

Wesley Grove **Messenger**

March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

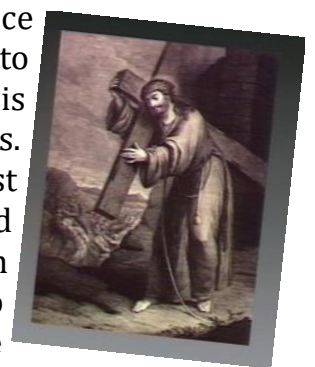
There were two sisters living out in the countryside. Even though they struggled to live faithful lives in God, they felt their lives' problems were just too overwhelming for them to bear. Often, they said aloud to our God, "This is too difficult. Lord, it's just too hard to live in this world. Our lives are so harsh."

One day, in a dream, they were each dragging a large cross. They soon found that their crosses were just too big and too heavy to carry. So, they asked Jesus, whom they met in the dream, to help them to make these crosses easier to manage. "Jesus," they said, "it is so hard for us to carry our crosses. We know that you are a carpenter. Please cut the crosses down in size for us." So Jesus cut their crosses off as they had asked. They again asked Him three more times throughout this dream to cut them down in size. Thus, their crosses became much lighter and much shorter, making them much more comfortable and easy to carry.

The sisters then continued on in their travel toward the Jordan River very easily and very quickly due to their small and light-weighted crosses. When they arrived, they saw many people crossing the river by putting their crosses upon the river and using them as bridges to help them cross over and into Heaven. Following these examples, the sisters tried putting their crosses on the river as well, but, unfortunately, theirs were worthless functioning as bridges because their shortened lengths did not allow them to reach the other side. Their crosses were also too light to hold the weight of the sisters.. And although they had tried to reach Jesus, He was already gone. In desperation, they plopped back down to the ground.

They both awoke from their dreams and heard the voice of the Lord, saying to them, "If anyone wants to come after me, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) The sisters cried out, shouting, "Amen! Amen! Amen, Lord!"

This story reminds us that carrying our own crosses is necessary for us as Christians, as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Carrying the Cross is sometimes very difficult, for us, and we sometimes want to give up bearing the Cross's weight. As we experience troubles, tribulations, trials, and suffering in our lives, we are more likely to fall, collapse, and just give up. However, we need to remember that there is no resurrection, no eternal life, no glory, and no Heaven without the Cross. Just as Jesus suffered and sacrificed Himself for us on the Cross, we must spend this Lenten season denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Him. This is **the way** to honor the power of Jesus' Cross, which allowed His resurrection to become our resurrection and His victory to become our victory. So, let us not live the life we've been living, but the life of Christ that lives within us. (Galatians 2:20)



In God's peace,
Pastor You Jung

Lectionary Readings

March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent
 Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

March 28, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday
Passion Sunday
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philemon 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15, 47
 Mark 15:1-47



Please contact Tammy at 301-253-0044 to volunteer to serve as our liturgist during a Sunday morning worship service.

Answers to Lenten Quiz on p. 4
 1. C 2. C 3. D 4. C 5. B
 6. A 7. B 8. A 9. B



January 2021 Financial Report

Rick Monarch, Treasurer

Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,413.58
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,473.76
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Pastor's Benefits	\$599.80
Pastor's Professional Expenses	\$86.42
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,105.63
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$84.58
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$420.00
Parsonage Expenses	\$363.73
Programs	\$118.11
Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$129.28
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$2,300.55
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,485.30

Income

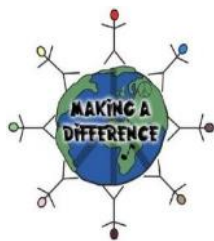
Weekly Collections	\$5,593.47
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,042.92
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,522.66
Evening Circle Contribution	\$3,600.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Parsonage Expense Reimbursements	\$1,995.74
(from Salem UMC and Mt. Tabor UMC)	
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Income	\$15,754.79

Missions News

Judy Hughes, Chair

Damascus HELP continues to be in need of cereal, jelly, peanut butter, pasta, macaroni and cheese, tomato sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, stuffing/potato/baking mixes, canned proteins (like chicken, tuna, and salmon), and all sizes of diapers. If you would like to donate any of these items, please leave them in the church vestibule.

A big thanks to Brian and Becky Lewis for continuing to deliver our food collections to the Food Pantry in Damascus. Please know that we all appreciate your service to this church and to our community!



