



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.
First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here!*

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Tom Hoover

One: The days are short, and time feels stretched.

Many: Preparations are underway and the day is approaching.

One: What are we preparing for? What day is drawing near?

Many: We await the coming of the Christ.

One: May Christ come as a babe in the manger who draws us in.

**Many: May Christ come among us to change our lives and our world,
bringing the miracle of God's kingdom.**

*Proclamation Hymn

"Come All Ye Faithful"

Hymnal No. 234

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Tom Hoover

Lord of Love and Light,

shine through our darkness, bringing us hope.

Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light,

our spirits for the peace which you bring.

Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy

that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us.

We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world

bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*Passing of the peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

LISTENING AND RECEIVING

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Guepet Family

Advent Wreath Litany

See Page 7

Advent Song "Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

TFWS No. 2090, Vs. 3

Moments for All Ages

Eileen Bushnell

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 63:7-9

Tom Hoover

***Response to the Lessons**

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

“Song of Mary”

Chancel Choir

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #9 for Children’s Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #9.

Sermon

Have You Known a Miracle?

Pastor

Monica

RESPONDING

Hymn of Response

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Hymnal No. 203

Offering

***Offertory Response**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymnal, No. 221, Vs. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

Gathered Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal No. 895

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Hymnal No. 220

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

“Christmas Peace”

Chancel Choir

***Postlude**

** = 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 Robert Hendrickson’s Baptism
With love from his family
and

In Celebration of Karen Underwood’s Birthday, With love from Linda Shiplet

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 1:46-55*

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship

Report for December 7, 2014

General Fund: Offering: \$7,505.⁰⁰ Offerings Received YTD: \$307,956.⁰⁹

Offerings Estimated to meet Budget YTD: \$335,454 (-\$27,498)

Building Maintenance Fund: Offering: \$60.⁰⁰ Year-to-Date: \$10,403.⁹⁷

Worship Attendance: 8:30-108 11:00-88 Total: 196 Sunday School: 49

Emergency Food Bags distributed year-to-date: 72

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.

We gladly welcome all worshipers on this third Sunday of Advent. May we all prepare for the joyous celebration of the coming of our Lord, Jesus the Christ. We invite you to inquire about our church's activities and ministries. 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.

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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.***

**GIVING ENVELOPES:** The process of assigning and distributing numbered giving envelopes for 2015 is underway. If you **use** your giving envelopes regularly, you will be issued another packet for 2015. If you did not have envelopes in 2014 and **need envelopes** for 2015, or if you **don't use** envelopes and just would like to be assigned a giving number for your checks or online payments, please notify Sara Ann Ramberger, Financial Secretary **ASAP**. If you are interested in **Online Giving**, pamphlets can be found in the literature rack in the lobby, or you can contact Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE. PLEASE BE SURE TO SUBMIT ALL YOUR INFORMATION BY NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 FOR PUBLICATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21. THANK YOU!**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE:** There are gift tags for families and individuals in need on the Giving Tree in the lobby. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season.

**MOVIE-ING THROUGH ADVENT Last Call!: WEDNESDAY, 6-8 P.M. Join us for Potluck dinner and the full movie** that the upcoming Sunday's sermon will be based on. If you are able, you are invited to bring a dish to share. If you can't, no worries, come anyway! It is a potluck and there is always plenty to be shared! A short meditation will follow the movie. Join us as we prepare for Christ's birth and second coming with movies! **December 17<sup>th</sup> – It's a Wonderful Life!** Invite your friends and neighbors!

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The 11:00 Worship Service is experiencing a shortage of nursery workers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Castaldi at 484-371-8121 or email her at [ahass17@hotmail.com](mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com).

**CALLING ALL YOUTH! Come out on Friday, December 19 from 7-9 p.m. for some Dodgeball, Pizza and fun! Bring your friends (and \$2 each for pizza)!**

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Updated directories are available in the lobby just in time for your holiday cards! You can find copies in the literature rack or in the basket on the counter.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Black ladies jacket. On the coat rack in the Admin. Wing.

# Meditations For Your Week



*December 7—December 14*

**Sunday:** “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;’ (Mark 1:1-2). In the Greek, angelos – angel translates to messenger. An angel who is one who brings the message of God. Listen today for angels in our midst, bringing God’s message.

**Monday:** “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” (Mark 1: 3). We do not often like hearing the voice of the prophets. They challenge us and tear us away from our comfortable routines and paths. Listen closely to the prophets who are in your life, even if they are uncomfortable.

**Tuesday:** “[John the Baptist] proclaimed, The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals,” (Mark 1:7). Jesus’ coming was foretold and has been foretold. The coming of God’s kingdom, the revealing of God’s ways is being announced all around us. How is God speaking in your life to prepare for Christ’s coming?

**Wednesday:** “I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8). Jesus was in a long line of prophets calling us to turn back to God. Prayerfully consider the gift of the Holy Spirit as you turn back to God. Ask God to bless you with the Spirit’s gifts.

