

**Meditations For Your Week**  
**Sunday, August 20-Saturday, August 26**



**Sunday:** *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’” Genesis 17: 1-2.* When Abram thought that his work was done, God was not yet done with him. When we think we have given all we can, put in our time, or are too old, God still blesses and calls us.

**Monday:** *“Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, ‘Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?’” Genesis 17: 17.* Where is God doing miracles in your life, and you might dismiss even the possibility of the miracle?

**Tuesday:** *“The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.” Genesis 18:1-2.* God often uses others to show us God’s way. Who is the face of God in your life today?

**Wednesday:** *“Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time, I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” Genesis 18:14.* Prayerfully open your heart that God might do the seemingly impossible!

**Thursday:** *“Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’” Romans 4:18.* Hope is an expectation, a certainty of what will happen. Where is God inviting you to be certain of God’s promises, even when certainty seems ill advised?

**Friday:** *“He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.” Romans 4:19.* Many of us know aging and frail bodies. They do not limit God. Prayerfully ask God how God is using you today to show others God’s way.

**Saturday:** *“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore, his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’” Romans 4:20-22* Ask God for the gift of faith as you seek God’s promises.



**West Grove United Methodist Church**

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor  
300 North Guernsey Road  
West Grove, PA 19390

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
**August 20, 2017**

# 9:30 a.m. Blended Worship

## Prelude

### OPEN

## Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.*

*First-time guest or member? Let us know you were here!*

## \*Opening Song

“In The Secret”

PraiseWorks Band

## \*Call to Worship

One: We gather as God’s people hoping against hope.

**Many: God’s promise are dependable and true.**

One: We gather with concerns and praises.

**Many: Let us lift our prayers to God.**

## Gathered Prayer

Pastor Shirley

## The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Shirley

## Passing of the Peace

Pastor Shirley

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

### GROW

## Moment for All Ages

Joan Leaman

## Old Testament Lesson

*Genesis 17:1-6, 15-17, 19, 21; 18:1-15*

Judy Gambill

## New Testament Lesson

*Romans 4: 18-22*

Judy Gambill

## Response to the Lessons

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God,

**Many: Thanks be to God, Amen.**

(Children 4-10 years meet in room #9 for Children’s Worship. Parents, on this Sunday the children will join us for consecration outside.)

## Sermon

“Hope Against Hope”

Pastor Monica

# PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

**Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain?** Weekdays, please contact **Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.** After office hours and on weekends, please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863.** All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for **four Sundays.** If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, **please update your request with Donna.** Thank you.

**Community Prayer Focus August: Sunday School Program**  
**Mission Prayer Focus in August: Twin Pines**

Cory Beattie (Shaub)

Peter Bielawski

(Howard)

Fran Bryan

George Byrne (Yarbrough)

Anne Cantrell (Mullen)

Joann Coates

Theresa Cranmer (A. Boyd)

Dee Crawford

Nina Dickinson (B. Ranieri)

Fred Disk (Stryjewski)

Tom Fagan

Laura Featherston

Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)

Family of Jerry Frost (Frost)

Jim Hunt (Kr. Boyd)

Muff & Don Hurst

Peg Kent

Susan Lacy (Mullen)

Russell Ludwick (Ramberger)



Rosemary MacCoun

Dave McClain

Donna Meyer (A. Boyd)

Lynn Morgan (McClain)

Peggy Mowrer

Tim Mullen

Lola Nadolny (Hruz)

Nancy Pearo (Heist)

Rick Renzulli (McGinley)

Roann Schneider

Pat Smart (A. Boyd)

Rick Spencer (K. Smith)

Stephen Spitko (Howard)

Jeannie Sullivan

Lorrie Steele

Maureen Stickel (Fackler)

Eric Stover (Kreutzfeldt)

Pat Testerman (Kr. Boyd)

Danny Tideman (Hughes)

Zach Trexler (Lytle)



Daniel Engberg—Iraq (Hruz)

Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)

Brian Kubo - Qatar (Mullen)

LTC Eric Maxwell,

Chesapeake, VA

(The Rambergers)

Jimmy Strawhecker - NJ

(Lynne Strawhecker)

Chris Weidman - Japan (Miller)

