

Wesley Grove

April 2019

Messenger

From Pastor Karen's Pulpit...

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh – my adversaries and foes – they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. ~~~ Psalm 27:1-3

There is a commercial on television that features a woman balancing on a tightrope with a plate of food in each hand. Even though I've seen the commercial several times and KNOW that she will make it safely to the other side, I still get nervous each time I watch her wobbling high in the air. I would never want to walk on a tightrope, but it occurs to me that sometimes my fears make me feel as if I am teetering in mid-air. My fears of public humiliation, not being good enough, failure, not knowing how to care for my aging parents, and income taxes are a few of the fears that I face on a daily basis.

Fear is, in my opinion, one of the most difficult aspects of the human experience. There are some things that are simply frightening, and it is only human for us to respond to them with fear. But it's one thing for us to feel fear; it's another thing for us to live in fear. It is possible to turn fear into something that occupies our whole lives.

In Psalm 27, it would appear that the Psalmist is struggling in some kind of situation that naturally provokes fear. He feels as if his enemies are trying to "devour his flesh," describing his struggle as if he were under siege in battle. Whatever the specific problem is, it's clear that the person who is composing this prayer is *afraid*. At the end of his wrestling match with fear, the Psalmist makes one of the great declarations of faith in the Bible. He says, "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Not in some far-off heavenly existence, but here and now. "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14). The Psalmist's faith is such that he trusts that God will make whatever happens to him turn out for good.

In his book, *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton gives a practical acronym for facing fear:

- F** ace your fears with faith.
- E** xamine your assumptions in light of all the facts.
- A** ttack your anxieties with action.
- R** elease your cares to God.

Fear is a natural part of being human, but fear doesn't have to control us. We can live with courage and hope, and we can learn to find the light of God's presence always surrounding us and protecting us, always bringing the good out of anything that may come our way. We can feel our fears, but live from our faith. Then, we can say with the Psalmist, "*What do we have to fear?*"

Peace,

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

April 7, 2019: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8



April 14, 2019: Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16, 118:1-2,19-29
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:56



April 18, 2019: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17,31b-35



April 19, 2019: Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
 Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25
 John 18:1-19:42



April 24, 2019: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 John 20:1-18
 Luke 23:1-49



April 28, 2019: Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32
 Psalm 150
 Revelation 1:4-8
 John 20:19-31

February 2019 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,521.08
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$385.96
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary's Pay	\$945.51
Choir Director's Salary	\$883.34
Payroll Taxes	\$91.27
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Removal Costs	\$80.00
Custodian's Pay	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$861.47
Programs	\$48.88
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance of Property	\$2,614.22
Total Expenses	\$9,985.89

Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,552.00
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 Fees	\$40.00
In and Out Income	\$25.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$2,150.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$0.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$927.95
(from other two churches)	
Total Income	\$12,055.85

April Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 Randy Falk | |
| 5 Katie Ketchum | |
| 8 Judy Briggs | |
| 16 Sally Swearingen | |
| 17 Mike Sherwood | |
| Kenny Benson | 25 Scott Iles |
| 19 Cara Lynagh | 28 Kris Kepner |



Bingo

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will hold its spring fundraiser on the evening of Friday, May 10. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., and the games start at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 per person and include a fried chicken dinner, six cards, and 20 games of bingo. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Jim or Lois Kemp at 301-253-2859 by Wednesday, May 1.



Administrative Council Meeting March 11, 2019

In Attendance

Becky Lewis, Debbie Benson, Pastor Karen, Bob Burke, Carol Stone, Jackie Hottinger, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Terri Sherwood, Jim Kemp, and Rick Monarch.

Devotional Reading

"Giraffes Can't Dance" (a children's story) was read by Carol Stone. The moral of "none of us are helpless; we just need different songs to dance to" gave us all something to think about.

Good News Items

We had a tremendous food collection for afterschool snacks.

T&O Dinner profit is about \$2,000. We served 207 diners, and the bake table was very full and profitable. Thanks to everyone who helped order, cook, bake, serve, and wash dishes at this event.

Action Items

Jackie Hottinger made a motion to accept the January 21, 2019, minutes as written and published. Tammy Monarch seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved as written.

Old Business

Terri Sherwood and Gunner Kepner are working on a list of jobs to be done this spring on our grounds. Gunner will continue to submit his hours to Terri and Rick Monarch for payment.

Laytonville Landscaping did a very good job with our snow removal this winter at a very reasonable price.

New Business

Church Emergency Plan – We have a team working on this comprehensive written plan. Once completed, we will have both medical emergency and fire practice evacuation drills from the church.

