

## Dates to Remember

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday, March 2                    |              |
| Daytime Circle                        |              |
| Brown Bag Lunch .....                 | 12:30 PM     |
| Thursday, March 3                     |              |
| Lenten Bible Study .....              | 7:30 PM      |
| Sunday, March 6                       |              |
| Lenten Dinner and Movie .....         | 6:00 PM      |
| Monday, March 7                       |              |
| Finance Committee .....               | 7:30 PM      |
| Wednesday, March 9                    |              |
| Dinner Setup .....                    | 6:00 PM      |
| Thursday, March 10                    |              |
| Lenten Bible Study .....              | 7:30 PM      |
| Friday, March 11                      |              |
| Turkey & Oyster Setup .....           | TBD          |
| Saturday, March 12                    |              |
| Turkey & Oyster Dinner .....          | 1:00-5:00 PM |
| Sunday, March 13                      |              |
| Coffee & Conversation .....           | NOON         |
| Monday, March 14                      |              |
| Administrative Council .....          | 7:30 PM      |
| Wednesday, March 16                   |              |
| Ladies Lunch Out .....                | NOON         |
| Thursday, March 17                    |              |
| Lenten Bible Study .....              | 7:30 PM      |
| Friday, March 18                      |              |
| Newsletter Deadline .....             | NOON         |
| Musical Dress Rehearsal .....         | 7:30 PM      |
| Saturday, March 19                    |              |
| Men's Prayer Breakfast .....          | 8:00 AM      |
| Easter Egg Hunt .....                 | 2:00 PM      |
| Easter Musical Drama.....             | 7:30 PM      |
| Sunday, March 20                      |              |
| Easter Musical Drama.....             | 7:30 PM      |
| Monday, March 21                      |              |
| SPRC Committee .....                  | 7:30 PM      |
| Tuesday, March 22                     |              |
| Board of Trustees .....               | 7:00 PM      |
| Thursday, March 24                    |              |
| Holy Thursday Service                 |              |
| @ Mt. Tabor .....                     | 7:30 PM      |
| Friday, March 25                      |              |
| Good Friday Service @ Damascus Gazebo |              |
| (weather permitting) .....            | 7:30 PM      |
| Sunday, March 27                      |              |
| Easter Sunrise Service .....          | 6:30 AM      |
| (breakfast following)                 |              |
| Easter Service .....                  | 11:00 AM     |
| Monday, March 28                      |              |
| Finance Committee .....               | 7:30 PM      |

## From the Pastor's Desk

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

John 1:3b-4

The days are getting longer, the nights are getting warmer (kind of), and soon we will be able to finally put our heavy coats and gloves in the back of the closet. Winter will be gone. Spring and Easter, believe it or not, are right around the corner! Easter and spring go hand in hand. They are both the season for new life.

As I am sitting here thinking about Easter, visions of pastel plastic eggs all over the church lawn come to mind. Eggs, a symbol of Easter. Eggs, a symbol of new life. As we are winding down the solemnness of Lent, we are also heading toward the celebration of new life on Resurrection Sunday. And the many colored eggs that will appear in our baskets are a wonderful representation of the Body of Christ, don't you think? The bright blues and reds, even the pastel pinks and yellows, and let's not forget the "golden" eggs from our own Easter Egg hunts, show the diversity of the Body. We are many. We are young, we are old. We are tall, we are short. We come in every shape, size, and shade. We are liberals, we are conservatives. We are from one end of the spectrum to the other and everything in between. We are unique and Christ calls each one of us to be part of the church. Christ calls us with our individual gifts and passions, calls us with our beautiful outer shells, calls us in our individually designed shells. Christ calls us with all our differences, and in our differences, we make a very beautiful basket of eggs for all the world to see.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Lectionary Readings

### March 6, 2016

*4th Sunday in Lent*  
*One Great Hour of Sharing*  
 Joshua 5:9-12  
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
 Luke 15:1-32

### March 13, 2016

*5th Sunday in Lent*  
 Isaiah 43:16-21  
 Psalm 126  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 John 12:1-8

### March 20, 2016

*Palm Sunday*  
 Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
 Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### March 21, 2016

*Monday of Holy Week*  
 Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 36:5-11  
 Hebrews 9:11-15  
 John 12:1-11

### March 22, 2016

*Tuesday of Holy Week*  
 Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Psalm 71:1-14  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
 John 12:20-36

### March 23, 2016

*Wednesday of Holy Week*  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 70  
 Hebrews 12:1-3  
 John 13:21-32