March Birthdays

- 3 Becky Norwood
- 4 Linda Chatterton
- 8 Steven Arndt
- 9 Kathi Johnson
- 15 Chan Ketchum
Lily Hagy
- 17 Bill Duvall
Debbie Benson
- 19 Emma Lynagh
- 22 Debbie Snyder
- 24 Gary Rogers
- 28 Jaime Crawford
- 30 Tammy Monarch



**Congratulations
on the birth of**

Eleanor Terrin Park

born February 1, 2021
weighing 5 lbs. 9 oz.

Proud Parents — Josh & Susan Park
Grandparents — Frank & Namela Miller



Worship News

Sue Ketchum, Chair

The Season of Lent began back on Wednesday, February 17. We are now about two weeks into this most holy of Christian seasons.

Remember that during this time, we are asked to pray, fast, abstain from something that we enjoy, spend more time with our Lord, and/or serve the community. Basically, we are to live our lives just as Jesus lived His.

Mark your calendars now for our charge-wide Good Friday Worship Service on the evening of Friday, April 2 beginning at 7:30 pm. This virtual service will be livestreamed via Zoom.

Stay tuned for information about our Easter morning worship services on Sunday, April 4.



Pastor Karen will be out of town for the first week of this month working with her sisters to begin cleaning out

their mother's home in western North Carolina.

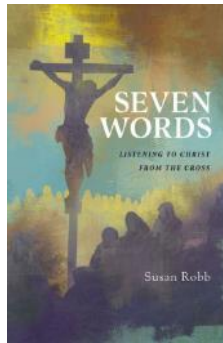
If you should need a pastor during this time, please call Pastor YouJung at 202-802-1154 or email her at jjj2908@gmail.com.

Thanks to our good friend, Frank Miller, for agreeing to preach on Sunday, March 7 in Pastor Karen's absence. Please note that the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month, will be shared on the following Sunday, March 14 while Pastor YouJung is leading us in worship.

Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair

As we journey through the 40 days of this Lenten Season, all of the members of our South Damascus Charge have been invited to join together in a Christian Book Study. Our book is titled *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross* by Susan Robb, a United Methodist pastor from Dallas, Texas.



Our study will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm, beginning on March 2. We will meet to read and discuss this book for four weeks, concluding on Tuesday, March 23. All sessions will be held virtually via Zoom.

Please let Tammy know ASAP if you have not received a book, but would still like to join our weekly discussion sessions. Please know that everyone is invited and welcome!

Test Your Lenten Knowledge

- 1. What does Lent, which comes from the Old English word, *lencten*, mean?**
A. sacrifice B. time C. spring D. March
- 2. How were ashes imposed on Christians in the Early Church?**
A. Shape of a cross was drawn on foreheads.
B. Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids.
C. Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.
- 3. Why do people give things up for Lent?**
A. To follow the example of Jesus' multi-day fast in the wilderness.
B. To help us focus on prayer and devotions.
C. To give the acquired savings to the poor.
D. All of the above.
- 4. What snack food has significance during the Lenten Season?**
A. peanuts B. pretzels C. popcorn D. goldfish
- 5. Many people fast just during Lent, but how often did John Wesley fast throughout the entire year?**
A. every other day
B. twice a week
C. twice a month
D. twice a year
- 6. Why does Lent last for 40 days?**
A. To represent the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan.
B. To recall the 40 days and nights the Earth was flooded in the Old Testament.
C. To remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert.
- 7. What word or song should not be sung during Lent?**
A. The Doxology
B. Alleluia
C. "In the Garden"
D. "Amazing Grace"
- 8. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.**
A. True B. False
- 9. What color is most often associated with the Lenten Season?**
A. white B. purple C. green D. red

March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 PM— Virtual Finance Committee Meeting	2 7:30 PM— Virtual Lenten Book Study	3 7:30 PM— Virtual Re-Entering Well Task Force Meeting	4	5	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service	8 7:30 PM— Virtual Administra- tive Council Meet- ing	9 7:30 PM— Virtual Lenten Book Study	10 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting	11	12	13
14 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service with Holy Communion	15	16 7:30 PM— Virtual Lenten Book Study	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:30 PM— Virtual Fellowship Hour	18 <i>Deadline for April newsletter submissions</i>	19	20
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service	22 7:30 PM— Virtual Board of Trustees Meeting	23 7:30 PM— Virtual Lenten Book Study	24	25	26	27
28 Palm & Passion Sunday 10:00 AM— Virtual Worship Service	29	30	31	1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday 7:30 PM— Virtual Worship Service	3

**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894
Email: wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org

As a church family that...

- * covenants to walk together in Christ's love,
- * believes that all persons are created equal,
and
- * affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

we welcome to our work and worship all —
regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age,
ability, sexual orientation, and/or economic
circumstance.



The
Lenten Season
is upon us.

What have you given
up for our
Lord
this year?



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

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