

**Wesley Grove**

**March 2019**

# Messenger

## **From Pastor John's Pulpit...**

*"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God  
in Christ Jesus." ~~~ Philippians 3:14*

I was meditating on this Bible passage, and I realized that I wanted to share it with you all as a source of encouragement. The use of the word, press, in this passage means to exert great strength.

There is a time in long-distance races when the runners have to focus on every bit of energy, discipline, and courage they possess to move on past how they feel. In marathon races, this time is called "the wall." It occurs when a runner has run about 18-22 miles of the 26-mile race. At this point, s/he has passed the halfway mark and made a lot of progress in the second half of the race, but still has quite a distance to go to reach the finish line.

It is the same in our lives as Christians. There are times when it just gets hard. But it is at these times that we learn what it really means to walk by faith, not by feeling. We can't live a victorious Christian life only on the emotional and physical levels. To really experience the victory we have in the Lord, it is imperative that we learn to live in the Spirit and walk by the Spirit. When the flesh is weak and the mind is exhausted, we must still be able to walk through the life-giving power of the Spirit. Learning to both walk and run by faith is part of our spiritual maturity.

Are you discouraged today? If so, press on! Are people trying to hold you back? If so, press on! Are the answers to your prayers being delayed? Are you afraid of what tomorrow holds? Are you feeling lonely and abandoned? If you answered yes to any of these questions, press on! Press on and keep moving by the power of God's Spirit at work within our own spirits. For if we do press on, we will soon see the finish line just ahead and hear the cheers and encouragement reserved for those who press on to the finish. So, again, keep on pressing on!

May the Lord help us all to press on until final victory is won. Blessings to you all...

Pastor John

### Lectionary Readings

**March 3, 2019: Last Sunday after Epiphany**

Exodus 34:19-35  
 Psalm 99  
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:12  
 Luke 9:28-43

**March 6, 2019: Ash Wednesday**

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



**March 10, 2019: First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
 Romans 10:8b-13  
 Luke 4:1-13

**March 17, 2019: Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
 Psalm 27  
 Philippians 3:17-4:1  
 Luke 13:31-35

**March 24, 2019: Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
 Psalm 63:1-8  
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
 Luke 13:1-9

**March 31, 2019: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12  
 Psalm 32  
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### March Birthdays



- |    |                  |    |                |
|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| 3  | Becky Norwood    |    |                |
|    | Scott Johnson    |    |                |
| 4  | Linda Chatterton |    |                |
| 12 | Steve Allman     | 18 | Sharon Johnson |
| 15 | Chan Ketchum     | 19 | Emma Lynagh    |
|    | Lily Hagy        | 24 | Gary Rogers    |
| 17 | Debbie Benson    | 28 | Jaime Crawford |
|    | Bill Duvall      | 30 | Tammy Monarch  |

### January 2019 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,521.08
Pastor Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor Salary	\$385.96
Pastor Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary	\$777.75
Choir Director	\$883.34
Payroll Taxes	\$78.32
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$200.00
Custodian	\$540.00
Programs	\$555.75
Office Expenses	\$82.96
Trustees - Maintenance	\$4,746.87
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,786.19</b>

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$4,701.00
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,435.25
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$25.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursement	\$2,014.12
(from other two churches)	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,401.02</b>



Remember to move your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday night, or you will be late to church on Sunday, March 10!

## Administrative Council Meeting January 21, 2019

*In Attendance:* Steven Arndt, Becky Lewis, Debbie Benson, Pastor Karen, Bob Burke, Carol Stone, Jackie Hottinger, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Mike Sherwood, Terri Sherwood, Jim Kemp, and Rick Monarch

Meeting opened by Bob at 7:31 p.m. A devotion called "When a You Haven't Got a Prayer" was read by Jackie.

Jackie made a motion to accept the November 12, 2018 minutes as written and published. Becky seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and these minutes were approved.

### *Prayer Requests:*

- Diddle and Allman Families
- Bob's cousin, Cindy Krumm, who has cancer
- Jimmy Johnson's blood clot surgery was today.
- Jennifer and Hernando Cano for the health of their unborn twins; Hernando's new job requires 2 months of training away from home.

### *Good News Items:*

- Jessi Wagner, Judy Hughes' granddaughter, got married this past weekend.
- Great Holiday Season—cantata, caroling, tree lighting, bazaar (made about a \$4,000 profit)
- Jim and grandson, Tim Lee, repaired the water leak in the roof of the church.

