

Wesley Grove Messenger

June 2020

From Pastor Karen's Pulpit...



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We live in a time of great uncertainty, of fear of what the future may hold. COVID-19 is scary because of the unknown element, because we don't fully understand it and we don't yet have a vaccine against it. When we feel unsettled or unsafe, Psalm 121 is a great reminder of our only and ultimate security.

Three times a year, faithful Israelite families would march from the small towns of their nation to the city of Jerusalem, home of Solomon's Temple. The capital city sat up on a hilltop, so no matter what direction you came from, you could truthfully say you were "going up to Jerusalem." As these pilgrims walked, they would often sing together to pass the time. Psalm 121 is one of a number of "Ascent Psalms," sung on their way up to Jerusalem. Look at the opening two verses:

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Lots of things promise help today. The latest pharmaceutical on TV will take away your pain, or help you forget you ever had it. It will cure your depression and give you a zest for life once again. Alcohol will numb your fears. Drugs claim to bring things to life more vividly. Hobbies keep your mind busy. Close friends and family bring you fulfillment. But ultimately, your help comes only from the Lord, the one true God, the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Psalm 121 reminds you of three great ways God helps you. First, verses 3 and 4 give the image of **one who stands guard over you 24/7...**

3 He will not let your foot slip — He who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

God watches over your life, day in and day out. He is always at work in and around you. God always has your best interests at heart. He is infinitely in love with you, and will stand for nothing less than your very best. Secondly, know that **God protects you always** (v. 5-7a)...

5 The Lord watches over you —the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

7a The Lord will keep you from all harm...

Remember, this was one of the songs sung by pilgrims walking up to Jerusalem. Can you imagine the hot dry sun beating down on them in the desert? A rare shade tree became a refreshing oasis. On the other hand, the moon reminds you of the dangers of the night: robbers and wild animals. Day or night, God will "keep you from all harm." God gives around-the-clock protection. And consider lastly, that you are not alone because **God is with you always** (v. 7b-8)...

7b He will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.

God is always watching over you. God is with you in the big, and in little, moments of your life. If you're a believer, everywhere you go, the Holy Spirit goes with you. Six different times in this poem, it says God will "keep you" or "watch over you." God watches over you, always. God protects you, always. God is with you, always. You belong to the One who controls the whole universe. So, during this time of COVID-19, and always, have no fear, and know that you are in good hands.

In God's peace,
Karen

Lectionary Readings

June 7, 2020

Peace with Justice Sunday
Trinity Sunday



Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14, 2020

Genesis 18:1-15
Psalm 116:1-2,12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:23

June 21, 2020

Father's Day



Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10,16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28, 2020

John Wesley's 317th Birthday

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



April 2020 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

Apportionments	\$1,245.83
Pastor's Salary	\$1,434.84
Associate Pastor's Salary	\$463.20
Pastor's Benefits	\$709.38
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$36.48
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,242.88
Choir Director's Salary	\$833.34
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$158.83
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$405.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$349.21
Programs	\$205.60
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,166.27
Total Expenses	\$8,250.86

Income

Weekly Collections	\$8,259.67
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 (from Salem UMC and Mt. Tabor UMC)	\$837.26
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$13,558.66



June Birthdays



1 Paul Verner	14 Sam Allman
4 Brianna Powell	15 Ruth Hobbs
6 Jim Burns	17 Ralph Ketchum, Sr.
Bob Burke	19 Mehrle Staley
7 Tim Lee	Danny Wilson
11 Tim Benson	29 Bruce Walter
12 Scott Verner	30 Adam Wilson

Re-Opening News

Wesley Grove has formed a short-term task force that is planning for our safety and wellness when we return and re-enter our buildings, hopefully sometime this summer. Based on the latest protocols from the Baltimore-Washington Conference and directives from our state and local officials, we are considering various options for worship, purchasing sanitizing products, determining the safety of some of our common rituals and procedures, and making changes as needed.

Our current plan is to start back with outdoor worship services for the entire charge in one location when current coronavirus restrictions and weather conditions allow. We will keep you informed via email, Facebook, the church signboard, and our website as to when this will happen. Our main concern, of course, is everyone's health and safety.

In the meanwhile, please continue to worship with us virtually on Sunday mornings, or use the emailed paper version of the service to worship at a time convenient to you and your family in your own home.

This task force is open to any and all suggestions and considerations. If you have any to share, please contact one of our members. We meet virtually every week on Wednesday nights.

Our members include...

- * Pastor Karen Davis
- * Pastor YouJung Jung
- * Bob Burke - Administrative Council Chairperson
- * Tammy Monarch - Lay Leader
- * Sue Ketchum - Worship Committee Chairperson
- * Ally Lind - Music Director
- * Cathy Burke - Communications Com. Chairperson
- * Becky & Brian Lewis - Emergency Team Members

Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

Thank you to all of you who have been reading and responding to my emails of trivia facts, puzzles, games, blessings, Bible questions, and birthday celebrations. It is my sincere hope that these daily emails bring you a smile, a feeling of being connected, a little laughter, and/or a reminder that someone cares.

Since we last were together, a lot has happened in all of our lives, and especially in the lives of our students. Two of our Sunday School members, Danny and Adam Wilson, were in the middle of their confirmation classes, and those lessons came to a sudden and abrupt halt. In the fall, we plan to pick up where we left off earlier this spring. We apologize for this hiatus, and at the same time, applaud these two young men for their persistence and determination to finish this part of their Christian journeys.



I also want to recognize all of the members of our small, but committed, Sunday School class. We would ordinarily do this during the worship service on the first Sunday in June, but since we will most likely not be together that day, I will do it here.

