

Wesley Grove Messenger

August 2020

Current Thoughts from Pastor Karen

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” ~~~ Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me all you that are weary...

I don't know about you, but I'm WEARY! I'm weary of COVID-19. I'm weary of social distancing, and mask wearing, and following the CDC guidelines. I'm weary of making sure all three of our churches "re-enter well" as we begin again to meet together in person. I'm weary of wondering if and how we're going to have our yearly family vacation at Holden Beach.

I'm so weary! How about you? *Are you weary???*

It's not just COVID-19 that has made me weary. I'm weary from mourning the loss of my father. I'm weary from having my kids around – a lot. I'm weary from worrying about my mother and sister. I don't mean to whine, but we all have things that make us feel weary. Sometimes, it all just feels like too much!

But the Scripture also says, "Come to me all that are carrying heavy burdens!" Are you carrying heavy burdens today? I know that I'm carrying the heavy burden of seeing George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery killed right before my eyes. And whether I like it or not, I carry the burden of being part of a society that hasn't gotten it right on this racism thing yet!!!

"Come to me," says Jesus, "and I will give you rest."

That's what we need, isn't it? A little rest from our weariness. An unburdening of our loads. And how do we do this? According to this Scripture, we accomplish this by yoking ourselves to Jesus who is gentle and humble of heart. "My yoke is easy," He says, "and my burden is light!"

The word, "yoke," symbolizes religion. The religion of the Pharisees was made up of about a thousand rules and regulations, which essentially said, "No, no, no," to just about everything. Negative, negative, negative – whereas Jesus' message was concise, clear, and positive, although very challenging at times. To love God and your neighbor. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself. To be merciful, loving, and kind. To worship God and to love one's neighbor at all times. To welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, provide drink for the thirsty, and supply clothing for the naked.

We are all to learn from Jesus. He is our teacher, and we are His students and disciples. We are to learn gentleness and humility, love and forgiveness, faith and trust in the goodness of God. We are to have faith that moves mountains and carries momentous burdens.

We are a people who are "weary and carrying heavy burdens" of many and various kinds, deeply longing for a time of rest and relaxation. To all who are weary to the bone and weighed down, Jesus says, "Come to me... and I will give you rest."

*Are we weak and heavy laden, 'cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms, He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

Lectioary Readings

August 2, 2020

Genesis 32:22-31
 Psalm 17:1-7,15
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020

Genesis 37:1-4,12-28
 Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-23

August 16, 2020

Genesis 45:1-15
 Psalm 133
 Romans 11:1-2a,29-32
 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

August 23, 2020

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10
 Psalm 124
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020

Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45b
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28



August Birthdays

1 Henry King	12 Terri Sherwood
3 Chad Kunkle	13 Mary Ann Davis
4 Glenn Lewis	16 Jo Ann True
5 Sam Lynagh	25 Andrew Wilson
6 Elaine Falk	27 Sean Falk
9 Ally Lind	29 Lincoln Verner



June 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	\$1,159.00
Choir Director's Salary	\$416.67
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$0.00
Substitute Musician Payments	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$120.53
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Fees	\$810.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$795.00
Custodian's Salary	\$535.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$858.75
Programs	\$394.22
Office Expenses	\$433.95
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$2,052.15
Total Expenses	\$11,428.52

Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,990.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,042.92
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 June, July, and August)	\$900.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements (from Salem UMC and Mt. Tabor UMC)	\$4,461.78
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$13,873.01

Re-Opening News

Hurray! We have been able to continue to worship together both virtually on Zoom and physically at our outdoor pavilion on Sunday mornings!

We thank our Lord that the weather has cooperated and given us beautiful, sunshine-filled Sunday mornings with comfortable temperatures under the pine trees. 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. 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 at least through Labor Day Weekend. After that, we will determine if and when we will return to worshipping at 11 am.

If you have any suggestions or feedback for future outdoor services, please let either of our pastors or our office manager know, and she will share that information with our "Re-Entering Well" Task Force.