### *Committee Reports:*

\* Board of Trustees - Will meet on 1/28. TKO Construction has requested to use our ballfield for kids in need three days a week this spring. Rick is working with them to create a schedule. Rental house pipe broke and was fixed by Jimmy Johnson. Jim Kemp will repair walls and paint.

\* Christian Education - Currently, holding only one SS class that is just about finished with our 13 apostles study. Next, studying the women of the Old Testament. Still looking for someone to head up VBS for this summer.

\* Finance - Our 2019 Budget still needs to be passed by Ad Council. Our overall finances are in good standing.

\* Christian Fellowship - met on 1/8 and decided to eliminate some activities and add some new

ones. Steven and Linda will host breakfast for dinner on 2/16.

\* Missions - hosted a successful Christmas campaign; 24 children are now involved in *Rock the House* afterschool program; agreed to sponsor Jessi Wagner's NYC street ministry again this year.

\* Worship - will meet on 2/24 to plan our worship services for upcoming four months.

\* Communications - no report at this time

\* Staff Parish Relations - Asbury UMC has decided to leave the Charge. Starting on July 1, 2019, Pastor John will be the minister for just Asbury, and we three other churches will be back to a 3-point charge with a new associate pastor.

\* Pastor's Report - Karen appreciates the parsonage and all that folks do for her and her home. A Special Session of General Conference is meeting in St. Louis, MO from 2/23-26 to address "A Way Forward" and how the United Methodist Church will include the LBGQT community in the future.

### *Old Business:*

\* Lights above choir loft and lights on other side of church still need to be repaired or replaced.

\* Motion sensors at both the hall and church need repairs or replacements.

\* New outside hose bib at the hall will be installed this spring.

\* Rick got Laytonsville Turf and Landscaping to plow our parking lots for only \$200 a time. Tim Lee and Terri Sherwood shoveled snow from our sidewalks and porches to prepare for Lions Club and choir to meet after the big 1/12-13 snow. Let's call Gunner and ask if he can do this shoveling in the future. Discussion occurred about the possibility of purchasing a walk-behind snow blower, which would cost approximately \$1,000.

### *New Business:*

\* Should we have a fundraiser dinner in March? If so, what should the menu include, and what date should we use? The profit from our October 2018 dinner was about \$1600-\$1700. Voted taken, and yes, let's continue forward with a spring dinner. Our Dinner Committee of Jim, Rick, Terri, and Becky will coordinate.

### *Next Meeting:*

\* will be held on Monday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

\* Carol Stone will present our devotion.

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

The Christian Fellowship Committee lets the March schedule get off to a quiet start, with only the 12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch at the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 6, during the early part of the month. But watch out, the last two weeks of the month are quite busy!

The busy time starts off with our Annual Games Night at the Monarchs' home on Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Bring an appetizer and/or a dessert to share, plus any games you think others would enjoy. Be warned, it's always a good night to skip dinner and wait for the treats to come!

A host family is needed for Coffee & Conversation on the following day, Sunday, March 17, following the worship service. Please see Becky Lewis if you can take on that role.

Ladies Lunch Out meets on Wednesday, March 20, at Applebee's in Germantown at noon. On Sunday, March 24, we will take our spring trip to bring music and cheer to our friends at Pleasant View and Lorien. We'll meet at the Fellowship Hall at 4 p.m. to carpool, then come back to the Lewis' home at 23409 Woodfield Road for a potluck dinner. Donations of adult diapers and toiletry items are always appreciated by the folks at Pleasant View.



## Easter Flowers

Once again this year, we will decorate the sanctuary on Easter 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 our yards. Order forms will be in our weekly bulletins. The deadline for ordering will be Sunday, April 7, and the cost is \$10 per plant. Please consider ordering a flowering plant (or two or more) to honor and remember your loved ones on Easter morning.



## Missions News

*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

Thanks to everyone who contributed snacks and drinks for the Damascus Gardens *Rock the House* after-school program. The kids there really appreciate having these while they get tutoring and homework help in the afternoons.

Please remember that we collect food for the Damascus Help Food Pantry throughout the year, not just at holiday times.

If you have any other projects or programs that you would like for our Missions Committee to consider supporting this year, please see Jackie with your suggestions.

## Sunday School News

*Tammy Monarch, Chair*

We are presently reading and learning about the women who made a difference in the Old Testament. We have begun our study with Eve and will continue with Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel throughout the month of March. 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 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and we would love to have you!



As our Lenten service project, we will once again be filling meal bags for the homeless men, women, and children that live within our community. Once completed, these bags will be available in the vestibule for all of you to pick up and keep in your vehicles to hand out to needy folks as you pass them on our area's roads and streets. If you would like to help support this worthy project, we could use donations of these foods in single serving sizes...

