

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

July 2020



## *Current Thoughts from Pastor YouJung*

When I think about July, the first thought that comes to mind is Independence Day, aka “The Fourth of July.” It is the anniversary of the day that the United States of America became an independent nation from Great Britain in 1776. People in the U.S. gained their liberty! This independence, along with Methodism’s spirit of self-determination, which rejects the doctrine of predestination and adopts the idea of God’s universal grace and human free will, stimulated American Methodists to develop their own identity independent of the Methodists in England. And due to this growing desire for independence among Methodists, John Wesley saw the necessity of change in order for American Methodism to thrive. Since he could not micromanage the Methodism Movement in both England and America, Methodist Episcopal Churches were formally organized at the Christmas Conference in 1784. Thus, in this very short period of time, both the United States and the Methodist Church in America gained liberty from the control of others.

That brings me to this question --- *What is liberty?* Liberty is defined as the state of being free within society from oppressive restriction imposed by authority. Furthermore, liberty requires responsibility. Genuine liberty only occurs when one is using one’s freedom responsibly without depriving anyone else of his or her freedom. In other words, liberty is meaningless without responsibility. I remember my ethics teacher in middle school saying that liberty and responsibility are inseparable. She warned the class not to consider self-indulgence as synonymous with liberty. Instead, liberty requires responsibility and restraint!

Now, back to the independence of the Methodist Church from its brethren, the Church of England... Large numbers of people converted and became Methodists after that Christmas Conference. Notably, African Americans were drawn to Methodism's belief that grace is universally available to all people regardless of one's social condition. They appreciated Wesley's unequivocal condemnation of slavery and Methodists' regulation against slaveholding. However, this strong stance against slavery became diluted over time as Methodists once again permitted themselves to become slaveholders. Racial discrimination toward African Americans worsened as we reverted back to not allowing black members to sit with white members in our churches. African Americans could only receive the Lord's Supper after all the whites in the congregation had been served. As a result of this diluted sense of justice and responsibility, and the evolution of racism in America, African Americans withdrew from the Methodist Church. They formed their own denomination, calling themselves the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, causing a schism in the unity of the Methodist Church.

This separation was extremely shameful for the Methodist Church. There should be repentance and lament for these unjust and wrong behaviors, even if it has been many years since these events occurred. These actions show that having liberty without responsibility can be hurtful and cause schisms to happen. People still today discriminate against each other on the basis of their social status, skin color, and background. When liberty is given, they do not always accept the responsibility that goes along with it. Undoubtedly, it is time for change while learning from the past and from recent tragedies.

God gives humans freedom, God protects us from oppression, and God loves all His people unconditionally. But humans are taking liberties without responsibility; thus, depriving others of their freedoms. Humans sometimes oppress other people and don't always love each other as we should. Micah 6:8 tells of God's desire for all His children to be just and merciful. God calls us to show justice, love, kindness, and to walk humbly in His path. By His saving grace, we have been freed from sin and are not bound by it anymore.

On this Earth, yes, we are blessed to have freedoms, and yes, we can celebrate our independence. But the first and foremost thing that we need to do is to take responsibility for justice, to show kindness, and to walk humbly in the righteous path of our Lord. Since God freely grants all of us with the gift of liberty, I hope we, as His children, take this responsibility and follow in His righteous path now and always.

# Lectionary Readings

**July 5, 2020**  
*Independence Sunday*



Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67  
Psalm 45:10-17  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:15-19,25-30

**July 12, 2020**  
Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

**July 19, 2020**  
Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-12,23-24  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

**July 26, 2020**  
Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11,45b  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33,44-52



## July Birthdays

9 Rick Monarch	25 Skip Ketchum
15 William Briggs	28 Becca Benson
23 Jim Kemp	
Kay Snouffer	



## May 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	\$308.02
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,303.88
Choir Director's Salary	\$833.34
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$39.00
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$163.51
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$0.00
Snow Removal Fees	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$135.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$428.22
Programs	\$0.00
Office Expenses	\$0.00
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$923.13
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,987.35</b>

## Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,680.00
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	\$500.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Monthly Donation from Evening Circle	\$0.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$837.26
(from Salem and Mt. Tabor UMC)	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,478.99</b>

## Re-Opening News

Hurray, we returned to worshipping together on the last Sunday in June after a little more than three months apart! We thank our Lord that the weather cooperated and gave us a beautiful morning. Using cell phones, speakers, microphones, a laptop computer, and a bunch of cables and cords, we were able to worship and broadcast under the trees around the pavilion. It was wonderful to have 17 of you present physically and another nine joining us virtually on Zoom.