Thanks to Steven Arndt, Bob & Cathy Burke, Linda Chatterton, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Carol Stone, Sally Swearingen, and the entire Wilson family (Dave, Alicia, David, Danny, Adam, and Andrew) for your continued commitment and participation in this class. Each of you adds something of real value to our weekly discussions with your varying backgrounds, ages, and experiences. When we get back to regular services, we will recognize and honor all of you one

(continued on p. 5)

Finance News

Jim Kemp, Chair

Thanks to all of you for your continued financial and physical support during these difficult times. Wesley Grove is special; we're a family, and like all families, we support each other when the going gets tough.

Thanks to those individuals who have been involved in the church spring cleaning. In case you haven't noticed, many extra church projects have been accomplished in recent months. Since these projects were completed by church members, we have saved money.

These projects include a lot of power washing — our buildings and steeple, all of the sidewalks, the picnic tables, the cement pads under the tables, the playground equipment, and the trash dumpster compound. All of these things now look clean and fresh for when we get back to our church campus.

Other projects include building blockages to keep birds out of the steeple, scraping and cleaning sections of the hall roof, and refurbishing the swing set to once again make it safe for the children of our community.

Additional thanks go to the folks who have planted and attended to the beautiful flowers around the church and hall as well as to those who take the time to check our buildings weekly for any leakages and ways to save on electricity, heating, and cooling costs.

And finally, thanks to our pastors and especially to our office staff for holding our church together in these challenging times. Daily emails, phone calls, and cards all help to keep us connected. As I said before, here at Wesley Grove, we are a family, and we all work well together, especially in tough times.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Many people in our local community are not food sufficient, so we are continuing to collect all kinds of canned and boxed foods for Damascus HELP. You can bring non-perishable foods to the church vestibule anytime. Whenever we accumulate a good amount, we deliver our donations to the Food Pantry, and in turn, the Pantry delivers this food to the needy.

We do have some good news to share! We applied for and received a \$500 mini-grant from the Baltimore-Washington Conference with which to purchase additional food for Damascus HELP. These groceries will be bought and delivered soon to the Food Pantry in Damascus.



We know that these days can be tough in lots of different ways. If you need help with food, rides to doctor visits, depression, anxiety, etc., please call 301-253-0044 or email the church office at Wesleygrove208@verizon.net.

Our two pastors and office manager are here to help. We have a variety of resources available and access to many others. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us. May our Lord continue to bless each of you and your families in these challenging times.

Education News

(continued from p. 3)

Sunday morning with certificates and attendance pins. All four Wilson brothers will receive their seventh year pins.



One member of our class should be receiving his first church-given Bible this year. Andrew Wilson is finishing third grade, and that is the year that we traditionally present our students with their first Bibles from their church family. Andrew will receive this special gift at a later date sometime this fall.

Every year, on Christian Education Sunday, we also recognize and honor our Wesley Grove scholarship recipients. This year, we have one such person, Tim Lee, who just finished his junior year at Salisbury University as a physical education major. Tim hopes to student teach next year as long as school closures with this virus allow. He is the passionate and very devoted captain of the Salisbury Buzz, SU's ultimate Frisbee team. With colleges and universities closing in mid-March, he was extremely disappointed that their spring season was cancelled, but stresses he will come back bigger, stronger, and faster next spring. With his good grades, strong leadership skills, and strength in working with children, Wesley Grove is proud to honor one of their own, Tim Lee, with this award.



Traditionally, on Christian Education Sunday, we also recognize the members of our Wesley Grove extended family who are graduating from their schools and colleges. This year, we are honored and proud to announce that we have two young women to honor and celebrate.



Becca Benson, the daughter of Ron and Debbie Benson, graduated virtually from Hood College on Saturday, May 16, although her actual graduation ceremony has been postponed until October. Becca, who majored in English, has secured a teaching position at a middle school in Frederick County beginning next fall. In the meanwhile, she is living with a roommate in a downtown Frederick apartment and working at Oscar's Ale House off of East Street. During her four years at Hood, Becca was very involved in the community — promoting awareness of various social issues and starting several different support groups for student victims.

Katie Lamb, the daughter of Kevin and Mary Lamb and the niece of Charlie and Carol Stone, graduated on Saturday, May 9 from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Katie earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design, plans to work for a design company, and hopes to eventually open her own studio. You can view some of the artwork in her portfolio at <http://www.klambdesign.com> as well as see some of her awards and accomplishments, including the 2020 JMU Senior Achievement Award in Graphic Design.



All of us at Wesley Grove wish much success and God's blessings upon each of these young women as they leave college and begin their new careers. Congratulations, Becca and Katie!



**In challenging and difficult times such as these,
it is often hard to remember that we are still the Children of God,
and we are a blessed people!**

Please take a few minutes with your family and list the many things (big **and** little) that you appreciate about our church and its family. Then, please save this list, and bring it with you when we re-open our sanctuary. There will be basket to collect them in the vestibule.

At Wesley Grove, We Appreciate...



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- 10.

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Trinity Sunday 10:00 AM—Virtual Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Happy Flag Day! 10:00 AM— Worship Service	15	16	17	18 July Newsletter Deadline	19	20
21 Happy Father's Day! 10:00 AM— Worship Service	22 7:30 PM—Possible Board of Trustees Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 AM— Worship Service	29 1:00 PM—Possible Staffing of the Soup Kitchen in Gaithersburg	30				



**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: 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.



*With God on our side,
we will all get through
this crisis*

TOGETHER

*Better and Stronger
as a church,*

as a

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

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