

# Wesley Grove Messenger

April 2022

## My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In just a couple of weeks, we will be shouting, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" And then, Easter will be over. Our Lenten journey will be over. We will have traveled to the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus and His disciples. We will have traveled to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday and heard Jesus utter a lonely cry of abandonment, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). We will have heard the words of finality that Jesus spoke with His last breath, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). We will have traveled to the empty tomb to hear again about the group of women that traveled there early on the first day of the week to find it empty. And we will have heard once more the words of the angels at the empty tomb, "He is not here, but has risen," (Luke 24:6).

In just a couple of weeks, the final, culminating day of the Resurrection will be over, and there will be no more bunnies, eggs, and butterflies. *So then what? What will come next? What do we do after we leave the empty tomb???*

First, we can follow the example of the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the two angels told Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women that Jesus had risen, Luke tells us that "*they remembered the words, and returning from the tomb, they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.*" They went forth from the tomb changed by the Resurrection of Jesus. They went forth from the tomb to bring an "every day" witness of God's love and power over death.

Second, we can follow the example of Jesus' other disciples. After Jesus walked through locked doors to appear to the 11 disciples, and especially to Thomas, seven of the 11 disciples went back to their fishing business (John 21:1-14) and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They lived in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus while carrying out the daily ordinary labor and responsibilities given to them.

Similar to the women at the empty tomb and the 11 disciples, we are "every day" witnesses and participants in the resurrection of Jesus. We believe in a God who loves us and cherishes us even unto life eternal. We have the joy of the resurrection living inside of us. Also, like the women at the empty tomb and the 11 disciples, we have callings in life that God has given to us as gifts. Most of us are not fishermen, but all of us have one or more of these callings: father, husband, mother, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, employee, friend, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with a set of daily duties and responsibilities, and by God's grace, we wrap these in the joy, love, peace, and forgiveness of Christ.

The month of April reminds us that Easter is more than just one day. Easter is an "every day" celebration, in which we live each day trusting in God through Christ and knowing that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25) for us. *So where do we go once we leave the empty tomb?* Let us go forth as God's forgiven children, empowered by His Spirit, to live in the joy of the resurrection as "every day" witnesses.

*"For thee delightfully employ whate'er thy bounteous grace hath giv'n,  
and run my course with even joy, and closely walk with thee to heav'n."*

--- from the UM hymn, "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go," vs. 4 ---

In God's peace,  
Pastor Karen



# Lectionary Readings

**April 3, 2022**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Psalm 126  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 John 12:1-8

**April 10, 2022**

***Palm Sunday***

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16, 118:1-2, 19-29  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Luke 19:28-40, 22:14—23 :56

**April 14, 2022**

***Maunder Thursday***

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

**April 15, 2022**

***Good Friday***

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

**April 17, 2022**

***Easter Sunday***

Acts 10:34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 Corinthians 15:19-26  
 John 20:1-18  
 Luke 24:1-12



**April 24, 2022**

Acts 5:27-32  
 Psalm 150  
 Revelation 1:4-8  
 John 20:19-31



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



## February 2022 Financial Report

*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

### Expenses

BWC Mission Share	\$1,150.24
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	\$1,476.74
Choir Director's Salary	\$0.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	\$120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$112.97
Capital Improvement Costs	\$0.00
Grass Cutting Costs	\$0.00
Snow Plowing Costs	\$775.00
Groundskeeper Costs	\$0.00
Custodian's Salary	\$350.00
Programs	\$412.67
Property Insurance	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$211.02
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	\$1,894.17
In and Out Expenses	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Church	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,504.29</b>

### Income

Weekly Collections	\$3,931.81
Cell Tower Rental Fee - Sprint	\$2,104.21
Evening Circle Contribution - Paid for Year	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
In and Out Income	\$100.00
Rental Property Monthly Payment	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,136.02</b>

# Easter Week Services & Events



## Please Join Us...



On **Palm Sunday, April 10**, for a Celebratory Worship Service with our handbell choir heralding and all of us proclaiming Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago. *(Please note that if you would like to order beautiful flowering plants to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter morning, your order and payment are due by the end of this service. Forms are available in the vestibule.)*

On **Maundy Thursday, April 14**, for our Hebrew Seder Meal, which will be served in our Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. For Christians, this day represents the one in which Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples, which occurred on the First Night of the Passover — the night when the Seder is traditionally served and eaten by people of the Jewish faith. Come and learn the history behind this meal and enjoy some fellowship time with your church family. *(Please note that we would appreciate you signing up in advance for this event. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule.)*



On **Good Friday, April 15**, for our Community Ecumenical Worship Service at St. Paul UMC in Laytonsville at 7:30 pm. You will be immersed in a modern telling of the Gospels with stories, readings, prayers, and music. This service will also be livestreamed via Zoom and available afterwards on YouTube.