We pray that God will continue to keep all of you and your families safe and well throughout this pandemic.



Family "Drive-In Movie" Night #3

Join us on the evening of Friday, August 14 for a time to be outdoors together watching an age-old classic. The featured film will be "Back to the Future 3." 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 drinks as well as a couple of flashlights for returning to your cars after the film. Snacks will be provided. 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, August 15.) Hope to see you all there!



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.

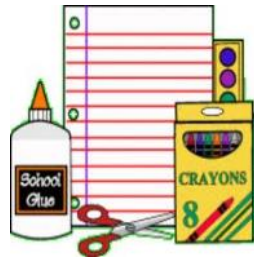
May our Lord continue to richly bless each of you and your families in these challenging times.

Missions News

Jackie Hottinger, Chair

Until August 10, we are continuing to collect school supplies for Faith Connections to distribute to needy students in the Damascus-Clarksburg area later this month. If possible, when you are out shopping, purchase some of the supplies on the list below and bring them to church on Sunday mornings. Or your donations can be placed on the bench in the vestibule. Feel free to call Tammy at 301-253-0044 if you need to make arrangements to be let into the church. All supplies will be picked up from Wesley Grove during the week of August 10.

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



Faith Connections has also has set up a way that you can donate money for the purchase of these supplies if you would prefer not to shop yourself. You can mail a check to:

Faith Connections, Inc.
 P.O. Box 28
 Damascus, MD 20872

Or you can donate online by clicking [HERE](#). If you use either of these methods, please write the words, "school supplies," in the memo area.

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



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

Bible Personalities and Their Day Jobs



Match up each name from the Bible with his or her line of work.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| _____ 1. Deborah | a. shepherd |
| _____ 2. Paul | b. tax collector |
| _____ 3. Baruch | c. fisher |
| _____ 4. Luke | d. carpenter |
| _____ 5. Zacchaeus | e. tailor |
| _____ 6. Lydia | f. tentmaker |
| _____ 7. Andrew | g. merchant |
| _____ 8. Amos | h. scribe |
| _____ 9. Dorcas | i. physician |
| _____ 10. Joseph | j. judge |

Administrative Council Meeting Monday, July 13, 2020

Meeting was opened by Bob Burke at 7:34 pm.

In-Person Attendance: Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Carol Stone, Becky Lewis, Steven Arndt, Jackie Hottinger, Eugene Swearingen, Judy Hughes

Virtual attendance: Elaine & Randy Falk, Allan Snyder, and Pastor YouJung Jung, but Zoom connection was unstable, and thus, they were not able to join the meeting.

Devotions: Carol read something she wrote based on Pastor Karen's sermon from yesterday, 7-12-20.

Prayer Requests:

- Helen Adams (mother of Carol's good friend, July Edmonds) had surgery this week to remove scar tissue that's causing a blockage. Helen lives in Cumberland.
- Adam Monarch tested positive for COVID-19 last week, and so far, has had only minor symptoms that resemble a cold.

Good News Items:

- No one is sick from coronavirus here in our congregation – praise God!
We are physically and virtually back to church – praise God again!

Minutes:

Our March minutes were approved by all.

Old Business:

- Jim is officially our Finance Committee Chairperson.
- Motion-sensor lights on church porch were repaired and are now working correctly.
- Defibrillator - Sue and Skip were to look into buying a second one to keep at the church. Trustees will follow up on this.

New Business:

- Rick reported that several companies have offered to buy out our cell tower lease. We received a letter from the current cell tower owner requesting that we change our agreement. Currently, we receive \$1,478.31 per month, but they are changing us to either \$1,100.00 in monthly rent (guaranteed for only 5 years) or a one-time buy-out lease of \$292,000 (to expire in 2084).
- Trustees have voted and agreed to the payout. They are currently awaiting the paperwork.
- Our Finance Committee will decide how to invest this money once it is received.
- Jay made a motion for Ad. Council to accept the Trustees' recommendation. Jackie seconded, and all approved.

