

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

January 2019

*From Pastor John's Pulpit...*

## **THERE IS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

*~~~ Jeremiah 29:11 ~~~*

It's said that the future is an opportunity yet unmet, a path yet untraveled, a life yet unlived. How our future will be lived depends on the priorities and purposes of our lives today. The direction we take right now determines where we will end up in the future.

We might be frightened by an uncertain future, but as Christians, we don't have to be afraid. We can welcome the new year with an anticipation of what God will do in us and through us. Our future as Christians is as bright as the promises of God.

When the children of Israel were being held as captives in Babylon, God sent them a message of hope. Many of them felt that God had forgotten about them or that His intentions toward them were bad. They were frightened about their future, and they cried out to God for deliverance. So, God raised up the prophet Jeremiah to speak to them. If you have ever felt as though you were forgotten by God, if you have ever felt that God was against you, or if you have ever been frightened about your future, then God's words to the Israelites apply to you as well.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Enter the new year with hope and positive expectations because God wants to do great things with our lives and for our lives. It is my prayer that we all have hope and high expectations as we begin this new year together because we all know God has prepared in advance great and mighty things for us to accomplish.

Blessings to you all and Happy New Year!

In God's peace,

*Pastor John*

## Lectionary Readings

### January 6, 2019

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

### January 13, 2019

Isaiah 43:1-7  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 8:14-17  
 Luke 3:15-22

### January 20, 2019

Psalm 36:5-10  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 John 2:1-11

### January 27, 2019

Nehemiah 8:1-10  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
 Luke 4:14-21



## January Birthdays

15 Delaney Hagy  
 16 Brian Lewis  
 20 Lewis Burdette

## November 2018 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,204.75
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$385.96
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$247.50
Church Secretary's Payroll	\$793.01
Choir Director's Salary	\$750.00
Payroll Taxes	\$171.22
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Payroll	\$540.00
Programs	\$200.00
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,026.05
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,332.65</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,510.23
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower Income - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower Income - Verizon	\$1,393.45
Fireman's Dinner Proceeds	\$800.00
Use of Hall Fees	\$300.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$300.00
Health Insurance & Pension Reimbursements (from Mt. Tabor UMC & Salem UMC)	\$1,003.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,532.39</b>

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the many lovely Christmas gifts. I will enjoy the cookies and candy and have already enjoyed the raisin bread. Thanks for the kitchen utensils, earrings, mugs, shawl, and steaks. Your generous financial gifts and gift cards are also greatly appreciated. I am overwhelmed by your outpouring of love! Thanks again, and may God bless you in the New Year!



Pastor Karen



# MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

*Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Our Christmas Cantata*



*Our Community Tree Lighting*

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

With the holidays behind us, it's time to start planning Christian Fellowship activities for 2019. The committee will meet on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building to set the calendar for the new year, which will be listed in its entirety in the February newsletter. If you have ideas for new activities or suggestions about existing annual events, please see Becky or any other member of the Christian Fellowship Committee.

A couple of events for January are already on the calendar, headlined by our annual Soup Sunday Luncheon after the worship service on Sunday, January 20. Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet in the vestibule to bring either soup, bread/muffins, or dessert. Ladies Lunch Out will take place on Wednesday, January 16, at noon, and the United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast at SmokeHill BBQ on Monday, January 21 (Martin Luther King Day) at 8 a.m. The Daytime Circle will take this month off from its Brown Bag Lunches, but they will resume in February.

## Missions News

*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

The Missions Committee would like to send out a HUGE thank you to everyone in our church family who contributed to make Christmas special for four needy families in our area. We gave them presents to put under their trees and delicious, full food baskets to enjoy throughout the Holiday Season. Our Wesley Grove family is always so generous and willing to help those in need, and we thank you all for that!

## Worship News

*Sue Ketchum, Chair*

Thank you to all of you who helped to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. As always, our church looked beautiful with the hanging greens, red bows, sparkling-lit tree, and beautiful, red poinsettias.

Sadly, that season has come to a close, and it is now time to put away all of those decorations for another year. We will be doing this on Saturday, January 12 beginning at 9:30 a.m. and could use any and all help. If we have a good number of folks helping, this should only take about two hours of your morning. Please join us if you can!

