John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

May 13, 2018: 7th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day
 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

May 20, 2018: Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27
 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27, 2018: 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 29
 Romans 8:12-17
 John 3:1-17

March 2018 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

| Expenses | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Apportionments | \$1,204.75 |
| Pastor Salary | \$1,416.66 |
| Associate Pastor Salary | \$385.96 |
| Pastor Benefits | \$597.50 |
| Pastor Professional Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Parsonage Expenses | \$612.06 |
| Church Secretary | \$838.76 |
| Choir Director | \$750.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | \$58.78 |
| Miscellaneous | \$0.00 |
| Grass Cutting | \$0.00 |
| Snow Removal | \$0.00 |
| Custodian | \$540.00 |
| Programs | \$2,778.44 |
| Office Expenses | \$179.03 |
| Trustees - Maintenance | \$3,910.61 |
| Total Expenses | \$13,272.55 |

| Income | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collections | \$5,112.00 |
| Sunday School Collections | \$24.00 |
| Cell Tower - Sprint | \$1,869.56 |
| Cell Tower - Verizon | \$1,393.45 |
| Church Dinner Proceeds | \$1,700.00 |
| Use of Hall | \$0.00 |
| In and Out Income | \$0.00 |
| Rental Property Loan Payback | \$1,000.00 |
| Monthly Donation from Evening Circle | \$300.00 |
| Parsonage Expense Reimbursement | \$583.34 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$250.00 |
| (From other churches) | |
| Total Income | \$12,232.35 |

| May Birthdays | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Judy Hughes | 11 | Rev. Karen Davis |
| 6 | Cherie Morris | 14 | Jeff Lewis |
| 7 | Donnie Hottinger | 21 | Sue Ketchum Frank Miller |
| 9 | Susie Cooper | 25 | Clark Kunkle |
| 10 | Lou Lynagh | | |

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

Cooked-To-Order Breakfast Sandwiches
Grilled Lunch Platters & Bake Sale

Rent a Space for ONLY \$15

Use of church table an additional \$5

Benefit the Church And Your Closets!

Call 301-253-0044 to reserve your space.



9:00 am – 2:00 pm

FREE Vacation Bible School!

Bible Stories

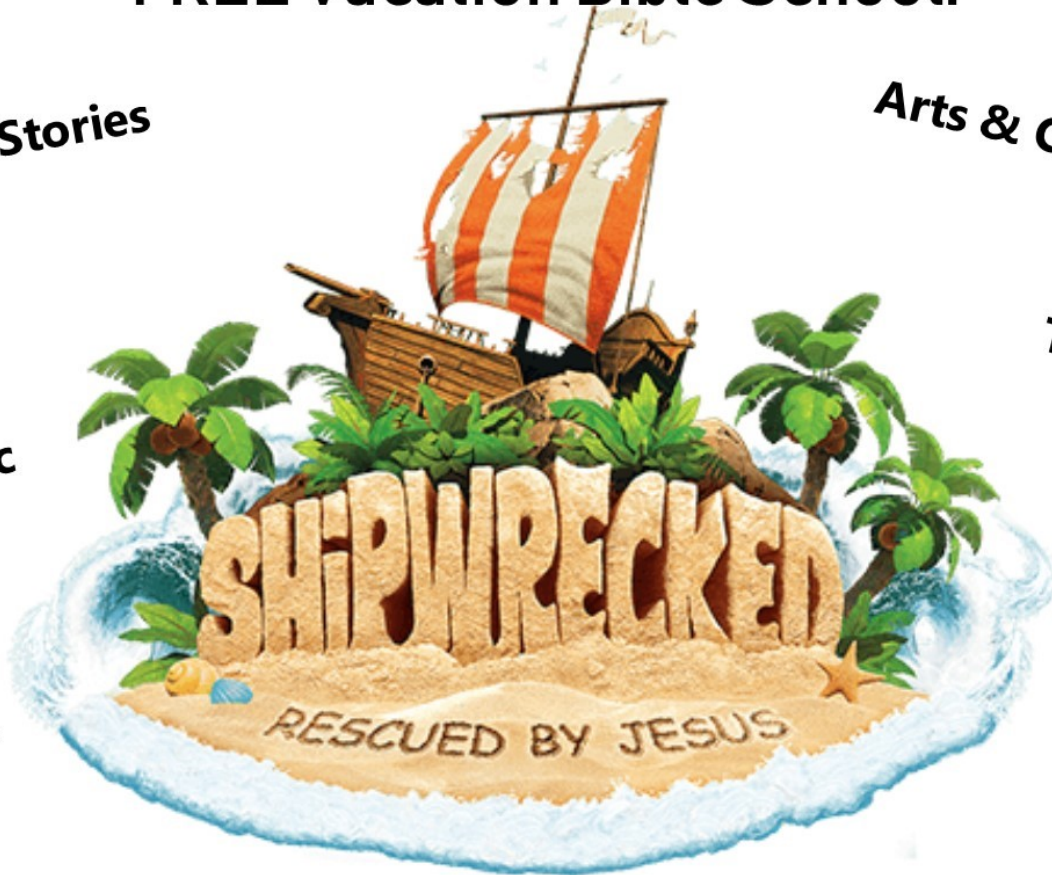
Arts & Crafts

Music

Theater

Games

FUN!



