

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

April 2020

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

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you heard of the “#justbecause” Movement? It’s something that became popularized by Maria Shriver through her “Sunday Paper.” I’ve done some digging, and as far as I can figure out, Maria received flowers from someone “just because,” and she then decided to pay it forward by sending flowers to someone else “just because.” And, thus, the movement was born!

Maria encourages acts of kindness and says that “we all do better when we feel like we’re part of something greater than ourselves.” Her idea is that just one simple act of compassion can start a movement.

Which leads me to wonder... what can we do during this time of social distancing “just because?” Can we send out an old-fashioned card to someone? How about an e-card? Could we keep an appropriate distance and still say hi to a neighbor or even a stranger? Can we call someone who may need to hear a kind voice? Could we write an encouraging letter? What about telling someone in the choir that you appreciate her dedication every Sunday and miss hearing her beautiful voice? I’m sure you have ideas of your own. Be creative and show you care. What act of kindness can you pass on “just because?”

Holy Week is fast approaching, and it behooves us to remember that Jesus gave His life for us “just because.” That one act of compassion started a great, centuries-old movement that we call Christianity. So, now, take a moment and think... just how can you “pay it forward?”

A friend sent me this Franciscan benediction “just because.” I hope its words bless you as they have blessed me.

*May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
So that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in this world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness  
to all our children and to the poor.*

Blessings of peace to you,  
*Pastor Karen*

## Lectionary Readings

**April 5, 2020**

*Palm Sunday*

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 118:1-29, 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14 - 27:66



**April 8, 2020**

*Maundy Thursday*

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-35



**April 9, 2020**

*Good Friday*

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1 - 19:42



**April 12, 2020**

*Easter Sunday*

Acts 30:34-43

Psalm 118:1-24

Corinthians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10



**April 19, 2020**

*Festival of God's Creation*

Acts 2:14a-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



**April 26, 2020**

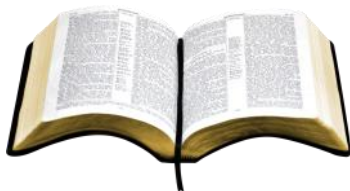
*Native American Ministries Sunday*

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Psalm 116:1-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



## February 2020 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

Apportionments to the BWC	\$1,245.83
Pastor's Salary	\$1,434.84
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$463.20
Pastor's Benefits	\$709.38
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Church Secretary's Wages	\$533.75
Choir Director's Salary	\$833.34
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$39.00
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$104.58
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$1,062.21
Programs	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$23.98
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$3,458.17
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,448.28</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$7,175.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$1,983.42
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,478.31
Use of Hall Fees	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$0.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$649.30
(from Salem and Mt. Tabor)	
Miscellaneous	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,286.03</b>



### April Birthdays

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

## Missions News

*Jackie Hottinger, Chair*

A big thank you to all of you who contributed food items for our special Lenten offering to the Damascus HELP Food Pantry. With your help, Wesley Grove was able to donate several cartons full of peanut butter (and a little jelly!), bags and boxes of rice, noodles, and pasta, boxes of cereal, jars and cans of tomato sauce, and all types of cans of soup.

There is a tremendous need for all of these food items and more in the Damascus Community at this unprecedented time, so during the month of April, we will continue to collect these six special foods, plus any other foods that you would like to donate. Please just leave them on the small collection table in the vestibule. If you do not have a key and would like to donate, please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044, and we will make arrangements to let you into the church to drop off your food.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for your concern for others within our community during this devastating crisis.

### Easter Flowers

Since we will not be in church on Easter morning, we will not be purchasing the beautiful flowering plants that usually decorate our sanctuary that day. Please know that if you have already sent in your order, it will be returned to you in the near future.

We still plan to create our resurrection cross that reminds all of us of our Savior's victory over death. So, if you have flowering plants in your yard, please cut some flowers and bring them to the church on Saturday, April 11 or on Easter morning until noon, and place them in the bucket on the front porch. They will be added to the cross that afternoon with our prayers that it will bring some much needed hope to our Woodfield community.



## Worship News

*Sue Ketchum, Chair*

The Worship Committee has decided to return to our summer worship hour of 10 am. Several members of the congregation had asked if we could worship at this time. This is once again feasible because our pastors only have one church at which to preach on the Sundays they are with us. So, from July 5 through September 6, our Sunday morning worship services will begin at 10 am. Please let your family and friends know of this change.

Our spring cantata is currently planned for Sunday, June 7. Please know that this date is subject to change depending on when our choir can begin practicing again. Stay tuned for updates as we get through this viral pandemic.

