

Wesley Grove Messenger

May 2020

From Pastor YouJung's Pulpit...



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent days, I have watched many video clips showing that this pandemic is triggering racial hatred and just plain nastiness among people. The number of hate crimes in our country has risen as has the amount of hate speech in our social network services. In fact, Twitter reports a 900-percent increase in hate speech directed toward China. Sadly, it seems this pandemic has made the world a more hate-filled place.

So, I began to question just what it is that God wants us to do during challenging times such as these. We find our answer in 1 John 4:7-12. In these verses, **God calls us to love one another.**

Once we realize God's call, other questions start coming to mind. Just why is God calling each of us to love one another? And what are the reasons to love one another in a time when we are already so busy caring for just ourselves and our families?

The first reason to love others is that this is evidence that we are the Children of God who truly love Him with all of our hearts. If we are born again through the resurrection of Jesus, love, one of the fundamental and essential natures of God, is restored in us. Thus, loving others becomes a natural course of action.

We should know that it is impossible to know God without loving others. Since God is the source of all love and He Himself is love, we can't know Him if we don't know love. In verses 7-8, it clearly states that those who do love are born of God and know God, and those who don't love, don't know God. Furthermore, verse 20 in the same chapter declares that those who say that they love God and don't love their brothers and sisters are liars. Therefore, if we can say with confidence that we love God, loving others is a simple task for us to accomplish.

The second reason to love others is that God commands us to do just this. It is His second greatest commandment for us. Verse 11 states that loving one another is not an option; instead, loving one another is our moral obligation. God wants us to reach out and love others, and as true, believing Christians, it is our responsibility to do so.

Third and finally, loving others expresses who God is, reveals His universal love, and completes His mission for all the world to see and hear. Since our most important job according to Mark 16:15 is to "go out into the world and proclaim the good news to all of creation," the best way to accomplish this is to love others. This is the essential tenet of all Christianity.

As we live in this time of hate, fear, and anxiety, we desperately need to share the much-needed love of God with each other. This is His daily call to us. Hence, as His Children, we are called to love others who don't yet know Him and lead them into loving relationships with Him.

So, in conclusion, we need to ask ourselves these three questions: Are we the people participating in creating this hatred, even if just in our own minds? Or are we just bystanders, watching this pervading hatred pass us by? **Or are we standing straight and tall as God's Children, following His call to love others while showing love in our daily words and actions, and letting the whole world know of the love of our God?**

It is my sincere hope that we all do love one another, causing God's love within us to overflow to all of our families, friends, and neighbors, and to all the people around the world, allowing everyone to see God, to experience His love for them, and to be the Children of God that He wants us to be.

Blessings of peace to you,

Pastor YouJung

Lectionary Readings

May 3, 2020

Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

May 10, 2020

Mother's Day

Acts 7:55-60
 Psalm 31:1-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

May 17, 2020

Acts 17:22-31
 Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

May 24, 2020

Ascension Sunday

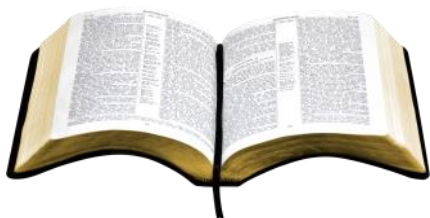
Heritage Sunday

Acts 1:1-14
 Psalm 47 & 68:1-10,32-35
 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11
 Ephesians 1:15-23
 John 17:1-11
 Luke 24:44-53

May 31, 2020

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-35
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39



March 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	\$0.00
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,288.82
Choir Director's Salary	\$833.34
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$0.00
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$197.32
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$540.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$866.83
Programs	\$1,294.07
Office Expenses	\$254.95
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$3,783.22
Total Expenses	\$12,911.80

Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,519.22
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 (for March, April, and May)	\$900.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements (from Salem and Mt. Tabor)	\$837.26
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$9,718.21



May Birthdays



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

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone for their Lenten food donations to the Damascus HELP Food Pantry. With everyone's contributions, we were able to donate quite a bit of food to help the hungry in our community during this health crisis. Thanks to Brian and Becky Lewis for delivering this lot for us to the Food Pantry.



Throughout the remainder of the pandemic, we will continue to collect all kinds of canned and boxed foods for Damascus HELP. You can bring non-perishable foods to the church vestibule anytime. Once we have a good amount, we will deliver them to the Food Pantry. Thanks in advance for your continued generosity!

