

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

April 2021

## Psalm 111

### *Praise for God's Wonderful Works*

*<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation...*

*<sup>4</sup> He has made His wonderful works to be remembered...*

*<sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

*His praise endures forever.*

I like the way Scott Hoezee describes this poem: "Psalm 111 is a shook-up bottle of champagne — when the cork flies off, it is effervescent, effusive, and thus, it is delightfully over the top in most every way. From first to last, the psalm jumps up and down with enthusiasm for God, for God's character, for God's works."

Psalm 111 is a joyful litany of wonder over God's nature and works. But, I must admit that sometimes it's easy for our inner dialogue to get bogged down with the problems in this world. While Covid-19 is defining our lives and determining our every move, and while political scandals shake our nation and world, it is easy to focus on the negatives rather than on God's goodness. But in the midst of all of this, God asks us to develop a keen eye and ear to see and listen for the greatness of Him and His works.

One line that jumped out at me when reading Psalm 111 comes in verse 4 when the psalmist says of God, "He has caused His deeds to be remembered." How do we cause God's deeds to be remembered? That happens when we talk about God stuff, share God stories, and pass them along to the next generation.

In short, God causes His deeds to be remembered through us and through our own familiarity with and enthusiasm for His Word. Which leads me to wonder: does this characterize our lives? Do our children and neighbors have a chance to see that we lean into the effervescent enthusiasm of Psalm 111 on a regular basis? Related to this is another question: do we train our eyes to look for signs of God's goodness in the world? Where is God active today via His Spirit? Where do we see signs that God is active and on the move right now?

Yes, Psalm 111:4 is correct --- God has caused His deeds to be remembered. That is why we are celebrating Good Friday and Easter this week, so that we might remember God's glorious deeds of Christ's death and resurrection. But we must remember — the ongoing calling in our lives is to do everything we can to let the Holy Spirit jog our memories of God each and every day.

In God's peace,  
Pastor Karen



# Lectionary Readings

**April 1, 2021**

***Maundy Thursday***

Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 2, 2021**

***Good Friday***

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
 Psalm 22  
 Hebrews 10:16-25  
 John 18:1-19:42

**April 3, 2021**

***Holy Saturday***

Job 14:1-14  
 Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
 1 Peter 4:1-8  
 Matthew 27:57-66



**April 4, 2021**

***Easter Sunday***

Acts 10:34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
 John 20:1-18

**April 11, 2021**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

**April 18, 2021**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

**April 25, 2021**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18



## February 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
Church Secretary's Wages	\$930.25
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$71.17
Capital Improvement	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$420.00
Programs	\$90.52
Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$478.27
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$368.44
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$29.57
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$313.18
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$2,046.15
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,311.42</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$2,221.00
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,042.92
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Verizon	\$1,522.66
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,786.58</b>

# Easter Week Worship Services



## Please Join Us...

On **Good Friday, April 2** for an online *Service of Shadows* at 7:30 pm as we remember that Day of Darkness from over 2,000 years ago when our Lord Jesus suffered for us all.

On Holy Saturday until noon on Easter Sunday, please drop off cut spring flowers (either from your yard or from the store) with which we will decorate our beautiful **Resurrection Cross** for the entire Woodfield Community to see and witness the everlasting life of Christ. Buckets of water will be left outside on the front porch for this purpose.



On **Easter Morning, Sunday, April 4** for a *Celebration of Our Risen Lord and Savior* at 6:30 am outside by our ballfield pavilion and then again at 10 am in our beautiful Sanctuary and online via Zoom. If you are planning to attend in-person, please call Tammy by April 1 at 301-253-0044 to make your family's reservation for safe, socially distanced seating.

## We're Looking for 2021 Graduates!



Please email the church office or call Tammy at 301-253-0044 if you know of anyone in our extended Wesley Grove Church Family who will be graduating this spring from high school, college, graduate school, or trade/technical school. As always, we would like to include biographies and congratulations in the upcoming May issue of this newsletter.

## April Birthdays

- 1 Randy Falk
- 5 Katie Ketchum
- 8 Judy Briggs
- 16 Sally Swearingen
- 17 Mike Sherwood  
Kenny Benson
- 19 Cara Lynagh
- 25 Scott Iles
- 28 Kris Kepner



## Congratulations

on the birth of

## Gabriel Alexander Harper

born March 13, 2021  
weighing 7 lbs. 13 oz.  
in San Diego, CA

Proud Parents -  
*Jessi & James Harper*

Proud **Great** Grandma -  
*Judy Hughes*

## Administrative Council Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2021

**Opening:** Bob welcomed us and began the meeting at 7:34 pm.

**In Attendance:** Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Jim Kemp, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Louise Burdette, Carol Stone, Becky Lewis, Steven Arndt, Judy Hughes.