On **Holy Saturday, April 16**, from noon until the 11 am service on Easter Sunday, please drop off cut spring flowers (either from your yard



or from the store) which we will use to 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 17**, for a Celebration of Our Risen Lord and Savior at sunrise outside on the lawn by our ballfield. This annual "Sonrise" Service will begin at 6:15 am and will be followed by a fellowship breakfast in our hall. You and your family are then invited to return again at 11 am for our traditional Easter Worship Service inside the Sanctuary. Our choir will sing during this service, which can also be accessed online via Zoom. *(Please note that our Sunday School Class will not meet on this day.)*



## Spring Crafts



### The Easter Craft Bunny has been busy!

He has handcrafted and painted various rabbits and birds from odd pieces of wood, sewn pastel-colored linens to brighten up your Easter table, and assembled several spring gift baskets to give to others. In addition, he has sewn bunches of carrots filled with orange jelly beans and orange-foiled, caramel-filled chocolates, which make great Easter basket stuffers. All of these items will be displayed and available for purchase in the vestibule after our worship services on April 3, 10, and 17.

## Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

There's no better way to start your Easter morning than coming to the 6:15 am Sunrise Service at the pavilion and staying to share a fellowship breakfast with your church family following the service. Becky and Brian Lewis will host the return of this event; everything is provided, and everyone is welcome.

Looking ahead, May will bring the return of another spring tradition, our semi-annual Community Yard Sale and Mother's Day Breakfast Weekend on May 7 and 8. It's not too early to start cleaning out your closets and determining whether you want to call Tammy (301-253-0044) to reserve a yard sale space or simply donate items to the church booth. If you can help with setup, cleanup, or serving throughout the day, please contact Becky (240-338-3211) or Brian (240-338-3210) to sign up. Then, on Mother's Day morning, the men of the church will prepare breakfast during our traditional Sunday School hour at 9:30 am; all are welcome. Men, please contact Brian if you can help with this event.



## Missions News

*Judy Hughes, Chair*

This committee met in February and discussed the success of this past Holiday Season's giving events. Our church received a thank-you email from the Open Heart Mission in West Virginia via Mt. Tabor UMC. It was very grateful for all the warm clothing we sent in December. We once again have a contact person at Pleasant View Nursing Home in Mt. Airy and hope to help the residents there again. We will meet in late May.

## April Birthdays

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



**BINGO,**  
*Anyone???*

The Damascus Volunteer Fire Department will resume its spring Dinner and Bingo Fundraiser later this month on Friday, April 29. Just like in years past, the doors will open at 5 pm, fried chicken dinners will be served starting at 5:30 pm, and the 20 games of bingo will begin at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining the group of us from Wesley Grove attending this event, please contact Jim and Lois Kemp at 301-253-2859 by April 24 to reserve your tickets, which cost \$40 per person. If you decide to wait and buy them at the door, the price increases to \$50 per person. All proceeds benefit our local fire department and the Damascus Days Hometown Celebration in July.



*Looking Ahead to May...*

### Spring Community Yard Sale



**Saturday, May 7**  
9 am to 2 pm

**Spaces Available - \$15**

**Table Rentals - \$5**

**Contact Tammy at 301-253-0044**  
to reserve your space(s).

Donations Gratefully Accepted  
*Please have these at the hall by Thursday, May 5.*

Donations of Baked Goods  
*would also be very much appreciated.*



### Fried Chicken Dinner

**Friday, May 6**

Mt. Tabor UMC on Route 108 in Etchison will host a carry-out fried chicken dinner fundraiser from 4-7 pm. All dinners include four pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a roll and cost \$15. Placing your orders in advance by calling 301-253-3871 is strongly recommended although drive-up ordering is certainly possible. Home-baked goods will also be available for purchase during this event.



### We're Looking for 2022 Graduates!



Please email or call the church office 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. Like in years past, we plan to highlight them and their accomplishments in the May issue of this newsletter.

Please remember that we also offer Wesley Grove collegiate scholarships to those in our congregation who have actively participated in the life of this church while attending middle and high school. If you would like to receive an application, please contact Tammy in the church office. All applications are due back by Saturday, April 30. Recipients will be notified in mid May.



Join us for this month's...



### Dinner and a Movie

**Saturday, April 23**

Dinner will begin 6 pm and consist of fried chicken and a variety of delicious pot-luck dishes. Please bring one to share. After eating, we will watch All Saints, the true story of a pastor who is sent to close a small town church, but Our Good Lord has other ideas. Dessert will be served after the movie. Please sign up in the vestibule, so we will know how much chicken to order.



## Administrative Council Meeting

### Monday, March 21, 2022

**Opening:** This meeting was opened by Chairperson Bob at 7:32 pm.

#### In Attendance:

Steven Arndt, Bob Burke, Cathy Burke, Pastor Karen Davis, Louise Burdette, Judy Hughes, Becky Lewis, Rick Monarch, Tammy Monarch, Carol Stone, and Pastor Nick Works.

#### Devotions:

Cathy Burke read from the document, "Good Morning! This World Is Spinning Out of Control." Its main message was to promote peace, and not be afraid, for Jesus has and will continue to overcome the world.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Anita Jeul, Judy's niece, is having her second brain cancer surgery at Walter Reed Medical Center this Thursday.
- Greg Lynagh is dealing with excess spinal fluid.