Committee Reports

Christian Education – In Sunday School, we are studying the women of the Old Testament. We will show "Noah" with a pizza dinner on March 22 at 6 p.m. Filling bags with meals for the homeless is our Lenten community service project and will occur on March 31. WG will not hold VBS this summer since no one has stepped forward to lead this ministry.

Christian Fellowship – Games Night will be held at the Monarchs' home on March 16 at 7 p.m. Egg-Stravaganza is coming up on Saturday, April 13.

Communications – Josh Park has Wi-fi working in the Education Building. The router is located at the church. Becky Lewis will ask him for our password and place it in a designated place in the hall so that Wi-fi can be used.

Finance – Copies of the 2019 budget were distributed. It is very similar to 2018's, with a few changes. We budgeted about \$3,000 to repair and retune our handbells as a one-time expense. Choir director

received a \$1,000 raise. Our apportionments increased \$4,000; these are based on our actual spending in 2017. DS J.W. Park told our SPRC that the amounts that our charge is paying our two pastors will not change when we get to July 1 and have a change in associate pastors. Debbie Benson, as Finance chair, made a motion to approve this budget as presented. Vote was taken, and all were in favor.

Missions – The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen will begin serving again this week, at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg. All of its food is donated, and staples are always needed. Jackie has this list if you want to donate items. We will continue to staff this on fifth Mondays, which occur this year in April, September, and December. Becky Lewis will lead our staffing in April due to Jackie Hottinger's absence due to surgery.

Staff Parish – Pastor John will be leaving the South Damascus Charge on July 1 to lead Asbury UMC as a half-time pastor. Salem, Mt. Tabor, and WG will be getting a new quarter-time pastor. S/he has not been appointed at this time. This will not occur until all full-time appointments are made; thus, we probably will not know until late May.

Trustees – Jim Kemp is working on roof leaks and millings for parking lot holes and mud puddles. Rick Monarch is working to limit bus damage at the ends of our driveways. He spoke with one bus driver and with HOC (left voicemail and sent letter). All broken pipes have been repaired at the rental house. Annual inspection is upcoming. TKO construction will use and maintain our ballfield this spring season for at-risk children in our community. We have already received their donation check. Our church and hall motion sensor lights will be either fixed or replaced soon.

Worship – Maundy Thursday Service at Salem at 6 p.m., and Good Friday Services at Mt. Tabor at 6 p.m. and WG at 7:30 p.m. on April 19. Sunrise Service will begin at 6 a.m. on Easter morning and be followed by breakfast served by the Christian Fellowship Committee in the Education Building.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Karen Davis shared that Bishop LaTrelle Easterling had just sent a very lengthy and emotion-filled letter based on the results of General Conference's vote on February 26, when this body passed The Traditional Plan regarding our LGBTQ members. Discussion followed led by these overriding questions --- *What do we do now? Where do we go from here?* Consensus of the Council discussion is that at WG, we will steadfastly maintain the mission statement that is printed on the front of our weekly bulletins. We will continue to welcome ALL people who want to follow Jesus.

Next Meeting

Devotions for our next meeting on Monday, May 13 will be led by Tammy.

Meeting was adjourned by Bob at 9:07 .pm.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

On Saturday, April 13, we will welcome our special needs friends and the community's children to an "Egg-Stravaganza" in and around our Education Building. The fun starts at 2 p.m. with our Special Needs Easter Party, featuring a very special guest and lots of fun, games, and refreshments. The community's children are invited to gather at 3 p.m. for our annual Egg Hunt; "hunting" will begin at approximately 3:15 p.m. after we've sorted out age groups. Following the egg hunt, children and their families are welcome to stay for crafts and refreshments. We'll be stuffing eggs the previous day, Friday, April 12, at 4 p.m.; the more hands we have, the faster it will go!

The Christian Fellowship Committee Easter activities conclude on Easter Sunday, April 21, when we encourage everyone to attend our special Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. by our ballfield pavilion. Following the service, please join your church family for a fellowship breakfast hosted by Becky & Brian Lewis in the Education Building.

Also on the April calendar, the Daytime Circle will meet for their Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, April 3, at 12:30 p.m.; Becky & Brian Lewis will host Coffee and Conversation following both the 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. performances of our Easter Cantata, "How Can It Be?" on Sunday, April 14; and Ladies Lunch Out will meet at Wednesday, April 17 at noon at Tom & Ray's.

Looking ahead to May, it's not too soon to start cleaning out your closets for our Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 11. Please let Tammy or Rick Monarch know if you'd like to reserve a space for \$15. The United Methodist Men will host a fellowship breakfast the following day, on Mother's Day, at 9:30 a.m.

Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

Once again this year on Easter morning, we are asking all of you to bring a few spring blossoms (daffodils, crocuses, tulips, forsythia, flowering fruit tree branches, etc.) from your yards and gardens with you to church. We will use all of these to honor and celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as we attach them to the resurrection cross in our Greeting Room. At the end of the worship service, we will move this cross to our glassed-in front porch for all passersby to see and remember just how much He sacrificed for all of us.



Spring Flowers

If you would still like to order flowering plants for Palm Sunday and Easter, it's not too late! Order forms are available on the table in the Greeting Room, and the deadline to order is Sunday, April 7. The cost is \$10 per plant. These beautiful potted plants will adorn our sanctuary for two Sundays this year, and then, we ask that you take them home where they will all be suitable for planting in your yards. Please consider ordering a plant (or two or more) to honor and remember your loved ones this Easter Season.



Sunday School News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

We are presently reading and learning about the women who made a difference in the Old Testament. We will begin April by reading and studying about Miriam and then continue on with Deborah, Ruth, and Naomi throughout the remainder of the month. 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 our Education Building, and we would love to have you!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Lenten community service project of creating meal bags for the homeless in our area. We were able to fill 100 bags! They are located in the church vestibule. Please take a couple to place in your car, and as you travel our area roads and pass someone in need, hand them out with a smile on your face and God's blessing in your heart. Please feel free to replenish your supply as needed.



Unfortunately, we are very sad to announce that Wesley Grove will not host a Vacation Bible School for the children in our community this summer. After repeated requests, we have not been able to find anyone to lead this ministry.

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.

Dinner Committee News

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our Spring Turkey and Oyster Dinner a big success! We had lots of help, lots of baked goods, and made a wonderful profit of \$2,445. Everyone's efforts are truly appreciated!

Please mark the date of Saturday, June 1 on your calendars as we have been selected to cook and serve the 75th Anniversary of D-Day Banquet at the Damascus American Legion, and we will need all of your help on this day. Look for more details in May's newsletter.

Since we will serve this dinner and already have three other fall fundraisers planned, we have decided not to hold a Fall Turkey and Oyster Dinner this year.

And finally, please check your closets and drawers for any Wesley Grove blue aprons. We used to have about 60, and now we can only find about 20-25, so we're guessing that many of you took them home to wash, and then forgot to bring them back to the Education Building. Thanks in advance for searching for us!

Join Us on Saturday, April 13

Egg-Stravaganza

Party for
Special Needs
Friends

2 p.m.



Community
Egg Hunt

3 p.m.

Tell your friends and family!

*Please let Becky Lewis know if you can help
with this event*



Sunday, April 21
6 a.m.



Easter Sunrise Service

Our Christian Fellowship Committee
will serve breakfast
immediately following the service
in our fellowship hall



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

Linda Chatterton and Steven Arndt
on the death of her brother, Paul

Congratulations and
Best Wishes
for a blessed life
together
go to...



Patrick and Kat O'Conor

who were married by Pastor Karen
at the Ceresville Mansion
in Walkersville
on Sunday, March 24

Friday, April 19

Good Friday Services



Mt. Tabor UMC @ 6 p.m.
Wesley Grove UMC @ 7:30 p.m.

Annual Fishing Trip on the Chesapeake Bay

Thursday, May 16 @ 4:30 a.m.

Sign up in the Greeting Room



Contact Henry King
at 301-831-7442
for more information

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:00 PM - Bible Study at MTUMC 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner 7:00 PM - Narrators Cantata Practice	3 12:30 PM - Brown Bag Luncheon 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service (Communion) <i>Deadline for Easter Flower Orders</i>	8	9 6:00 PM - Bible Study at MTUMC 7:00 PM - Narrators Cantata Practice	10 7:00 PM - Choir and Narrators Cantata Practice	11	12 4:00 PM - Fill Easter Eggs	13 9:00 AM - Cantata Dress Rehearsal 2:00 PM - Easter Party for Friends w/ Special Needs 3:00 PM - Community Egg Hunt
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Cantata 7:30 PM - Second Cantata Performance	15	16 6:00 PM - Bible Study at MTUMC 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	17 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	18 6:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service at Salem UMC <i>May Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 Good Friday Services: 6:00 PM at MTUMC 7:30 PM at WGUMC	20 Raindate for Egg-Stravaganza
21 <i>Easter</i> 6:00 AM - Sunrise Service w/ Breakfast <i>No Sunday School</i> 11:00 AM - Worship Service	22 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	23	24 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	25	26 6:00 PM - Dinner & Movie @ Fellowship Hall — <i>Listen for details in church</i>	27
28 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service	29 1:00 PM - Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg	30				



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

Easter Cantata

How Can It Be?



Presented by the Wesley Grove Chancel Choir
and Players

Sunday, April 14

Performances at 11 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Please tell your friends and family

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

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