

# Wesley Grove **Messenger**

March 2022



From the Pastor's Desk...

## **Welcome to Lent: A Journey of Discipleship**

Traditionally, the Scriptural grounding for the Season of Lent comes from the Gospel accounts of Jesus' 40-day journey into the wilderness. This time is normally described as the temptation of Jesus, but most of us forget that Jesus didn't go into the wilderness with the express intention of being tempted. He was following an ancient model of spiritual preparation via a time of spiritual retreat. Jesus' wilderness wanderings after His baptism are an echo of the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert for 40 years. Just as the Israelites had 40 years to prepare themselves for entry into the Promised Land of God's Blessing, Jesus began His ministry with a 40-day journey to a mountaintop for prayer and fasting. This is how Jesus spiritually prepared Himself for His ministry. He set an example for all of us to recognize that we all need a time for spiritual preparation.

Jesus wasn't the last person to begin His ministry with a 40-day spiritual retreat onto a mountaintop. In the year 441, St. Patrick (*the Irish evangelist whose death is celebrated around the world on March 17*) visited one of the highest peaks in Ireland. This mountain was long considered a pagan holy place among pre-Christian Druids, but Patrick believed he should climb this mountain for prayer and fasting as he prepared to bring the Gospel to the Irish. He stayed on this mountaintop in western Ireland for 40 days neither eating nor drinking. Legend tells us that while Patrick was on the mountain, the Tempter came to him just as he had come to Jesus. And like Jesus, Patrick overcame these temptations. When he came down from this pagan holy mountain having overcome hunger, thirst, and his own temptation, many pagans began to accept the God of whom this holy man preached. Legend also tells us that after Patrick came down, he began a ministry of miracles to show the power of God. One of these miracles is chasing all of the snakes out of Ireland.

Since the time of Patrick, this Irish holy mountain, now called "the Croagh Patrick," has been a pilgrimage site. Countless thousands of Irish Christians hike up this croagh every year and leave a small stone commemorating their spiritual journey following in the footsteps of St. Patrick as he followed in Jesus' footsteps more than 400 years earlier.

During this time of Lent, it is worthwhile to ask God how you can spiritually prepare yourself for a deeper discipleship. To what place can you go and draw the spiritual energy that you need to live a faithful life? The pilgrims who walk up the Croagh Patrick honor the witness of a great saint, who was captured and held as a slave for six years, and once freed, returned among his captors to share God's love with them. I can only pray that I would be that faithful.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Nick*

## Lectionary Readings

### March 2, 2022

#### Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### March 6, 2022

#### First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

### March 13, 2022

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philemon 3:17 – 4:1

Luke 13:31-35

### March 20, 2022

#### Third Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

### March 27, 2022

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21



## January 2022 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,281.91
Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$1,503.25
Associate Pastor's Salary (1/3 of total salary)	\$389.86
Church Secretary's Wages	\$1,303.93
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$0.00
Payroll Taxes	\$99.75
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$2,034.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$168.29
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$358.91
Charge Treasury - Parsonage Expenses	\$375.83
Charge Treasury - Professional Expenses	\$113.92
Charge Treasury - Medical Insurance Cost	\$286.67
Charge Treasury - Retirement Contribution	\$319.45
Charge Treasury - Administrative Costs	\$12.50
Trustees - Maintenance Costs	\$1,847.04
In and Out Expenses	\$100.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,545.31</b>



## Ash Wednesday

Make plans to join us in the Sanctuary on the evening of Wednesday, March 2 for our

**South Damascus Charge Ash Wednesday Worship Service** at 7:30 pm. This service will also be livestreamed if you prefer to join us from your home. All are welcome and invited to begin the Season of Lent observing it here at Wesley Grove.

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$5,811.62
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$3,600.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$0.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,515.83</b>

## Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

The Christian Fellowship Committee met in January and, with hopes that the worst of the recent Covid-19 surge is behind us, made plans for the first months of 2022.

In cooperation with the Education Committee, Movie Nights will return on Saturday, March 19 in our Fellowship Hall. Check the Education column for more details.

Other familiar events also will make a return in the early months of 2022, starting with a trio of breakfasts:

- Easter, Sunday, April 17, following the 6:15 am Sunrise Service, hosted by Brian and Becky Lewis.
- Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8, 9:30 am, hosted by the men of the church.
- Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, 9:30 am, hosted by the women of the church.

Also, look for the return of the Spring Community Yard Sale, on Saturday, May 7. It's not too early to start cleaning out those closets and making plans to reserve a space!