We plan to continue to worship outside in this manner throughout the summer. Make plans to join us if you are able and well. Remember to bring your face masks and chairs. If you prefer to remain in your car, that's okay too. And, of course, you can still join us virtually on your computer or cell phone from your home or even while you are away on vacation. We are just glad you're with us in the way that's best and safest for you!

Please remember that our worship services will begin at 10 am through Labor Day Weekend. After that, we will determine when we will return to worshipping inside at 11 am.

We all appreciate the work and effort that went into planning and preparing for this first service back on our campus. We thank the members of our Re-Entering Well Task Force — Pastor Karen, Pastor YouJung, Bob & Cathy Burke, Sue Ketchum, Brian & Becky Lewis, and Tammy Monarch as well as our helpers that morning — Mary Ann Davis, Josh Park, and Rick Monarch. If you have any suggestions or feedback for future outdoor services, please let any of us know.

## E-mail News

*Tammy Monarch*

Once again, thank you to all of you who have been reading and responding to my many emails of blessings, trivia facts, puzzles, games, prayer requests, Bible questions, photographs, and birthday celebrations. It continues to be my sincere hope that these daily emails bring you a feeling of being connected, a smile, maybe even a little laughter, and/or a reminder that someone "out there" cares. Please let me know if you have something to share with our church family, and I'll be sure to forward it. Thanks to all of you who have already sent me articles, thoughts, and pictures to share!

If you know of someone who is not on our church email contact list and would like to be, please let me know. Also, if your own email address ever changes, please inform me of that as well. I try to keep the list as current as possible. Likewise, if your or any member of your family's address or phone numbers change, let me know as soon as you can, and I'll once again update our church records and directory.

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](mailto: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 richly bless each of you and your families in these challenging times.

## Finance News

*Jim Kemp, Chair*

I want to continue to thank each of you for your physical and financial support during these difficult times. These past four months have been challenging — being apart and not being able to support each other in our usual ways.

Many of us have found new and unusual ways to continue to show we care — like sending cards and notes, mowing others' lawns, sharing spring flower bulbs, baking cinnamon buns and apple pies and delivering them to church members' homes, replacing rotten wood on the church steeple, and sending out little email reminders that say someone is thinking of you.

Wesley Grove is special; we're a family, and like all families, we support each other when the going gets tough. Fortunately, it appears that "the tough" is getting a little easier, and that's a good thing because we can all slowly return to being together again at various outdoor events this summer. I just ask that you all stay safe, wear your masks, continue to support this family in all the ways that you can, and enjoy this beautiful summer!

### Family "Drive-In Movie" Night

Join us on the evening of July 10 for a time to be outdoors together watching an age-old classic. Plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 to pick your family's spot and set up your chairs, or you may remain in your car if you wish. We ask that you wear face masks and bring your own snacks and drinks as well as a couple of flashlights for returning to your cars after the film. The movie will begin at dusk, which should be around 8:30 or so. (Please note: If needed, our rain date will be the following evening, Saturday, July 11.) Hope to see you there!

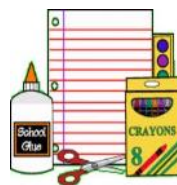
## Missions News

*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.



Once again, this summer, we will be collecting school supplies for Faith Connections to distribute to needy students in the Damascus-Clarksburg area in late August. When you are out shopping, if possible, purchase some of the supplies on the list below and bring them to church on Sunday mornings. Or your donations can be placed in the labeled blue bin in the vestibule.



Feel free to call Tammy at 301-253-0044 if you need to make arrangements to be let into the church. The bin will be picked up from Wesley Grove around August 15.