Date: July 16th - July 20th

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (dinner included)

**Location: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882**

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Kids will be anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.



Register on-line at <http://www.myvbs.org/wesleygroveumc/>

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

There's still time to clean out those overflowing closets and rent yourself a space at the Spring Yard Sale, set for Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Let Tammy or Rick Monarch (301-253-0044) know if you'd like to reserve a space for \$15; the church will also accept gently used items for sale at the WG booth. And even if you're not selling, there's sure to be something at the event you need to buy: food! The United Methodist Men will be selling their cooked-to-order breakfast sandwiches and a variety of lunch items throughout the day, and of course there's always the bake sale. Please let Becky or Brian Lewis know if you can help with setting up, taking down, or during the event, and donations for the bake sale are always welcome.

On the following day, Sunday, May 13, the UMM invite **all members of their church family** to be their guests at breakfast in honor of Mother's Day. There will be a short Sunday School program at 9:30 a.m., with breakfast following. Men, please let Brian know if you can help.

Other events on the schedule for May are Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building, and Ladies Lunch Out, Wednesday, May 16, at noon at Lu's and Joe's.

Looking ahead to June, our second-quarter potluck lunch on Sunday, June 10, will be in honor of Jim Burns' 90th birthday. Please bring a side dish; dessert and meat will be provided. Also, the Daytime and Evening Circles will be cooking breakfast for everyone on Father's Day, June 17. A Coffee & Conversation host is needed for June 4; please see Becky to volunteer.

WG Scholarship News

Jim Kemp, Chair

The Memorial and Scholarship Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building. We will discuss possible items to purchase with memorial funds and review this year's Wesley Grove scholarship applications. If you are on this committee, please make plans to attend this important meeting.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered and worked at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen. This is such a rewarding ministry and we are so blessed to have a wonderful, dedicated crew. When you do your grocery shopping, please think about our needy neighbors and consider purchasing some food items for the Damascus Help food pantry.

There will be a Missions Committee meeting on May 22. Please see any committee member if you have a project you wish us to consider.



The Sunday School children did their part to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up the grounds and planting flowers!!!

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

Sunday School

As we move from through Eastertide toward Pentecost, our Sunday School students are busy learning about various aspects of being a Christian, from sharing our spiritual gifts and learning the meaning behind the Lord's Prayer to taking care of God's world and honoring our parents. As always, please feel free to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Education Building. We have classes for students of all ages!

Happy Fifth Birthday, Sunday School! You have learned a lot, grown morally and spiritually, and become better Christians through your love and service to this church and one another. We are proud of each and every one of you!

Speaking of birthdays, Sunday, May 20 is Pentecost, the birthday of Christianity! Pentecost occurs every year 50 days after the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Today, we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Christian Church because on this day, more than 2,000 years ago, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and able to speak in many different languages to people from all over the world. More than 3,000 people were baptized and became Christians on this very special day. To remember and celebrate Pentecost, we will decorate our sanctuary and share in a birthday party honoring Christianity and the birth of our church. We are also asking everyone to wear the colors of fire – red, orange, and/or yellow – to our worship service on this very special day.

Christian Education and Graduate Recognition Sunday

Looking ahead... On Sunday, June 3, we will recognize Christian Education Sunday during our 11 a.m. worship service. We will celebrate and honor all of our Sunday School students and teachers as well as the graduates in our congregation. Please make plans now to join us for worship on this day.

If you know of someone in our church family who is graduating, please contact Tammy Monarch (301-253-0044) as soon as possible. There will be Coffee & Conversation following the service to honor our graduates.

VBS News

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just 2½ months away, and it will be here before we know it! VBS will be held during the week of July 16-20 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. each night. We hope that you've already marked these dates on your calendars and are thinking of ways that you can help plan and prepare for VBS right now.

This year's quest to know Jesus (and ourselves!) better will take place while we are "Shipwrecked with Jesus" on a deserted island. 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 Education Building to look like an island – palm trees, sand, waterfalls, coconuts, seashells, fish, thatched material, burlap, woven mats, etc. Please let Tammy know if you have any items that we could use.

As always, we can use any and all help now and throughout VBS week. 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! New faces and new energy are always a welcome sight!

May 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | 1 6:45 PM Lions Club | 2 12:30 PM Daytime Circle Brown Bag 7:00 PM Choir | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship | 7 7:30 PM Finance Committee | 8 7:30 PM Memorial and Scholarship Committee | 9 7:00 PM Choir | 10 7:00 PM Yard Sale Setup | 11 | 12 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Yard Sale |
| 13 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:30 AM Mother's Day Breakfast 11:00 AM Worship (Communion) | 14 7:30 PM Admin Council | 15 6:45 PM Lions Club | 16 NOON Ladies Lunch Out@Lu's and Joe's 7:00 PM Choir | 17 | 18 Office Closed | 19 |
| 20 <i>Pentecost</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Coffee & Conversation | 21 | 22 7:30 PM Missions Committee | 23 7:00 PM Choir | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship | 28 <i>Memorial Day</i> | 29 7:30 PM Finance Committee | 30 7:00 PM Choir | 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



Saturday, May 12

9 am — 2 pm

**Breakfast and Lunch
For Sale**

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

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