We have some additional good news to share! The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg is back open during the pandemic and making meal bags to hand out. At this time, as they are trying to minimize exposure to coronavirus for everyone, they are staffing the kitchen with their two or three paid employees and a couple of volunteers from Epworth. As we move forward with our closures and eventual reopening plans, they will let the local churches know when they need more volunteers, and we can all go back to serving those in need within our community.

Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

Thank you so very much to all of you who donated spring flowers on Easter Sunday as well as to Tammy and Rick Monarch for organizing this donation process and for beautifully decorating the brightly colored Resurrection Cross. This cross serves as a visual reminder to the whole community that Jesus died for us and arose from the dead to a triumphant victory in Heaven. This annual tradition helps to share our continued faith in God and our hope for better days ahead.

New spring wreaths and banners have been added to the main doors, the greeting room, and the sanctuary for all to enjoy when we begin to worship together again.



Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2020

(Editor's Note: These minutes were accidentally omitted from last month's newsletter. Please accept my apology.)

The meeting was opened by Bob Burke at 7:31 pm.

In Attendance:

Louise Burdette, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone.

Devotions:

Cathy Burke read a short story, "Watch by God," based on Psalm 121. The basic theme was "I watch because I love you. I will watch over your coming and going. I, the Lord, am the shade at your right hand."

Prayer Requests:

Linda Chatterton had knee replacement surgery last Monday. She is already walking to her mailbox with a walker. She has a pump with ice circulating around her knee to reduce swelling and help with pain, which Linda says is minor, except for when she bends her knee.

Pastor Karen's mom will have heart surgery this Friday at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mary Lamb received a clean and clear pathology report!

Marty Stone has God back in his life!

Good News Items:

Attendance at church had been down, but our finances are stable and similar to last year at this time.

No snow so far this year, so it has been an easy winter with no church cancellations or snowplowing bills.

Minutes from January Meeting:

Bob motioned to approve them, Tammy seconded, and all were in favor.

Old Business:

Ballfield project by DSA is just about done. A local contractor brought fresh dirt, spread and smoothed it, and the infield looks great.

Jim Kemp has agreed to be our interim Finance Chairperson. Our Lay Leadership Committee needs to meet and officially nominate him for election. *(Note: This has since happened, and all Administrative Council members have voted yes to Jim becoming our new Finance Committee Chairperson for 2020.)*

All motion sensor lights at the church and hall have been repaired and are now back to working.

Our Board of Trustees elected Eugene Swearingen as its chairperson again for 2020. Louise will call and touch base with him about attending future Administrative Council meetings.

New Business:

Do we want to purchase a defibrillator for the church with a 5-year battery or with a replaceable battery? Let's look at the receipt from the one at the hall to determine what we have now. We'll need its model number for Skip Ketchum to order a second one.

It was noted that the big tree stump in the parking lot between the hall and the church is the perfect height to be backed into, especially at night when it's dark. Bob will buy and install some reflectors around it as a precaution.

Committee Reports:

Trustees

On March 18, a MoCo Health Inspector will be here to inspect the hall, including these areas: food preparation stations and surfaces, food storage areas, refrigerators, sanitizers, dishwashing stations, trash storage areas, and restrooms.

Jim fixed the small sink that was leaking and causing mold to grow on the wall.

There is lots of spring clean-up work to be done: fence posts to repair, power washing all buildings, cleaning out and mulching flowerbeds, dumpster area to be cleaned out, etc.

Gunner Kepner has started some of this work beginning with the flowerbeds which have been cleaned out, planted with spring pansies, and mulched. They look nice. Kids from Sunday School even noticed them.

Ally Lind has requested some additional shelving to house choir music. We will make that work with what we already have – cleaning up the counters' room shelves and replacing the missing shelves behind the piano in the main office.

Finance

The Committee met with Jim as its interim chair.

All church finances are stable and in good shape at this time.

We hope to realize a profit of \$2,000-\$3,000 from the T&O Dinner this Saturday.

Christian Fellowship

A few calendar changes have been made...

Saturday, April 4's Community Egg Hunt will be held at 11 am rather than 3 pm.

Our spring Special Needs event will be held at a later time.

On Sunday, April 19, which is celebrated as the Festival of God's Creation Sunday (part of Earth Week), we will spend the last few minutes of the worship service outside dedicating the new pine tree at the hall in the memory of Joe Laycock, Sr. Money from his memorial fund was used to purchase this tree. Several members of his family will be coming from North Carolina. After the dedication, we will all move into the hall for a pot-luck luncheon.