Ed Tolmie

## SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

**Ushers—9:30**

**This Sunday, August 20th**

**OPEN**

**Greeters—9:30**

**OPEN**

**Acolyte—9:30**

Alisabeth Guepet

**Nursery—9:30**

Amy Castaldi

**C. Worship—9:30**

Kristin Boyd

**Lay Reader—9:30**

Judy Gambill

**Moment All Ages**

Joan Leaman

**Prayer Room**

Pastor Shirley

**Hospitality—9:30**

The Chalmers

**Counters**

The Stuhrkes

**Soundbooth**

Keith Schneider & various

**Next Sunday, August 27th**

**OPEN**

The Simonds

Wesley Boyd

Joan Leaman

**OPEN**

Mark Simonds

Eileen Bushnell

Pam Howard

Linda Peirson

Bowers/Beauchamp

Keith Schneider & various

**THIS WEEK: August 20 through August 27, 2017**

~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~~

*Pastor Jim Mundell is on vacation from 8/14/17 until 9/16/17*

**Sunday: ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. PraiseWorks Rehearsal  
 9:30 a.m. Blended Summer Worship  
*Coffee Fellowship today, Sunday, August 20th is hosted by the Youth Ministry Team.*

**Monday:** 9:30: a.m.-11:30 a.m. Knit Wits (#1)  
 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. SOS Ladies (#5)

**Tuesday:** **9:30 a.m. Prayer Walk for the Schools (AG High School)**  
 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Bi Monthly Staff Mtg. (#1)  
 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Prayer Bead Garden Mtg. (#2)

**Wednesday:** 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)  
**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Wednesday Food & Fun Night (Outside, Kitchen)**  
**Last WFFN night, so please join us!**

**Thursday:** 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #12 (#8, 10, 9, 11, 12, 13)

**Friday: No Scheduled Activities**

**Saturday:** 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Technology Team Mtg. (#1)  
 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections Group (#8 & 10)

**Sunday: TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Blessing of the BackPacks and Teachers Sunday**  
**Baptism Sunday ~ Max Huerra**  
 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. PraiseWorks Rehearsal  
 9:30 a.m. Blended Summer Worship  
*Pastor Shirley has a quarterly Sunday off*

**God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship**  
**Report August 13, 2017**

**General Offering: \$9,471.00**  
**Building Maintenance Fund: \$817.00**  
**Blended Worship Attendance: 121**  
**Emergency Groceries YTD: 98 bags**  
**Anniversary Giving YTD: \$7,032.95**  
**Prayer Bead Garden Donations: \$50.00**  
**Total amount received: \$3,776.00**  
**Goal-\$10,000**

*It is your tithes, offerings, and gifts that impact  
 and change lives for Christ!*

**SERVE**

**Offering** "Nothing Is Impossible" PraiseWorks Band

**\*Offertory Response** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH, No. 95  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise him, all creatures here below;**  
**Praise him above, ye heavenly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

**\*Offertory Prayer (Unison)** Pastor Shirley  
**Generous and Faithful God,**  
**we give you thanks for the ways in which you have provided for us**  
**and the ways in which you are still providing for us, even now.**  
**Let us follow your call and depend on your promises.**  
**Bless these tithes and offerings.**  
**Let these gifts be used to serve others and teach your promises.**  
**In the name of the God of Providence, we pray, Amen.**

**Processional Outside for Consecrating of Prayer Bead Garden**

**Song of Procession** "In the Garden" UMH 314  
 See Page 5

**Words of Introduction**

**Litany for Prayer Bead Garden** See Page 6

**Consecration Prayer** Pastor Monica

**Breaking of Ground**

**Song of Blessing** "Spirit Song" UMH 347  
 See Page 7

**Benediction**

*\* = Please stand as you are able* **Bold Print = Say in unison**



*Altar Flowers*

The flowers gracing our altar space today are  
 In celebration of Mason Hendrickson's 3rd  
 Birthday by Mimi, Mommy, Daddy, and Erik.



## Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 17: 1-6, 15-17, 19, 21; 18:1-15

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'

God said, 'No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.'

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

## New Testament Lesson: Romans 4: 18-22

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks



## Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 27th

**Attention Students and Teachers!**

Bring your backpacks and school bags to worship for a special time of blessing at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, August 27. A small token of our love will be given to each teacher and child.



## Children's Morning Out Preschool Blessing of the Classrooms Tuesday, August 29

Please join us as we pray for each classroom, teacher, assistant and all staff of our Children's Morning Out Preschool on August 29. We will meet in the church lobby at 9:30 a.m. Anyone can attend and pray for this wonderful group of dedicated educators who share the word of God with our little ones.



## A PRAYER WALK FOR OUR SCHOOLS

**Penn London Elementary School  
Avon Grove Intermediate School  
Fred S. Engle Middle School  
Avon Grove High School  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School  
Avon Grove Charter School  
Nazarene Academy**

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017**

We will meet at in the lobby of Avon Grove High School at 9:30 AM to receive ID tag & to choose a school.

