

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

May, 2019

From Pastor Karen's Pulpit...

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter, I am looking out my kitchen window, which is slightly cracked to let in a pleasant, cool breeze. The sun is shining, and I am itching to get outside to breathe in the spring air. Fresh air has a healing quality about it, and in our household, a good dose of fresh air is part of the cure for whatever ails you.

In John 20:19-22, we are told that the resurrected Jesus has just appeared to His fear-filled disciples. He stands among them and offers them peace. Then after showing them the wounds in His hands and in His side, He commissions the disciples to go out into the world to share the good news. *“When He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”*

In other words, Jesus offered the disciples fresh air for whatever ailed them. Their doubts, fears, and insecurities were blown away in one cleansing breath of air.

In the Biblical World, breath is a manifestation of God's Spirit: God breathes over the waters, and the universe takes form; God revives dry bones in a valley; and the Psalmist proclaims, “Let everything that breathes praise God.” (Psalm 150:6) God's Spirit sets us free; it breathes on us and gives us energy for adventures ahead. God still breathes through us as the source of possibility and as the energy to achieve His vision in our time.

But if we want to receive what God has for us, we have to have breathing space. So take the time to breathe, inhaling and exhaling deeply. Simply breathing our prayers has been shown to reduce stress and enhance immune system functioning. It also awakens our connection with creation, breathing in, around, and through us. So, why not stop right now and try a simple breath prayer? Breathe in God's Spirit. Exhale God's love.

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior and look forward to Pentecost, I pray that you will breathe God's Spirit and share God's energy of love with all creation.

Peace,
Pastor Karen

Lectionary Readings

May 5, 2019: *Third Sunday of Easter*

Native American Ministries Sunday

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

May 12, 2019: *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Mother's Day

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 19, 2019: *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Heritage Sunday

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 26, 2019: *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Memorial Day Weekend

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10,22-22.5

John 14:13-29

May Birthdays

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



Financial Report for March 2019

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,521.08
Pastor's Salary	\$1,416.66
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$385.94
Pastor's Benefits	\$597.50
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$224.89
Church Secretary's Payroll	\$800.63
Choir Director's Salary	\$883.34
Payroll Taxes	\$83.92
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$80.00
Custodian's Payroll	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$910.06
Program Expenses	\$716.86
Office Expenses	\$311.30
Trustees - Maintenance Expenses	\$2,329.61
Total Expenses for the Month	\$10,801.79

Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,346.30
Sunday School Collections	\$0.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$1,925.65
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,435.25
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall Fees	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$0.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$300.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursement	\$2,978.07
(from other churches - 2 months for Salem)	
Total Income for the Month	\$13,985.27

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

There's still time to clean out your closets and rent a space at the Spring Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 11. Please contact Tammy (301-253-0044) to reserve your space for \$15, or if you have just a few gently used items, you can donate them for sale at the church booth. We'll be sorting and pricing on Wednesday, May 8 at 7 p.m., so please drop your items off at the hall before then. Even if you don't have a space, plan to come out and browse for bargains, buy breakfast or lunch (or both!), and be sure to stop by the bake sale. We prefer donations of cookies or brownies in individual portions for this event, but we'll gladly take other items too. If you can help in the kitchen or with selling "treasures," please contact either Brian (240-338-3210) or Becky (240-338-3211) to get an assignment.

On Sunday, May 12, join our Wesley Grove family for a fellowship breakfast in honor of Mother's Day. The United Methodist Men will serve up a delicious breakfast in the hall following a short Sunday School presentation at 9:30 a.m. **Everyone is welcome.** Men, please contact Brian to determine how you can help.

Also on the May calendar, the monthly Brown Bag Luncheon takes place on Wednesday, May 1, at 12:30 p.m. in the hall, and Ladies Lunch Out meets at Mama Angela's in Mt. Airy on Wednesday, May 15, at noon.

Looking toward June, we'll mark Christian Education Sunday on June 2 with Coffee & Conversation. Please let Becky know if you can host this. Also mark your calendars for breakfast on Father's Day, June 16, and a luncheon to bid farewell to Pastor John and Mercy on Sunday, June 29. Look for more details in the June newsletter.

Christian Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

As we move through Eastertide toward Pentecost, we are continuing to learn about the various women of the Old Testament who helped to shape our Christian world today. In the coming weeks, we will focus on Deborah, Esther, Ruth, and Naomi. Please feel free to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Students of all ages are always welcome!