Our spring caroling event has been moved to May 3 followed by a pot-luck dinner at Becky and Brian's house.

Saturday, May 9 is our Spring Community Yard Sale. Contact Tammy for spaces.

On Sunday, May 10, our annual Mother's Day Breakfast will be served to all at 9:30 am in the hall.

Missions

A final donation of \$300 will be sent to Jessie Harper at her new home in San Diego, CA.

The Rock-the-House snack collection in February was successful. Jackie and Tammy will coordinate pickup with Faith Connections.

We are collecting six different types of food during Lent for the Damascus Help Food Pantry. Brian will deliver this food as it piles up at the church.

We sent a donation of \$250 to UMCOR after the Tennessee tornados last month for an orphanage to purchase new tables and chairs.

We will serve the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen on Monday, March 30 at 1 pm.

We will sponsor a clothing drive for the Clarksburg Clothing Closet in the fall.

We are continuing to collect personal toiletries and adult diapers for Pleasant View Nursing Home in Mt. Airy.

Christian Education

Confirmation of two youth will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 31 during the worship service.

Our Sunday School class will attend the 9 am worship service at Asbury UMC in Germantown on March 22. Pastor John is the pastor at this church.

Our next Dinner and Movie Night will be held in April.

On Thursday, April 9, a traditional Seder Meal will be held here at 6 pm. Sign up to attend, and possibly bring soup or bread.

Worship

Our Good Friday Worship Service will be held at Mt. Tabor UMC at 7:30 pm.

On April 12, Easter Sunday, we will hold two services:

Sonrise outside at 6:30 am

Traditional inside at 11:00 am

Our spring cantata will be performed twice on Sunday, June 7 – 11:00 am and 7:30 pm.

Communications

The Committee has been meeting to update our WG Policies and Procedures handbook, which had not been worked on since 2012.

Josh Park is continuing to work on our church website.

Cathy has agreed to take on the task of periodically updating our WG Facebook page as well as her current job of sending out greeting cards on behalf of the church.

SPRC

This committee has not met since the beginning of the year.

Pastor's Report:

Nothing new to report at this time.

Next Meeting:

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11 at 7:30 pm.

Devotions will be led by Carol Stone.

Bob adjourned this meeting at 8:53 pm.

Directory Information

Once again, we ask each of you to please check your most recent copy of our church directory to be sure that your names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are all correct. If any of those are incorrect or missing, please contact Tammy Monarch at 301-253-0044 or TammyKempMonarch@gmail.com and let her know. We would also like to know if we have missing or incorrect birthdates for you or any of your family members. We try very hard to keep the personal information of all our congregants up-to-date. Thanks for your help!

The Day of Pentecost is coming...



**"Repent and be baptized,
every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
for the forgiveness of your sins,
and you will receive the gift of
the Holy Spirit."**

Sunday, May 31

*If we are back in church,
please wear red, orange, or yellow
to the worship service this day.*

Finance News

Jim Kemp, Chair

Thanks to all of you who have continued to give to this church during this challenging time. That is one of things that makes Wesley Grove so special. We are a family, and like all families, we support each other no matter what happens.

Giving has arrived in a variety of methods and forms over the last two months — food for Damascus HELP, flowers for the Resurrection Cross, power washing our buildings, and actual money, which has come in the mail, on the counters' desk, by direct deposit, and through our online giving platform.

If you would like to give online, please visit <https://www.bwcumc.org/churchgiving>. When it asks you for a fund, click on "Local Church Giving, and then for a sub-fund, click on "Wesley Grove UMC." Be sure to have your bank routing and account numbers handy. You can chose to give just once, weekly, monthly, or whatever you'd like. This appears to be very simple and should take you only about five minutes if you wish to give in this manner.

**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 ways that you are blessed today and every day. After creating this list, please consider sending one or two of your ideas to Tammy at WesleyGrove 208@verizon.net. She would like to send out a daily email blessing to all of those in our church family using the things for which we are thankful.

Our Family's Blessings include...

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



**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.

We're on the Web!
wesleygroveumc.org



*Have courage,
Have faith,
Have patience,
And wait...*

*For God is with us,
And in Him, we must trust.*

**We will get through this crisis
TOGETHER
with God on our side.**



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

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