**Devotions:** Bob Burke read a passage from "Our Daily Bread."

### Prayer Requests:

\* Betty Duvall, who suffers from constant pain in her lower back.

\* Carol's daughter, Jennifer Cano, who has psoriatic arthritis, is no longer taking Humira and is now trying acupuncture for her pain.

\* Continued prayers of peace, love, and safety for Shelby, Richard, and Finley Jordan.

\* Praise God that Donnie Hobbs is back home from his long stay in the hospital --- continued prayers for both him and Ruth.

### Good News Items:

\* Spring has sprung! The warm sun is shining, crocuses are popping up everywhere, and folks are getting vaccinated. Praise the Lord!

\* And alleluia, our Sanctuary will be reopening at 50% capacity on Easter morning!

### Approval of January Minutes:

\* All were in favor of accepting them as they were printed in the February church newsletter.

### Old Business:

\* New batteries and pads for our old defibrillator have arrived. They are sitting in the church office and ready to be installed. The new defibrillator is still sitting in the vestibule and ready to be hung.

### New Business:

\* Becky volunteered to serve as interim choir director, starting whenever we can safely begin to sing again, probably in September. After discussion, the decision as to how to proceed with filling the choir director position was referred to SPRC. (In preparing the 2021 budget, WG allotted four months of pay for this position.) Note: Should SPRC want to consider Becky's interim offer, she is willing to make a presentation to the committee.

\* Becky, along with Brian, Sally, and Rick, are practicing handbell songs to play periodically throughout this year. They plan to play during our traditional 10 am worship service on Easter morning.

### Committee Reports:

**Communications** --- Our church Facebook page is in the process of being updated as are our website and signboards. Greeting cards continue to be mailed to those in need of a cheery thought or prayer. Please let Cathy know if you are aware of such a person.

**Education** --- We had 18 people join us for the first session of our 4-week Lenten book study last Tuesday on the final words of Christ from the Cross. This is great as we have not had this many folks in our adult Sunday School class in many years!

**Fellowship** --- Wednesday night fellowship hours have been enjoyed and will continue through the spring. We encourage other folks to join us as it would be nice to converse with more of our friends.

**Finance** --- All current bills are paid, and we have a good amount of money in our checking account due to lack of spending last year and so far again this year on programs and projects. Parishioner giving was great in January, but it really slacked off in Feb.

**Missions** --- UMCOR Sunday is this coming Sunday, March 14. Judy will ask Rick to send a check on behalf of WG. UMCOR's big current project is helping with the clean-up and personal needs of those affected by the February snow and ice storms in Texas.

**SPRC** --- This committee has not met yet this year. Karen will contact Terri to set up a meeting soon.

**Trustees** --- The large oak tree in the parking lot between the church and the hall along Woodfield Road needs to come down. Trustees are getting prices from various tree services. Jim and Rick are also getting gutter replacement and gutter guard prices for the pavilion and various places on the hall.

**Worship** --- Within the next two weeks, the winter decorations will be coming down in the church, and our new spring and Easter decorations will be going up. Services will resume in the Sanctuary on Easter morning, while continuing to follow all of the current Covid restrictions and guidelines. We are still looking for volunteers to serve as liturgists, soloists, etc. Please contact Tammy if you are willing.


**Pastor's Report:** Karen asks that we open our hearts with love and justice and that God will continue to show us ways to find joy and meaning in our daily lives. The Rev. Dawn Hand will be our new district superintendent, beginning on July 1. She comes to us from the Pittsburgh area although she has lived and served in the BWC before.

**Next Meeting:** Will be on Monday, May 10 at 7:30 pm. It will be determined closer to this date whether this meeting will be presented in-person, via Zoom, or both. Tammy volunteered to lead our devotions.

**Closing:** Pastor Karen led us in prayer, and Bob then adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

# April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 AM— “Sonrise” Service 10:00 AM— Communion Ser- vice in the Sanctu- ary and via Zoom</p>	5	6	7 7:30 PM— Virtual Re-Entering Well Task Force Meeting	8	9	10 <i>Bring cut flowers to church today and tomorrow un- til noon for Cross.</i>
<p>11 10:00 AM— Worship Service in the Sanctuary and via Zoom</p>	12	13	14 3:00 PM— Book Club Meeting 	15	16	17
<p>18 10:00 AM— Worship Service in the Sanctuary and via Zoom</p>	19 <i>Deadline for May Newsletter Submissions</i>	20	21 7:30 PM— Virtual Fellowship Hour	22	23	24
<p>25 <b>Festival of God’s Creation</b> 10:00 AM— Worship Service in the Sanctuary and via Zoom</p>	26 7:30 PM— Virtual Board of Trus- tees Meeting	27	28	29	30	

# Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: [wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org](mailto: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.

**We're on the Web!**  
[wesleygroveumc.org](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

## THE EASTER SEASON IS UPON US.

*Alleluia  
to Our  
Risen Lord!*



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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