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will take place in late February. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you would like us to consider and discuss, please let Sue or any member of the Worship Committee know before this meeting.

**Please remember to restock your vehicles with Meals for the Homeless.**



**They are available in the vestibule.  
Let's work together to keep this worthwhile ministry going within our community.**

## Christian Education News

*Tammy Monarch, Chair*

Throughout the month of January, we will be continuing to read about, study, and discuss the thirteen disciples of Jesus. Our schedule for this month is...

January 6 - Judas Iscariot, the Traitor

January 13 - John, the Beloved Disciple

January 20 - Matthias, the Replacement

January 27 - Review and Summary of These Thirteen Specially-Chosen Men

As always, feel free to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, and please don't worry if you haven't read and studied beforehand, you can still join in on our interesting, and often lively, discussions. We would love to have you join us!



The Education Committee is still looking for that special person to head up Vacation Bible School this coming summer. The program for 2019 is called ROAR, and as you can guess, it takes place on the Serengeti of Africa, and yes, there will be lots of lions, tigers, giraffes, and zebras wandering around. Please think and pray about this position, and if you feel called to fulfill this or another role at VBS, please contact Pastor Karen or Tammy as soon as possible.

## BWC Scholarship Information

The Baltimore-Washington Conference will once again be offering college scholarships for the Fall 2019 Semester. Students can apply from January 3 – March 7 through the on-line application system.

These scholarships are available for students enrolling and attending accredited colleges and universities in the United States full-time. All applicants must be active members of their churches for at least one year and have GPAs of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Official transcripts (high school or college) and contact information for two church references (the pastor and another member of the church) will need to be provided.

For more information and/or to apply, call 410-309-3446 or visit [www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/](http://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/)

## The Way Forward

If you haven't already heard, the United Methodist Church is at a decision point in its life. As a church, we all need to decide how to move forward and be accessible and compassionate to all people. Over the last decade, there has been much discussion and debate about this topic causing our church to reach this historic point where a decision must now be made. This will happen on February 23 in St. Louis at a Special Session of General Conference.

Local meetings and discussions were held throughout the months of November and December to inform our fellow Methodists in the BWC about what lies ahead and the choices we have. We are fortunate at Wesley Grove to have had both Steven Arndt and Linda Chatterton attend one of these meetings and return to us with a summary of what they heard. If you would like to read this or other information about this issue, please look for these papers on the table in the vestibule.

Join Us for

**UMM Breakfast**  
at  
**SmokeHill BBQ**




**Monday, January 21**  
at 8 AM



**Help Us to**  
**Undecorate Our Sanctuary**

**Saturday, January 12**  
at 9:30 AM



**Soup Sunday Luncheon**

**Sunday, January 20**  
right after our  
worship service



Sign up in the vestibule to  
bring something to share.

Join Us for a  
**Contemporary Christian Concert**

*featuring*



at Mt. Tabor UMC  
**Saturday, January 5**  
at 6 PM

## Reminders and Requests

- Be sure to pick up your 2019 giving envelopes if you have not already done so.
- Pick up any remaining Christmas poinsettias that you might have ordered.
- New church leadership positions begin this month. Please check your 2019 Lay Leadership Report to determine which committees you are a member of this year.
- Look over your personal information in our latest church directory to see if it is accurate and up-to-date. If you find any errors, please let the church office know asap. We will be printing an updated version for everyone in the very near future.

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!	2 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	3	4	5 6:00 PM - "Sunday Drive" Concert at Mt. Tabor UMC
6 Epiphany 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship with Communion	7 7:30 PM - Finance Committee	8 7:30 PM - Christian Fellowship Committee	9 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	10	11	12 9:30 AM - Undecorate Sanctuary from Christmas
13 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship	14 7:30 PM - Administrative Council	15 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	16 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	17	18 February Newsletter Deadline	19
20 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship 12:00 PM - Soup Sunday Luncheon	21 8:00 AM - UMM Breakfast @ SmokeHill BBQ	22	23 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship	28 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	29	30 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	31		



Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894  
Email: [office@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

# *Soup Sunday*



following  
**the Worship Service**  
on  
**Sunday, January 20**

Sign up in the vestibule  
to make a pot of soup,  
to bake bread or muffins,  
or to bring a dessert.

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

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