## Finance News

*Jim Kemp, Chair*

Difficult and challenging times have hit us all. We are faced with medical, isolation, and financial problems, and Wesley Grove is no different. Even though we are not currently worshipping together on Sunday mornings and probably won't for an least another four or more weeks, we still have commitments to pay our utility bills, employees, and pastors on time. We have always had very strong church family ties and relationships that bind us together, so let's not let this health crisis pull us apart. Instead, let's do our best in these uncertain times to keep Wesley Grove financially strong and solvent. Please continue to give as you are able — either by mailing your offering to the church or placing it in the black, metal mailbox on the porch.

Be smart; stay safe and stay home until we can once again all worship and praise God together in His house.



## Thoughts about Lent and Easter



*Tammy Monarch, Education Committee Chair*

Well, we are 30 days (or 3/4 of the way) into the Forty Days of Lent, and we are all praying frequently and abstaining daily from many of the things we enjoy. This coronavirus crisis has pushed all of us into forced abstinence — we have all had to give up going out to dinner, getting together with friends, playing sports, going to the gym, the movies, the theater; we have even had to give up going to work and school and running simple errands.

During the Lenten Season, we are asked to simplify our lives, rid them of clutter and meaningless tasks, get back to basics, and do some spring cleaning both in our homes and in our lives. We are also asked to help the poor, participate in community service projects, and think about what is important and meaningful in our lives. Whether we chose to give up or take on something for Lent or not, this crisis has forced all of us to do these things.

Although none of us asked for this awful time in our lives, it is serving several purposes — it is causing all of us to stop and pray several times every day; it is causing us to read our Bibles more often ; it is causing us to think about our families and how important our relationships are; it is causing us to think about others and how we can help with donating food, picking up groceries, or giving blood; and it is causing all of us to think about sacrifices and going without, just as Jesus did for all of us and for our salvation over two thousand years ago.

So, as we journey on through the remainder of this Lenten Season and into spring, let us remember God and how His hands are present in every aspect of our lives, even helping us to get through this horrific health crisis. Let's use this period of forced time at home to think and act in the ways that God asks of every Christian during this Season of Lent as we move on forward toward the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Easter morning.

### Looking for a Good Book to Read???

Our church library is open and ready for business. We own a variety of interesting titles in both fiction and non-fiction as well as poetry, children's books, and fun, wholesome, Christian humor. We also have a good supply of Biblical and religious reference books as well as many translations of the Bible.

Do you want to stop by and browse, but you don't have a key? That's not a problem. Just give Becky or Tammy a call, and we will make arrangements to let you in.

### Wesley Grove Scholarships

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 at [TammyKempMonarch@gmail.com](mailto:TammyKempMonarch@gmail.com) or at 301-253-0044. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, May 1.

## ***From the Desk of Pastor YouJung...***

Dear Wesley Grove Family,

It has been three weeks since we first closed our church buildings, and all of our events and worship services continue to be canceled until at least April 26. We are not yet sure when United Methodist Churches will reopen and when we'll worship together again as we don't know how long this pandemic will last. Due to the coronavirus, thousands of people around the world are seriously ill, and many others have died. Schools and restaurants are closed, sporting events and concerts have been postponed or canceled, and we are being asked to practice social distancing. This virus is affecting nearly every aspect of our lives, and it has changed our lives.

Currently, in our church buildings, there is no hymn singing, no Bible reading, no praying, and no gatherings of any kind after the extension of church closures by Bishop Easterling last week. And this is not just UM Churches; instead, churches, synagogues, and temples all around the world of all denominations have become quiet. In this time of silent crisis, we have been given the opportunity to look on all of the things that we routinely take for granted. With our church buildings closed and all services, activities, and meetings stopped, we realize just how much we do have to be thankful for, including our freedom to attend these services and events in times of good health.

Let us thank God, who has made us realize that worship in His House is only possible when He allows it to be. Again, let us thank God, who has made us realize the joy of worship as God's children gathered together. And again, let us thank God, who has made us realize the blessing of having face-to-face interactions and fellowship within the Church.

Throughout this downtime, we want to reflect on whether we are on the right path walking with God or not. We can ask ourselves whether we are staying focused on Him and trying to live according to His will, or whether we are anxious and fearful in this time of global pandemic. Focusing on God is so very necessary right now since perfect peace comes from Him. The more we focus on Him, the fewer fears and anxiety remain. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." Psalms 29:11 says, "The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace."

Yes, it is only the Lord who can give us perfect peace, and this is His promise given to each of us. These two Bible verses remind us of how much God cares for us, His children, and wants us to be in a state of peace, not one of fear and anxiety. However, to be kept in perfect peace, our minds must stay focused on God. In other words, He will keep us in perfect peace if we are keeping our focus on Him and we believe in Him faithfully.

Conversely, if our minds stay on ourselves or our own problems, we cannot have perfect peace. Instead, we merely need to lay down our worries and anxieties before God, who has control over everything, and pray for the termination of this pandemic. This is the perfect time and opportunity for us to turn again to God and trust in Him with all our hearts.