Committee Reports:

Communications – Thanks to Cathy for continuing to send out thinking of you, get well, and sympathy cards on behalf of the church to those in need throughout this difficult time. This is a wonderful outreach ministry!

Education – Nothing new at this time, but Karen and Tammy will meet soon to decide on the continuation of Sunday School and confirmation class for this fall. Hope you all are learning something new about Methodism and the Bible from our weekly trivia facts, games, and puzzles.

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Fellowship – Our first family outdoor movie night was last Friday night, and 7 people came. We plan to continue these every few weeks throughout the summer.

Finance – Jim announced that our church finances are in good shape. Thanks to Rick, Tammy, and Ollie for keeping us together financially over the last 4-5 months. Throughout this pandemic, the BWC has tried to help its churches in various ways, including providing a free online giving platform for two months. For months 3 and 4, we will be charged a 2.5% fee. Soon, we will have to find our own online platform to begin sometime in August. In addition, the BWC is providing all of its smaller churches with a one-time stipend to help pay their associate pastors – our stipend was about \$250. Conference is also not charging its churches for pastor's health insurance and pension payments for three months this coming fall. The BWC also has several mini-grants available, and Tammy has applied for two on our behalf. We have already received the first one, specifically earmarked to provide food for the hungry. The second one, a reimbursement for our technology needs, is currently in process. We have also applied for a Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) from Montgomery County, and this is still pending.

Missions – Judy has agreed to replace Jackie as the chairperson for the rest of 2020 after Jackie and Donnie move to their new home in West Virginia. Thanks to Tammy for applying for and getting a \$500 grant from the BWC for us to give to Damascus HELP along with the food that we are still collecting. We are also collecting school supplies through August 10. You can donate actual items at the church or donate monetarily online this year.

SPRC – This committee has not met yet in 2020, but needs to in the near future to make plans for hiring a new music director.

Trustees – Regarding our ballfield and DSA's use of it, all trash needs to be bagged and placed in the dumpster. This was not done this past weekend, and Tammy has contacted the DSA administrators who have promised that they will look into this and resolve the problem. (DSA folks were emptying the field trash cans before this meeting ended.) Church and hall roofs have been repaired. Lots of cleaning projects have been done in past four months including all tables, kitchen countertops, appliances, and windows in the hall and the pew cushions in the church as well as power washing the outside of all of our buildings and structures and repairing our steeple. A big thank you to all those involved – Jim, Bob, Tim Lee, and Paul Verner.

Worship – We switched our summer worship time to 10 am, and this will continue at least through Labor Day Weekend. Stay tuned for a decision about our fall worship time. In recent weeks, we have been averaging about 30 people both physically and virtually on Sunday mornings. We purchased microphone "skins" to make them easy to clean after each use and prepackaged communion kits to use on first Sundays.

Pastor's Report: Many thanks to Tammy for continuing to hold this church together during these difficult times with her updates, announcements, prayer requests, weekly birthday lists, and games. Bishop Easterling has asked each church to consider signing an anti-racist proclamation. We will each take a copy of this document home tonight to read before our next meeting. Individually and as a church family, we need to take some time with this as there is much to consider and think about.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14 at 7:30 pm at the hall. Cathy will present our devotion.

Bob adjourned this meeting at 8:50 pm.

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service with Communion	3	4	5 7:30 PM—Virtual “Re-Entering Well” Task Force Meeting	6	7	8
9 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14 8:30 PM— Family “Drive-In Movie” Night #3 at the Pavilion	15 8:30 PM— Rain date for Family Movie Night #3
16 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	17	18 September Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	24 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	25	26 3:30 PM— Book Club on Tammy’s Patio	27	28	29
30 10:00 AM— Physical and Virtual Worship Service	31					

 **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 FAITH
FOR
GOD IS WITH US**

ISAIAH 41:10



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