#### Good News:

- The weather is starting to warm and show signs of spring.
- Dinner and Movie Night had 11 in attendance. We ate a good meal and watched an inspiring movie, "God Bless the Broken Road."
- The choir is singing and has plans in place for Easter.
- Covid-19 seems to be on the decline at this moment, with many mandates being lifted. Thus, our church services and activities are starting to return to a more normal schedule.
- DSA has started its spring practices, and our ball field is being used frequently again.

**Minutes:** The minutes from our last meeting were approved as presented in the February 2022 newsletter. Steven motioned to accept them with Judy seconding. All were in favor.

#### New Business:

- BWC's Annual Conference, which is scheduled for June 1-3, will be held virtually again this year.
- The UMC's General Conference has been postponed again until 2024.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Communications —

- Seven greeting cards have been sent out since the beginning of 2022.
- Calls are being made to folks we have missed due to sickness, weather, etc.
- Our church Facebook page and website will both be updated with Holy Week and Easter Service information soon.

##### Education —

- Sunday School is exploring the Holy Lands, utilizing Kathie Lee Gifford's book, videos, and photos.
- Lenten book study is going well with about a dozen participants.
- Another family dinner and movie night is planned for April.
- Education Sunday will occur in late May or early June.
- Please get graduates' names and bios to Tammy by April 20.
- Sunday School will stop for the summer in mid-June and then resume again in September.

##### Fellowship —

- Breakfast events are planned for Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day.
- Spring Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 9 am to 2 pm.

##### Finance —

\* All of our church finances are in good shape. We are waiting for interest rates to increase to invest some of our funds later this year.

##### Missions —

- Judy has heard that Pleasant View Nursing Home is in need of supplies. She is checking into this and will let us know more.
- She is also pursuing how we can best help the relief efforts in Ukraine, Poland, and the surrounding countries.
- Next Soup Kitchen date is Memorial Day Monday. Judy may be asking for a few different volunteers this day.

##### Staff Parish Relations —

- Currently working with both pastors on yearly goals and will meet again soon.

##### Trustees —

- Hall kitchen work is finally complete.
- A new stove was purchased for the parsonage in early February.
- Some of the letters on the hall signboard fall through the tracks, and the lights are still not working. Vendor has been contacted twice, but no work has been done. This will be addressed at the next Trustees' meeting.
- The backside of the hall will be power-washed this spring.

##### Worship —

- Passover Seder Meal is planned for Thursday, April 14, in the hall at 6:00 pm. Please sign up to participate.
- Good Friday Ecumenical Worship Service will be held at St. Paul UMC in Laytonsville at 7:30 pm. All are encouraged to attend.
- Outdoor Easter "Sonrise" Service will begin at 6:15 am, and a fellowship breakfast will follow in the hall.
- Traditional Easter Sunday Service with the choir singing at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.
- Our Resurrection Cross will be placed in the vestibule on Easter morning and decorated with donated spring flowers. It will be moved to the glassed-in porch later in the day.

#### Pastors' Reports:

**Pastor Karen** — She is grateful for all the work that folks are doing.

- She has reached out to many of our sick and shut-in parishioners, with 32 phone calls and two visits since our last meeting. Since things are starting to open up, she can now resume home and nursing center visits.
- Pastor Karen, Tammy, and Linda attended a conference dealing with small church (under 100 parishioners) issues (i.e. – declining attendance, aging congregations, financial issues).
- Karen noted that Linda has accepted a volunteer position with the BWC on the Racism Injustice Team and has completed one training session already.

**Pastor Nick** — He is also grateful for all the work that is being done in this charge by the laity. He is enjoying this new ministry experience, contacting people, and learning from both Pastor Karen and Tammy during Sunday School. He shared how happy he and his family are for having the extended family they received with this charge.

**Closing:** Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 9 at 7:30 pm with devotions led by Tammy. Bob adjourned this meeting at 8:40 pm.

# April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service 12:30 PM— Worship Com. Mtg	4	5 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	6 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	7 7:30 PM— Lenten Book Study, Session #6	8 9:00 AM— Hand Bell Practice	9 9:00 AM— Hand Bell Practice
10 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	11	12	13 3:00 PM— Book Club Mtg. @ Linda's House 7:00 PM— Choir Practice	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 PM— Messianic Passover Seder Meal	15 <b>Good Friday</b> 7:30 PM— Ecumenical Wor- ship Service at St. Paul UMC	16
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:15 AM— "Sonrise" Service 7 AM—Breakfast 11:00 AM— Traditional Indoor Worship Service	18 <i>Deadline for May Newsletter Submissions</i>	19 6:45 PM— Lions Club Dinner & Meeting	20 12:00 PM— Lunch Out at The Nook in Mt. Airy 7:30 PM— Communications Committee Mtg.	21	22	23 6:00 PM— Family Dinner and Movie Night
24 9:30 AM— Sunday School 11:00 AM— Worship Service	25 7:30 PM— Board of Trustees Meeting	26	27	28	29 5:00 PM— DVFD Fundraiser Dinner & Bingo Night	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 peace,
- \* believes that all persons are created equal,  
and
- \* affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,

**We Welcome All to Our Work and Worship,**  
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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