### March 24, 2016

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

### March 25, 2016

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

### March 27, 2016

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

## January 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             | \$742.50           |
| Payroll Taxes                | \$54.51            |
| Grass Cutting                | \$0.00             |
| Snow Removal                 | \$650.00           |
| Custodian                    | \$520.00           |
| Programs                     | \$777.76           |
| Office Expenses              | \$645.98           |
| Trustees - Maintenance       | \$2,051.68         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>\$10,555.93</b> |

| Income                    |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Collections        | \$3,573.00        |
| Sunday School Collections | \$68.00           |
| 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           | \$6.37            |
| Housing Allowance         |                   |
| Reimbursement             | \$1,655.50        |
| <b>Total Income</b>       | <b>\$8,378.57</b> |

## VBS News

This summer's Vacation Bible School is just five months away, July 11-15 from 5:30-8:30 in the evenings. It's time to mark your calendars 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. Please 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. See Tammy Monarch for suggestions. As always, we can use any and all help. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please let Tammy know by calling her at (301) 253-0044.

*(The Pastor's Desk. from page 1)*

But just as there are many different eggs – the colored eggs in our baskets, ostrich eggs, chicken eggs, white eggs, brown eggs, quail eggs, goose eggs, and so many more – the eggs are also the same. To start, they are eggs! And each egg can bring forth new life, regardless of what laid it, regardless of what it looks like. The job of an egg is to bring forth new life. So, even if you are a pink egg with purple polka-dots, you are an egg with new life inside!

Yes, despite our differences, we are also the same in the important ways. We, as the Body of Christ, have the same beliefs. We all believe in the one God who loves us; in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who died for our sins; in the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Advocate; and in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. These beliefs are the yolk of our egg, the very center of our being. Without the yolk, the egg will not produce new life. Our core – our yolk – are our beliefs, found in our Creeds. With these as our core, we can strive to lead new lives daily.

It is because of our differences and our sameness that we can be examples of how to love the unlovable, how to help the downtrodden, how to be the Body of Christ, in all our diversities.

Sisters and brothers, this Easter we leave the empty tomb. Know that death has been defeated and life has been made new. This Easter, let us celebrate the diversity of our eggs, the diversity of this world as we live new lives, lives worthy of the Body of Christ.

We are the people of the Resurrection! May the Resurrection, Joy, and Power live in us all!

*Pastor Linda*

## Sunday School News

*Tammy Monarch, Education Chair*

We are learning about the meaning of this Lenten Season and preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus's last days here on Earth. During this time, we are thinking, reflecting, writing, drawing, and discussing our thoughts and reactions to the various events in the final days of His life.

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 Education Building, and we would love to have you!

Also, please join us for the second of our **Lenten Film Series**. In February, we watched the first of these films titled "Son of God" about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This month on Sunday, March 6, we will view a second movie about His life and death, and then compare the similarities and differences between the two films. We will begin this night with a pizza and salad dinner at 6:00 at the hall, and then begin the film about 6:30. Please sign up in the greeting room and make plans to join us.

## 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.

## Christian Fellowship News

*Becky Lewis, Chair*

Here comes Peter Cottontail, hopping down the Bunny Trail to the Wesley Grove Education Building...a trail that we hope won't be covered with snow on Saturday, March 19, when we host our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the community's children. (Remember last year? Brrrrr!) Open to preschoolers and elementary school children, the event starts at 2 p.m., and will feature refreshments and prizes in addition to the eggs that will be scattered around the grounds. Help stuffing eggs on Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m. would be **greatly** appreciated: this is definitely a case of many hands making light work!

The Christian Fellowship Committee will also provide refreshments on two more occasions that weekend, following both performances of "Jesus Wore My Crown," the Easter musical drama presented by the Wesley Grove Chancel Choir and Players. And the following weekend, the Committee will **provide** a fellowship breakfast following Easter Sunrise Service. After the inspiring early morning service ends, be sure to come into the Education Building to get warm and enjoy a meal with your Wesley Grove family.

Other events on the March calendar include Daytime Circle Brown Bag Lunch, Wednesday, March 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Building; Coffee and Conversation (**volunteer host needed**) following worship service on Sunday, March 13; and Ladies Lunch Out on Wednesday, March 16, at noon. Looking ahead to April, Rick and Tammy Monarch will host a Games Night on Saturday, April 9, at 7 p.m.; on Friday, April 22, we'll support our local youth by taking in the Damascus High School production of "Into the Woods;" And on Saturday, April 30, we'll host our Special Needs friends for a Prom Dance.

## Thanks for your help!

*Missions Committee*

A big "thank you" from the Missions Committee to everyone who donated snacks for the Rock the House Program, and to everyone who helped serve at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen on "Leap Day." Our confirmation class also represented us at St. Martin's on Saturday, February 27, and did a splendid job of serving food and good cheer!

