

Dates to Remember

- Thursday, April 7
 - Choir..... 7:00 PM
- Sunday, April 10
 - Native American Ministries Sunday/
Spring Pot LuckNOON
- Saturday, April 16
 - Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM
- Sunday, April 17
 - Worship Committee.....NOON
 - Confirmation Class 5:00 PM
- Monday, April 18
 - Newsletter DeadlineNOON
- Wednesday, April 20
 - Ladies Lunch Out.....NOON
 - Choir..... 7:00 PM
- Friday, April 22
 - DHS Drama Musical..... 7:00 PM
- Sunday, April 24
 - Joint Service @ Salem 11:00 AM
- Monday, April 25
 - Finance Committee 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, April 26
 - Board of Trustees 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 27
 - Choir..... 7:00 PM
- Saturday, April 30
 - Special Needs Prom... 6:00-9:00 PM
 - WG Scholarship Application Deadline

John’s Pulpit

What Is Christianity?

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

One popular question that is being thrown around in theological circles these days is, “What is the Gospel?” Whenever I’m asked that question, I always respond: “The Gospel is Jesus Christ.” Now what do I mean by that? Well, think of it this way. You can take Buddha out of Buddhism and still have the basic tenets of that religion. You can take Muhammad out of Islam, and you will still have the same principles. But if you take Christ out of Christianity, there is nothing left because our faith is not in a system, but in a person.

Christianity at its very heart is not a code, it’s not a cause, it’s not a creed, and it’s not a church. Christianity is Jesus Christ. It is the Gospel concerning Jesus. So when we are asked that question, “What is the Gospel?,” we know our answer will not consist of a list of rules or a philosophy on life. The Gospel is a person.

If that is the truth, then we need to stop trying to just live according to rules and instead, live according to the life of Christ in us. As you press into him, allow him to determine your steps to transform the way you think and act. As we allow Christ to order our steps, he will give us the joy we have never experienced. He will become our life and our salvation.

Pastor John Ampiah-Addison

April Birthdays

1	Randy Falk	17	Mike Sherwood
3	Peggy Zirkle		Kenny Benson
	Danny Allman	19	Cara Lynagh
5	Katie Ketchum	23	Michael Mirani
8	Judy Briggs	25	Scott Iles
	Tyler Mirani	28	Kris Kepner
16	Sally Swearingen		

Lectionary Readings**April 3, 2016***2nd Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-3

April 10, 2016*3rd Sunday of Easter**Native American Ministries Sunday*

Acts 9:1-6

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

April 17, 2016*4th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

April 24, 2016*5th Sunday of Easter**Festival of God's Creation*

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

February 2016 Financial Report*Rick Monarch, Treasurer*

Expenses	
Apportionments	\$1,413.50
Pastor Salary	\$1,769.70
Associate Pastor Salary	\$215.00
Pastor Benefits	\$887.55
Pastor Professional Expenses	\$0.00
Housing Allowance	\$827.75
Church Secretary	\$690.00
Payroll Taxes	\$56.81
Grass Cutting	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00
Custodian	\$520.00
Programs	\$498.71
Office Expenses	\$147.73
Trustees - Maintenance	\$1,516.55
Total Expenses	\$8,543.30

Income	
Weekly Collections	\$7,615.38
Sunday School Collections	\$92.90
Cell Tower - Sprint	\$1,762.24
Cell Tower - Verizon	\$1,313.46
Grocery eScrips	\$0.00
Church Dinner Proceeds	\$0.00
Use of Hall	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$6.35
Housing Allowance Reimbursement	\$827.75
Total Income	\$11,618.08

Sunday School Supplies Needed!*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

Our growing Sunday School needs your help! We are in need of supplies so that we can continue to teach this wonderful group of children about Jesus! Please consider donating the following items:

- Washable markers - both big and thin.
- Bottles of glue.
- Colored pencils.
- Popsicle sticks - both thin and wide.

Donations can be placed in the box in the Greeting Room. Thank you!