Thus, as Christians, we need to focus more on God during this challenging time while we are physically separated. Let us pray together in spirit for the end of this pandemic and for the return of good health to us, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens around the world. In God, we will have perfect peace during this time if we focus more on Him. God will do; God will control; and God will end this crisis in His time.

Peace be with all of you. Amen.

*Pastor YouJung*

***“I am a firm believer in the American People.  
If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis.”***

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*Abraham Lincoln*

In this time of not just national crisis, but international crisis, we each need to do all we can to help rid the world of this devastating virus. We have all heard these guidelines over and over, but they bear repeating and being listed all in one place.

#### Above All Else...

1. Stay home.
2. Work and school from home if possible.
3. Avoid social gatherings of all sizes and types.
4. When out for a walk or for groceries, practice social distancing of at least six feet.
5. Avoid hugging, kissing, and shaking hands.

#### Personal Hygiene

1. Wash your hands frequently with a lathering soap for at least 20-30 seconds.
2. Use a towel to turn off the water. Do not touch the faucet again after just washing your hands.
3. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
4. Sneeze and cough into tissues (if possible) or into the inside of your elbow.
5. Throw used tissues into trash cans lined with plastic bags.
6. Flush the toilet with your foot.
7. Replace your towels and washcloths daily if possible.

#### Home Cleaning

1. Wash and disinfect all frequently used surfaces (kitchen counters, desktops, bathroom sinks, toilets) several times a day.
2. Disinfect all frequently used objects, including phones, door knobs, light switches, handles, remotes, faucets, toilet flushers, keyboards, mice, keys, credit cards, seat belts, steering wheels, etc.
3. If you do go out, take off those clothes as soon as you return home and wash them.

#### Food and Drug Shopping

1. Limit your grocery and pharmacy trips.
2. If your store offers special hours for seniors, pregnant women, and/or people with medical conditions, shop during those hours.
3. Try to get everything you need at just one store.
4. Use stores that have doors that open automati-

cally. If not, open the door with your elbow.

5. Avoid using a grocery cart or shopping basket if you are getting just a few items.
6. If you do use them, wipe them with a disinfectant wipe and then wait 3-4 minutes for the disinfectant to air-dry.
7. Wear latex gloves, or use hand sanitizer as you enter and as you leave the store.
8. Avoid touching handrails unless necessary.
9. Do not take your own bags. Instead, pay the 5-cent fee and get clean, new plastic or paper bags.
10. BTW, this is a good time to wash all your cloth shopping bags.
11. Avoid using cash; use your credit or debit card instead.
12. Use drive-throughs, curbside pickup, and/or delivery services whenever possible.
13. As per new advice on 4/1/20, wear a mask if you have one to avoid passing on the virus in case you have it and are asymptomatic.

#### Simple Tasks and Errands

1. Turn on/off lights, push elevator buttons, and other devices with your elbow.
2. Keep hand sanitizer in your car. Use it before touching your seat belt, steering wheel, radio, or dash controls.
3. Disinfect those highly-touched car surfaces often as well as your door handles.
4. If possible, wear gloves when pumping gas, using the ATM, and using the credit card machine. If not, use hand sanitizer before and after use.
5. Wear gloves when getting the mail. Leave it in your garage or on the porch for 24 hours before bringing it inside and opening.
6. Do not touch packages when they first arrive. Instead, wait 24 hours if possible.

#### If you feel sick...

1. Self-quarantine yourself in a separate room from the rest of your family for 14 days.
2. Stay in that room and do not interact face-to-face with your family.
3. If possible, use a separate bathroom.
4. Contact your doctor immediately.
5. Do your own cooking, laundry, and dishes if you are able.





# April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	6	7	8	9 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	10 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	11 Drop cut flowers off on the church front porch all day for Easter Resurrection Cross.
12 <b>EASTER</b> Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Drop off cut flowers until noon.	13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>May Newsletter Deadline</b>
19 <b>FESTIVAL OF GOD'S CREATION</b>	20	21	22 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Earth Day Celebration	23	24	25
26 <b>NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY</b>	27	28	29	30	1 Deadline for WG Scholarship applications to be submitted.	



**Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto:wgumc@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)

**Remember we are family,  
and we are here for each other.**

**If you need to speak with a pastor  
or contact the church office,  
please do not hesitate to do so.**

**Here is our contact information...**

**Pastor Karen**

410-812-9437

[PastorKaren24@msn.com](mailto:PastorKaren24@msn.com)

**Pastor YouJung**

301-788-4265

[jj2908@gmail.com](mailto:jj2908@gmail.com)

**Church Office**

Call Tammy @ 301-253-0044 or  
email her @ [TammyKempMonarch@gmail.com](mailto:TammyKempMonarch@gmail.com)

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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