The Committee also set a date for our Community Tree Lighting Ceremony (Thursday, December 1) and made plans for a Fall Community Yard Sale and Church Picnic (a consecutive Saturday and Sunday in September, dates TBD), Fall Craft Fair (date TBD), and Christmas Caroling Caravan, in conjunction with the Community Santa Ride (date TBD). More events for the second half of 2022 will be planned when the Committee meets again on June 23.

We're also conducting a poll: Did you enjoy February's Covert Cupid "event?" Would you like to do something similar later in the year, perhaps for Easter, or maybe in the fall? Please let Becky know your thoughts by March 20.

## Education News

Tammy Monarch, Chair



The Season of Lent is beginning, and we are starting our Lenten Book Study on Thursday nights via Zoom. This study is based on the book called *The Way* by Adam Hamilton and will focus on striving to lead a life that follows the ways of Jesus. If anyone else would like to join us, please let Tammy know, and she get a copy of the book to you.

On Sunday mornings, we are continuing our study of the Holy Lands — how they looked and felt in the time of Jesus compared to how they look and feel today. Our lessons are based on a variety of resources, including a book called *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford as well as numerous photos taken by Pastor Nick on his travels to Israel and the surrounding area. Please feel free to join us any Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

And finally, we are returning to our monthly Christian movie nights on Saturday, March 19. We will gather for a fellowship dinner of pizza and salad at 6 pm, and then watch the film, *God Bless the Broken Road*, together. This movie follows the life of a young widow after her soldier husband is killed in Afghanistan. The healing strength of family, friends, and faith are all revealed to her as she struggles to raise their young daughter in his absence. All are welcome to join us for this inspirational film. Please sign up on the list in the vestibule.



**Daylight Savings Time** begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 13. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed that night.





## Easter Flowers

If you would like to order flowering plants for Easter, please pick up an order form in the vestibule. We hope to have daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and Easter lilies all as choices this year. All plants will cost \$10; order forms and money (cash or a check made payable to WGUMC) are due back to the church by Palm Sunday, April 10. Plants will be available to take home after the 11 am worship service on Easter morning.



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

## March Birthdays



## Jewish Seder



Make plans now to join us for this traditional Hebrew meal, which will be served on Maundy Thursday, April 14, in our Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. For Christians, this day represents the one in which Jesus shared His last meal with His Disciples. This occurred on the First Night of Passover, which is when the Seder meal is served and eaten by people of the Jewish faith. Come and learn about the history behind this meal and enjoy some fellowship time with your church family. Please sign up on the list in the vestibule.



## Did you know...

*... that the idea of spring cleaning has its origins in the Season of Lent, which is now upon us?*

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

One way that we can do this is to clean up and clean out our homes. Each year, we find that we have all stored more and more stuff in our houses, and spring is the perfect time to declutter them and get a "fresh start" again!

If you find that you have things that you no longer want, but someone else may, then you might consider reserving a spot at our Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 7. Call Tammy at 301-253-0044 to book your space.



Or you may find that you have items that belong at the church or at the hall. In recent years, we have noticed that some things seem to be missing or their numbers have decreased. Here is a list of some things that you might find in your homes. If so, and you still use and/or want them, then, indeed, please keep them, but if you no longer have a use for some of these items, then please return them to their appropriate locations.

- Wesley Grove Blue Aprons
- Choir Books and CDs
- Hymnals and Bibles from the pews
- Dishes from the hall kitchen
- Books from the church library
- Church and Hall Keys

In fact, if you do have a church, hall, parsonage, and/or pavilion key, please let Tammy know, so that she can update the master list in the church office. Thanks in advance for your help with this annual spring clean-up project!

# March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> No Sunday School today 11:00 AM— Worship Service with Communion	7	1 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	2 7:30 PM— Ash Wednesday Worship Service 	3 7:30 PM— Lenten Book Study on Zoom	4	5
13 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	14 7:30 PM— Finance Committee Meeting	15 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner and Meeting	16 12:00 PM— Lunch Out @ The Hornet's Nest 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	17 7:30 PM— Lenten Book Study on Zoom 	18 <i>April Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 6:00 PM— Pizza Dinner and Movie Night
20 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	21 7:30 PM— Administrative Council Meeting	22	23	24 7:30 PM— Lenten Book Study on Zoom	25	26
27 <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	28 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	29	30	31 7:30 PM— Lenten Book Study on Zoom		



# Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

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

Website: [wesleygroveumc.org](http://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](mailto:wgumc@wesleygroveumc.org)

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