Administrative Council Meeting March 14, 2016

In attendance: Bob Burke, Pastor Linda Yar-row, Rick Monarch, Jackie Hottinger, Pastor John Ampiah-Addison, Lewis Burdette, Becky Lewis, Doug Gaither, Jim Kemp, Ollie Gray, Andi Brickman, Randy Falk, Tammy Monarch.

Devotional: Randy Falk read from “Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby.

Good News Items: Good spring turkey and oyster dinner with good attendance, lots of help and profit of about \$3,700, including the bake table. St. Martin’s Soup Kitchen on February 29 went very well with lots of help, and the Confirmands volunteered there on February 27 and did a fabulous job.

Action Items: Doug Gaither made a motion to accept the January 11, 2016 minutes as written and published, Pastor Linda seconded, vote taken, and approved as written.

Committee Reports

Missions – Jackie Hottinger: We will be sponsoring Jessi Wagner again this year for her wonderful ministry with at-risk children in New York.

Christian Education – Tammy Monarch: Confirmation students are doing very well. VBS will be July 11 – July 15 with a cave theme.

Christian Fellowship – Becky Lewis: Will not be taking ballots for the Woman and Man of the Year, pursuing a new direction.

Finance - Randy Falk: Giving is about \$4,000 down from this time last year. He will write an article for the newsletter with some financial information.

Trustees—Andi Brickman: All known repairs have been made.

Worship - Doug Gaither: Exploring a welcoming committee for visitors. Have asked the pastors to come up with different formats for Communion.

Pastor’s Report– Pastor Linda: Bishop Matthews is retiring and the Conference is taking a “love offering” to benefit Africa University. We will make an announcement in church on April 10 and collect any donations on April 17. Five resolutions will be voted at Annual Conference. Mike Sherwood is to get the book of these resolutions and an executive summary, and present at the May 16 Ad Board meeting.

Old Business: Ollie Gray reported the congregational goals for 2015 of splitting Sunday School into an adult and children’s class and having a confirmation class exceeded expectations. Hospitality to visitors and visitor followup still needs work. For 2016, the congregational goals will be to improve our visitor followup and hospitality. The Worship Committee is working on some ideas for this and the goals will be evaluated in June/July for potential progress.

New Business: Randy Falk presented information about alternative investment options for some of the church’s CDs. The Finance Committee identified three CDs (reserves): the Ward Trust Fund, Cell Tower, and Rental Property totaling more than \$111,000. These funds are just sitting in CDs that are not making the church any money, and Finance feels they will not need to be used in the next several years. Randy made a motion to move \$100,000 of the money to two fixed annuities with Fidelity and Guarantee through Peak Investment Advisors, Inc., with the interest to roll over each month. Doug Gaither seconded, vote taken, and motion carried. Exploring opportunities of a possible mutual fund for the balance of approximately \$11,000.

Christian Fellowship News

Becky Lewis, Chair

Got a favorite recipe you haven't made in a while? Looking for the opportunity to try out a new one? Start looking for the ingredients, and make plans come to our Spring Potluck on Sunday, April 10, following the worship service observance of Native American Ministries Sunday.

April brings another opportunity for "lunching" as well, Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, April 20, at noon. Other events on April's calendar include a trip to see the Damascus High School production of "Into the Woods" on Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m. We will meet at the high school at 6:45 p.m. to buy our tickets at the door and sit together. Please sign up in the Greeting Room so we know whether you're coming to join the fun. On Saturday, April 30, we will host our Special Needs friends for a Prom Dance starting with a "Meet and Greet" and light supper at 6 p.m., followed by dancing. If you'd like to help make this a special evening for this group, please let Becky Lewis know.

In a change from Aprils past, we will **not** be voting for Woman and Man of the Year throughout the month, while the committee considers a way to refresh and renew its recognition program. Special recognition for mothers and fathers on Mother's Day and Father's Day will continue.