- \* canned tuna, chicken, salmon, sausages, sardines, etc.
- \* cups of pudding, gelatin, fruit
- \* bags of chips, cookies, crackers
- \* boxes of raisins, craisins, fruit snacks
- \* boxes of granola/breakfast bars
- \* cases of water bottles
- \* packages of napkins, plastic flatware, wet wipes, hand warmers, and gallon size zipper bags

We would like to thank all of you in advance for helping to support this very worthy and meaningful community service project!

## 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 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 in the church office at 301-253-2894 or at home at 301-253-0044. The application deadline is April 30.



Ash  
Wednesday  
Service

**Wednesday,  
March 6  
7:30 p.m.**

**Wesley Grove United  
Methodist Church**

### Lenten Bible Study

Tuesday Nights at Mt. Tabor UMC at 6:00 p.m.  
March 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16 — no study on March 19

In this five week study based on his book, Unafraid, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears that most of us experience throughout our lives. Together, we will learn to identify these fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them — all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope to face our futures.

If you are interested in joining this Bible study, please speak with Pastor Karen no later than Sunday, March 10.

Join Us at Mt. Tabor UMC  
on Shrove Tuesday for a

### Pancake Dinner

and to prepare ourselves  
for Lent.



**Tuesday, March 5**

6 p.m.

**Friday, March 29**  
6 p.m.

### Pizza & Movie Night



Our Education Committee  
will be supplying dinner  
and showing the movie, *Noah*,  
starring actor Russell Crowe.

Sign up in the Greeting Room.



**As a church family,  
our thoughts, prayers, and  
sympathies go out to...**

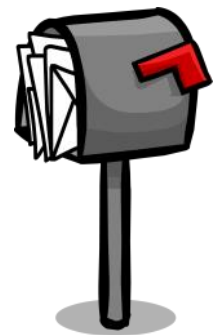
- the Diddle and Allman Family on the death of their husband, father, and grandfather, Don,
- the Walter Family on the death of Mary Jane's niece, Teresa,  
and
- the Kemp Family on the death of Jim & Lois's nephew, George III (aka G.F.).

We pray for God's protection of  
**Frank Miller**, who recently left us for  
six months in Afghanistan working for  
the Defense Intelligence Agency.

If you would like to send  
Frank a note or card,  
his address is...

**Frank Miller, Jr.**  
**RS HQ CJIOC-A**  
**APO AE 09356**

Or you can email him at  
**f1mroad@aol.com**



### Community Musical Opportunities This Month



- The Church Basement Ladies return to present *Rise Up, O Men* at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in downtown Frederick on Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. For more information about discounts when ordering tickets, see the flyer in the vestibule or contact the Weinberg.
- Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, St Anne's Episcopal Church in Damascus is presenting *Lilt*, a Celtic duo performing traditional Irish favorites on Sunday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. This concert is free to the public. A free will offering will be collected. Refreshments will be provided after the concert.
- The First Baptist Church of Damascus will be hosting its quarterly Fifth Sunday Community Hymn Sing on Sunday, March 31 at 6:00 p.m. All are invited, and refreshments will follow the service.

# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion	4 7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting	5 6:00 PM - Pancake Dinner @ MTUMC 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	6 12:30 PM - Brown Bag Luncheon 7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service @ WG	7 7:30 PM - Finance Committee Meeting	8 11:00 AM - Dinner Set-Up	9 1:00-5:00 PM - Turkey & Oyster Fundraiser Dinner
10 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service	11 7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting	12 6:00 PM - Bible Study at MTUMC	13 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	14	15	16 7:00 PM - Games Night @ the Monarchs' Home
17 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship 12:00 PM - Fellowship Hour	18 <b>April Newsletter Deadline</b>	19 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	20 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	21	22 6:00 PM - Pizza Dinner & Movie @ WG Fellowship Hall	23
24 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship 4:00 PM - Spring Caroling & Dinner	25 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	26 6:00 PM - Bible Study at MTUMC	27 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	28	29 6:00 PM - UMW Quilting Night @ WG Fellowship Hall	30
31 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship						



Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Church Phone: 301-253-2894

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**

## Turkey and Oyster Dinner with All the Trimmings



Saturday, March 9 from 1-5 p.m.

Adults - \$20.00

Children (aged 5-12) - \$10.00

Carry-Outs & Baked Goods Available

*Please let your friends and family know.*

Contact Rick Monarch at 301-253-0044  
if you can volunteer to help.

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

**Wesley Grove United Methodist  
Church**  
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