Looking ahead... On Sunday, June 2, 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. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow this special service. Please make plans now to join us for worship on this day.



If you know of someone in our church family who is graduating from high school or college this year, please contact Tammy (301-253-0044) as soon as possible with their names, schools, and future plans.

Memorial & Scholarship News

Jim Kemp, Chair

The Memorial and Scholarship Committee will meet on Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We will review our available memorial funds and discuss their possible uses here on our property as well as review this year's scholarship applications. If you are a member of this committee, please make plans to attend this important meeting.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Thanks so very much to everyone who volunteered and worked at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen on Monday, April 29. This is such a rewarding community outreach program, and we are so blessed to have all of you to serve in this ministry. We are also grateful that the Soup Kitchen found a new home at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg. Our next opportunity to serve this meal will be on Monday, September 30. Please mark your calendars now to help this day.



We also ask that you remember our needy neighbors in the community and consider purchasing some food items for the Damascus Help food pantry when you do your grocery shopping this month. Peanut butter, pasta sauce, noodles, grape jelly, and cereal are always items in high demand. Please bring these foods to church and place them in the marked boxes under the table in the vestibule.

Upcoming Community Events

* If you are interested in buying tickets to the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department's **Spring Bingo Fundraiser** on Friday, May 10, call Lois Kemp at 301-253-2859 asap. Advance tickets cost \$40 and include a fried chicken dinner and 20 games of bingo.

* If you are interested in **fishing on the Chesapeake Bay** on Thursday, May 16, please sign up in the vestibule. We will meet in the hall parking lot that morning at 4:30. Remember to bring your own lunch and drinks. If you have additional questions, call Henry King at 301-831-7442.

Emergency Plan

A team of interested people are in the process of developing a resource plan for all types of emergencies (medical, fire, weather, etc.) that might affect us here at Wesley Grove. If you have any of the following skills, are willing to make yourself available in the event of such an emergency, and have not already responded to the various requests for this information, please contact Tammy in the church office (301-253-2894).

- basic first aid
- advanced medical training
- CPR training
- Heimlich maneuver
- use of AED
- use of EpiPen
- stroke/heart attack identification
- counseling

If anyone else is interested in joining this team to help develop and implement this plan, please let Becky know.

Plan Ahead for the Bazaar

Our Holly Days Craft Bazaar will be here sooner than you think! Begin now to knit, sew, crochet, craft, can, preserve, paint, carve, etc. whatever you can for this event. WG has relied on a very few people to do all the crafting in recent years – but we know there's a lot more untapped talent out there. Handmade items are always extremely popular.

Start now, so that you are not caught up in the pre-Christmas rush next fall. Last year, I knitted hats throughout the year, so I didn't have to do anything special in the fall except drop them off at the hall. Questions? Need motivation? Feel free to email Linda Chatterton at linda.chatterton@gmail.com or call her at 410-218-9243.

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 PM - Brown Bag Luncheon 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	2 7:30 PM - Memorial and Scholarship Committee	3	4
5 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion	6 7:30 PM - Finance Committee Meeting	7 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	8 7:00 PM - Choir Practice 7:00 PM - Yard Sale Set-up	9 7:00 PM - Yard Sale Set-up continued (if necessary)	10	11 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Spring Community Yard Sale
12 Mother's Day 9:30 AM - Mother's Day Breakfast 11:00 AM - Worship Service	13 7:30 PM - Administrative Council Meeting	14	15 12:00 PM - Ladies Lunch Out @ Mama Angela's in Mt. Airy 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	16 4:30 AM - Chesapeake Bay Fishing Trip	17 June Newsletter Deadline	18
19 Heritage Day 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service	20	21 6:45 PM - Lions Club Dinner	22 7:00 PM - Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 9:30 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship Service	27 Memorial Day	28 7:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting	29 7:00 PM - Choir Practice <i>BWC Annual Conference begins...</i>	30 Ascension Day <i>BWC Annual Conference continues...</i>	31 <i>BWC Annual Conference continues...</i>	<i>Last Day of BWC Annual Conference</i>



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



Saturday, May 11

9 am — 2 pm

**Breakfast, Lunch, and
Baked Goods for Sale**

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

**Wesley Grove United Methodist
Church**
23640 Woodfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882