Looking ahead to May, our Annual Spring Yard Sale and Fundraising Cookout will take place on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's not too soon to reserve a space for \$15; please see Tammy Monarch. Our United Methodist Men will prepare breakfast for **all members of the congregation** on Mother's Day, May 8, and on Sunday, May 22, we will visit local nursing homes for our off-season

"caroling" (featuring mainly patriotic favorites) at 4 p.m., followed by a pot luck dinner/picnic at the home of Brian and Becky Lewis.

VBS News

Tammy Monarch, Education Chair

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just 3½ months away. It will be held during the week of July 11-15 from 5:30-8:30 in the evenings. Therefore, it's time to mark your calendars, hold that week, and start planning and preparing for VBS right now.

This year's quest to know God (and ourselves!) better will take place in a deep, dark cave. So, we are asking all of you to go spelunking in your basements, garages, attics, and closets to look for items that we could use to decorate the hall to look like a series of caverns: black cloth, black tarps, lanterns, black lights, ropes, pickaxes, stuffed bats, glow-in-the-dark items, or anything that could help us to create rock formations, dripping stalactites, or growing stalagmites (cardboard or plastic cones or cylinders, candle wax to melt, etc.). Please let Tammy Monarch know if you have any items that we could use.

As always, we can use any and all help. If you would like to volunteer to help plan the week, decorate the hall, teach lessons, serve dinner, etc., please let Tammy know by calling her at (301) 253-0044. We'd love to have you, your creative ideas, your willingness to help, and of course, your love of kids!

Administrative Council from page 3

Doug Gaither made a motion that any statistical data dealing with Finance be reviewed by three people (finance chair, treasurer, and pastor) before being submitted to Conference. A revised operating budget number was recently resubmitted that will lower next year's apportionments. Ollie Gray seconded, vote taken, and motion carried.

Tammy Monarch made a motion that all nonfinancial statistical data reported to the Conference be checked for accuracy by two people (one person and the pastor) before being sent out. Becky Lewis seconded, vote taken, and motion carried.

Doug Gaither made a motion to name Rick Monarch as the Annuitant for the two new annuities. Bob Burke seconded, vote taken, and motion carried.

Devotions for next meeting will be Jackie Hottinger.

Next meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by Bob Burke at 9:38 p.m.

WG Scholarship News*Jim Kemp, Committee Chair*

Our Memorial and Scholarship Committee is proud to once again announce that it is seeking students to apply for one or both of our **Wesley Grove Church Scholarships**. Candidates must be active and involved members of this church who currently have GPAs of at least 2.5 and who are planning to attend college full- or part-time this coming fall. If you are interested in finding out more information or receiving an application, please contact Tammy Monarch at (301) 253-0044. The application deadline is April 30.

Sunday School News*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

We will be learning about our Methodist heritage this spring. We will begin with the Apostles spreading the Good News about Christ's resurrection, moving on to discuss how Christians came to be divided into the different denominations, and finally, discussing what makes us United Methodists. We will also look into the creation and history of our Doxology, the Gloria Patri, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and explain why we say and sing these things during our worship service each week. These lessons will begin the week after Easter.

As always, please feel free to come and join us anytime – both young and old. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the hall, and we would love to have you!

Love Offering

On April 17, 2016, we will be taking a Love Offering for Bishop Marcus Matthews' retirement gift. Throughout his ministry, Bishop Matthews has been instrumental in the building and development of Africa University. As an Annual Conference, we will be celebrating his ministry through a gift to Africa University for an innovative building project. The congregations of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference have the opportunity to create a health and sports complex on the campus of Africa University in honor of Bishop Matthews. Our gift will transform the lives of the school's 2,500 students and honor a man who has given his life to the ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church
23640 Woodfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-253-2894 www.wesleygroveumc.org

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Rent a Space for ONLY \$15
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Call 301-253-0044 to reserve your space.



9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Rain or Shine!

Look For Us In The Education Building If It's Wet!



FREE Vacation Bible School!