- \* Backpacks
- \* Lined paper (college and wide ruled)
- \* Spiral notebooks
- \* Composition books
- \* Pencils
- \* Pens (blue, black, and red)
- \* Crayons
- \* Markers
- \* Colored Pencils
- \* Erasers and eraser caps
- \* Safety scissors
- \* Glue sticks (not bottled glue)
- \* Dividers (5-7 subjects)
- \* Pocket folders

Thanks in advance for your generosity in contributing to both of these community service projects!



## Keeping Cool in the Summer



In the hotter months of summer, it's very tempting to plant your yourself in front of the fan or lower the temperature on your air conditioner, but there are other ways to keep cool and not rack up your electricity bills. Here are some suggestions from Gaithersburg Heating and Air Conditioning...

1. **Close your blinds and curtains.** As simple as this may seem, up to 30% of unwanted heat comes from your windows. Using shades, blinds, and curtains, can save you up to 7% on your electric bills and lower your indoor temperature by as much as 20 degrees.
2. **Program your thermostat.** If you have one, use it. It can help to keep your home cooler and save money on your energy costs. Set it to raise the temperature during the day when you are away and to lower it again just a little while before you get home for the evening.
3. **Close doors to unused rooms.** Shut these doors during the day to keep the cool air where you need it most, but at night, open them back up to allow air to circulate freely and regulate the temperature in your home.
4. **Install and use ceiling fans.** In the summer months, adjust your fans to rotate counter-clockwise at higher speeds to create a breeze that will make you feel cooler.
5. **Turn on both bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans.** Both pull the hot air out of your house.
6. **Place a bowl of ice in front of your fan.** This really does work to provide a cooler breeze!
7. **Swap your bed sheets.** Use cooler 100% cotton sheets in the hotter months of the year as cotton allows your body to breathe more easily. Use linen, flannel, and other fabrics at other times of the year.
8. **Let in the night air.** If temperatures are predicted to fall during the night, open the windows and strategically set up your fans to force a cross breeze through your home. Just be sure to close the windows and blinds again in the morning before it gets so hot outside.
9. **Maintain your AC unit.** One of the best ways to improve your energy efficiency and cut your energy bills is to have regular maintenance done annually on your unit. This is the chance to identify any issues before they become bigger and more costly.
10. **Get rid of your incandescent light bulbs.** Make the switch to LED or compact fluorescent bulbs. Incandescent bulbs waste about 90% of their energy in the heat they emit, so by throwing them out, you will cool your home and lower your electric bills.
11. **Utilize your outdoor grill.** Using your stove and oven add unwanted heat to the inside of your home. Or better yet, rely on nature's bounty of fruits and vegetables for cool, healthy salads for your summer meals.
12. **Use your appliances at night.** Run your dishwasher, washer, dryer, and oven in the evening as much as possible as all of these appliances produce additional, and unwanted, heat.
13. **Make a few long-term improvements to your home.** For example, install tinted films to your windows and/or awnings over your doors and windows. Maybe add a covered porch.
14. **Improve your yard.** Plant shade trees or vines over an arch near light-facing windows to reduce the sun's hot rays that your home absorbs during the day.

# Just for Fun!

Try to unscramble all of these things we have been missing at Wesley Grove while we've all been apart over the last three to four months.

- 1. richo \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. seetar \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. dusnya colosh \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. tacnaat \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. stepecont \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. tremoh's ayd \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. froncatimino slacs \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. kreytu nad streyo ridnen \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. shareft yad \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. lamp nadusy \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. numayd radystuh \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. runssie veercis \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. rady leas \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. voime gniths \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. momuconni \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. kobo bluc \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. lelfosiphw slame \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. gripns rocinlag \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. riowphinsg ni het tusarycan \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. nebig gottereh \_\_\_\_\_

**Let Tammy know if you get all 20,  
or if you get stuck on 1 or 2, and she'll give you a clue.**

# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <b>Happy Independence Day!</b>
5 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service with Communion	6	7	8	9	10 8:30 PM—Family “Drive-In Movie” Night at the pavil- ion	11 8:30 PM—Raindate for Family “Drive-In Movie” Night
12 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	13 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	14	15 2:00 PM—Book Club at the Mon- archs’ House	16	17	18 <b>August Newsletter Deadline</b>
19 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	27 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	28	29	30	31	



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)

**Celebrate  
Independence**



**Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!**

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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