## Easter Musical Drama

*Doug Gaither, Choir Director*

"Jesus Wore My Crown," our Easter musical drama, will be performed Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, both at 7:30 p.m. In the style of "It's A Wonderful Life," Pastor Dave is visited by an angel and the two travel back in time to the last week of Jesus' life. Accompanied by inspirational and touching musical selections, the story of Easter is told in a creative and moving way that is sure to stir your thoughts and cause you to think that Jesus wore **your** crown of thorns and bore **your** cross so that we might be made free.

## Easter Flowers

*Doug Gaither, Worship Chair*

Once again this year, we will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning with a variety of brightly colored spring flowers: tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and lilies. Order forms will be in your weekly bulletins soon. The deadline for ordering will be Sunday, March 20. Please consider ordering a bunch (or more!) to honor or remember your loved ones on Easter morning.

### March Birthdays

|    |               |    |                |
|----|---------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Joe Laycock   | 18 | Sharon Johnson |
| 3  | Becky Norwood | 19 | Emma Lynagh    |
| 12 | Steve Allman  | 24 | Gary Rogers    |
| 15 | Chan Ketchum  | 28 | Jaime Crawford |
| 17 | Debbie Benson | 30 | Tammy Monarch  |
|    | Bill Duvall   |    |                |

# Hop on Over! Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt!

*Saturday  
March 19th  
2 PM*

Preschoolers & elementary  
school kids welcome

*Wesley Grove UMC  
Education Building  
23614 Woodfield Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882*





# Jesus Wore My Crown

A musical drama

**Wesley Grove  
Chancel Choir &  
Players**

Saturday March 19th 7:30 PM

Sunday March 20th 7:30 PM



**Wesley Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Annual Spring Dinner**

**Turkey & Fried Oyster  
Saturday, March 12 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Adults - \$18  
Children ages 5-12 - \$9  
Preschoolers eat free!**

**Bake Table &  
Carryout Meals Available**



**Wesley Grove United Methodist Church  
23640 Woodfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
[www.wesleygroveumc.org](http://www.wesleygroveumc.org) 301-253-2894**

# 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.



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# MARCH 2016

| Sunday   | Monday                                      | Tuesday                                   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |   | <b>1</b>                                  | <b>2</b><br>12:30 Daytime Circle<br>Brown Bag Lunch<br>7:00 PM Choir | <b>3</b><br>7:30 PM Lenten<br>Bible Study                             | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>8:30 AM Watkins<br>Road Cleanup<br>(meet at Education<br>Building)                               |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>(Communion)<br>6:00 PM Lenten Dinner<br>and Movie | <b>7</b><br>7:30 PM Finance<br>Committee    | <b>8</b>                                  | <b>9</b><br>6:00 PM Dinner Setup<br>7:00 PM Choir                    | <b>10</b><br>7:30 PM Lenten<br>Bible Study                            | <b>11</b><br>Turkey & Oyster<br>Dinner Prep TBD  | <b>12</b><br>1:00-5:00 PM<br>Turkey and Oyster<br>Dinner   |
| <b>13</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>NOON Coffee &<br>Conversation                    | <b>14</b><br>7:30 PM Admin<br>Council       | <b>15</b>                                 | <b>16</b><br>NOON Ladies Lunch<br>Out<br>7:00 PM Choir               | <b>17</b><br>7:30 PM Lenten<br>Bible Study                            | <b>18</b><br>NOON Newsletter<br>Deadline<br>7:30 PM Cantata<br>Dress Rehearsal             | <b>19</b><br>8:00 AM Men's Prayer<br>Breakfast<br>2:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt<br>7:30 PM Easter Musical<br>Drama |
| <b>20</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>7:30 PM Easter Musical<br>Drama                  | <b>21</b><br>7:30 PM SPRC Com-<br>mittee    | <b>22</b><br>7:00 PM Board of<br>Trustees | <b>23</b><br>7:00 PM Choir   | <b>24</b><br>7:30 PM Holy<br>Thursday Joint<br>Service @ Mt.<br>Tabor | <b>25</b><br>7:30 PM Good Friday<br>Service @ Damascus<br>Gazebo (weather per-<br>mitting) | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>27</b><br>6:30 AM Sunrise Ser-<br>vice (breakfast after)<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship   | <b>28</b><br>7:30 PM Finance Com-<br>mittee | <b>29</b>                                 | <b>30</b><br>7:00 PM Choir   | <b>31</b>   |  |  |



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](http://wesleygroveumc.org)

## Holy Week Services

### *Maundy Thursday*

March 24, 7:30 p.m.: Mt. Tabor UMC

### *Good Friday*

March 25, 7:30 p.m.: Damascus Gazebo  
(weather permitting) *or* Wesley Grove  
UMC

### *Sunrise Easter Service*

March 27, 6:30 a.m.: Wesley Grove UMC

*Please invite your family and friends  
to worship with us.*

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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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