Bible Stories

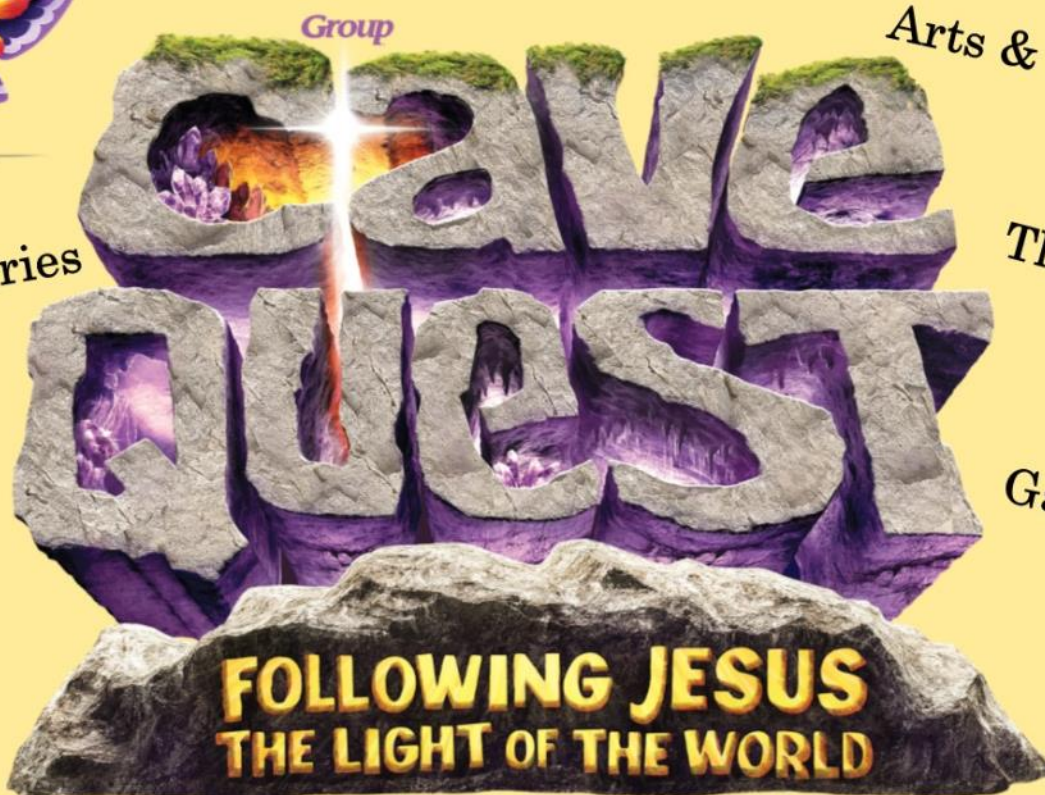
Arts & Crafts

Music

Theater

Games

FUN!



Date: July 11th - July 15th

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (dinner included)

Location: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church


23614 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Gear up for an adventure! Ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God's love, a love that takes us through life's dark times.



We're Growing – Let's Stay Focused on Our Youth!

The pavilion, ball field, and playground are used by the youth in the community. Please support these businesses! All of their donations go to support the maintenance of these facilities.



Brian Lewis
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 Tu-Th. 9am-8pm; Fri. 9am-4:30pm; Sat. 8am-4pm

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Communion)	4	5	6	7 7:00 PM Choir	8	9
10 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship (Native American Ministries Sunday) NOON Spring Pot Luck	11	12	13 7:00 PM Choir	14	15	16 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship NOON Worship Committee 5:00 PM Confirmation	18 NOON Newsletter Deadline	19	20 NOON Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Choir	21	22 7:00 PM DHS Musical "Into the Woods"	23
24 11:00 AM Joint Service @ Salem	25 7:30 PM Finance Committee Primary Election Day: Remember to Vote!	26 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	27 7:00 PM Choir	28	29	30 6:00-9:00 PM Special Needs Prom WG Scholarship Application Deadline



**Wesley Grove
United Methodist Church**

Church Phone: 301-253-2894

Email: office@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

**Reserve Your Spaces
Now for Our Spring
Yard Sale and
Cookout!**

**Saturday, May 7
9 a.m.— 2 p.m.**

**Call (301) 253-0044 to
reserve a space for \$15**

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

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