**Bring your children to pray for their schools.  
FOR INFORMATION, Call Pastor Monica or the  
West Grove United Methodist Church office**



## OPEN ~ GROW ~ SERVE

*At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.*

Welcome to this gathering of God's people worshipping and praising God! May we continue to be moved by the Spirit to live as the body of Christ. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

***Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.***

**OPEN MARKET SEPTEMBER 23RD:** To help make our Open Market a success, we are in need of a few more food trucks and your help in spreading the word is appreciated! We are looking forward to BBQ, tacos, ice cream from the Boy Scouts, and popcorn from our church. Also, if you or someone you know would like to rent a space this year, they are 20'x20' for \$20! Pop-up tents for our vendors are also needed. Please contact Darlene Murphy at [d123murphy@aol.com](mailto:d123murphy@aol.com). Mark your calendars to join us for good food and great artisans!

**PRAYER WARRIORS:** If you would like to join our prayer chain, please see Pastor Shirley for more information.

**PRAYER CHAIN NOTICE:** It is our privilege to be in prayer. If you would like your prayer request to be on the prayer chain, please share your prayer requests with the church office, Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, and on the weekends to Sara Ann Ramberger. We will send it out to the prayer chain. This allows us to make sure we have the most current list of prayers joining us in prayer. Please do not use a previous email to send it out yourself. Thank you for helping us as we pray together for our joys and concerns.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is available after each service on Sunday to pray with a member of the Prayer Ministry Team or offer your own prayer for those in need.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN through August 23rd.** It is a casual evening for people to come for food, short devotion, fun, and fellowship. We provide the beverages and the hot dogs. Folks are invited to bring sides, desserts, and other items as they are able. Games are available for children and adults. Rain or Shine! Join us one week or every week!

**PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH-SEPTEMBER 30TH,** Hopewell United Methodist Church, Downingtown, PA. **Registration is now open!** For more information go to <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds>.

**PRAYER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS** As we asking members of our congregation to choose students going off to school to be in prayer for, please let us know if there are students who are not mentioned who we can be in prayer for. Please provide an address to the office for contacts of encouragement for those students. Let us all be in prayer for our students going to college, university, and technical school.

## In The Garden Hymn 314

I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.

*Refrain:*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

*Refrain*

I'd stay in the garden with Him,  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling.

*Refrain*

**FAITH LEARNING ACADEMY**  
~ SAVE THE DATE!! ~  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**



Plan on joining us on September 10th  
as we kick off our Sunday School experiences  
for adults and children.  
More details on offerings for adults to follow.  
Can't wait to see you then!

## ***Litany for Prayer Bead Garden***

Pastor: God, our Creator, at the dawn of creation, you create in a garden and walk with your children in a garden.

**All: Be present with all who walk in the garden, and open their eyes to the beauty of creation. Let them revel in your creation.**

Pastor: Jesus, our companion, on many occasions, you withdrew to a garden for refreshment and reflection.

**All: Be present with all who come to this place and meet them here. Let them have reflection and refreshment in the prayer bead garden.**

Pastor: Jesus, our Redeemer, you suffered in a garden and submitted to God's will amidst suffering and anguish.

**All: Be present with all who come in sorrow and pain to this place. Let them know the grace of your redeeming love.**

Pastor: Jesus, our Savior, after your death, you were laid out in a garden tomb, and in the garden, you first revealed your resurrected self.

**All: Be present with all who come looking and feel lost. Let them be awoken to your resurrection power.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, of power and truth, you inspire, convict, and empower all who seek your way.

**All: Be present with all looking for direction and strength. Let them be vessels for God's incredible transformation.**

**PRAYER BEAD GARDEN:** As we break ground this morning on the prayer bead garden, we will be beginning the first phase of our construction. Please consider how you might support this ministry of prayer, impacting generations for our community. Donations and prayers are the ways in which this vision becomes reality. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to make a contribution.

## ***Spirit Song Hymn 347***

O let the Son of God enfold you  
Within his Spirit and love.  
Let him fill you and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you,  
And his Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Refrain:*

*Jesus, O Jesus,  
Come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus,  
Come and fill your lambs.*

O come and sing this song with gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy.  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.  
O give him all your tears and sadness;  
Give him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

*Refrain*



### **SAFE SANCTUARIES**

As many of you know, our conference has developed a policy called "Safe Sanctuaries", in an effort to keep children, youth and vulnerable adults who participate in programs in our church, safe. Volunteers who work within these programs are required to have background checks every three years. These include a Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearance. With Sunday School and many other programs beginning after a summer break, please take time to check if your clearances are up-to-date. Look for more information in the September newsletter. If you have any questions, see (Fran Miller), or email her at [jmille8698@verizon.net](mailto:jmille8698@verizon.net) or call [610-869-8935](tel:610-869-8935).