**Thursday:** “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term” (Isaiah 40:2a). Each of us needs God’s tenderness in the midst of our own pain. We also need the tenderness of others. How are you offering God’s tenderness to someone in pain today?

**Friday:** “Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain” (Isaiah 40:4). The promise of Advent is the coming of Christ, not merely as sweet infant who coos, but as an adult who changes the world. How are you expecting God’s way to change the world you know?

**Saturday:** “[God] will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.” (Isaiah 40:11). God does not leave us orphaned or alone. God cares for us tenderly and compassionately as a shepherd cares for sheep. How has God cared for you?

## *Advent Wreath Litany*



Leader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.**

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

### **Advent Song**

"Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)"

TFWS No. 2090,

Vs. 3



## Blue Christmas

**Sunday, December 21,**

**7:00 p.m.**

Perhaps, as you prepare for Christmas, this season has not felt as joyful for you as it does for others. Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, and physical, emotional, spiritual pain. As stated by Nancy Townely, "On this night , we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; they are experiencing depression and sadness and yet are compelled to 'put on a happy face' for others, denying their true feelings."

The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls. It is an offering of hope, as we decorate a bare branch with shiny blue ornaments. As one after another of the ornaments decorate the barren branch it becomes a glowing, living testament to the resilience of the spirit. Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.



Worship With Us  
*Christmas Eve*



**Sunday, December 7th – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30pm**

**Saturday, December 20th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00pm**

**Sunday, December 21st – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve**

**12:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service**

**6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service**

**8:30 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service**

**10:30 pm Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service  
with Holy Communion**



Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. Each plant will be in a 6 1/2" pot and **the cost is \$6.50 each.**

## POINSETTIAS



The order form below enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 14** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be **listed in the Sunday, December 21 bulletin**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers during the week after Christmas or Sunday, December 28. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

### Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

(Please make checks payable to WGUMC with memo for "Poinsettias")

**Check One:**  In Honor of:  In Memory of:  In Celebration of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THIS WEEK: December 14 through December 21, 2014**

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

**Sunday:**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Baptism Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with PraiseWorks Band  
9:45 a.m. J.A.M. and Christian Education classes  
10:45 a.m. Children's Choir rehearsal (#6)  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir  
**TBA Youth Christmas Party at the Lindtner's home.**

**Monday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6)  
9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Knit Wits (#1)  
6:00 p.m.- 7:15 p.m. Daisy Troop 4383 (#9)  
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.)  
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. S.O.S. Ladies (#8, 10)

**Tuesday:**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6, Sanc.) Happy Birthday  
Jesus Celebration**  
**1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Advent Bible Study at Jenner's Pond**  
4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Brownie Troop 447 (#8, 10)  
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 41377 (#8, 10)  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Yoga-Sanc.

**Wednesday:**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (#3, 4, 5, 6, Sanc.) Happy Birthday  
Jesus Celebration**  
**9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Advent Dreams Bible Study (#8, 10)**  
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)  
**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Movie-ing Through Advent (Kit., Sanc.)**  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Brownie Troop 453(#9)  
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Venture Crew Meeting (#12)

**Thursday:**

6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. Daisy Troop 4567 (#9)  
6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (#6)  
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 12 (#8, 10)  
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. PraiseWorks Rehearsal

**Friday:**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Youth Dodgeball (Sanctuary)**

**Saturday:**

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. LIVE NATIVITY**  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections (#8, 10)

**Sunday:**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Children's Choir Sings**

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with PraiseWorks Band  
9:45 a.m. J.A.M. and Christian Education classes  
10:45 a.m. Children's Choir rehearsal (#6)  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir with Memory Bells

# 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 in December: West Grove and Avondale Fire Companies**  
**Mission Prayer Focus in December: Community Cafe**

Marianne Aquino  
 Kory Arnold  
 Michael Basilio  
 (Covington)  
 Cory Beattie (Shaub)  
 Family of Olive Brinton  
 Maura Carroll (Bates)  
 Laura Deckman (Paisley)  
 Joe Devereaux (Keystone)  
 Leslie Dunn (Boyd)  
 Olivia Eason  
 Family of Judy Elvin (Bryan)  
 Family of Steve Engle  
 (Ramberger)  
 Lil and Bill Fili (Bratton)  
 Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)  
 Family of Charles Fisher  
 Richard Heacock  
 Matt Helm (Laird)  
 Tonya Howell (Boyd)  
 Nancy Jessup (Gambill)  
 Deborah Kennedy (Coates)  
 Claire Krantz (Russell)  
 Kim Kurz (Ramberger)  
 Bill Lilley  
 Neva Luttmann (Miller)



John McGinley  
 Family of Phil Miller  
 (Ramberger)  
 Lynn Morgan (McClain)  
 Edel Mullen  
 Tim Mullen  
 Liz Powell (Schrader)  
 Tammy Ramberger  
 Lisa Reoli  
 Family of Tom Rosazza  
 (Ramberger)  
 Dot Russell  
 Richard Saller  
 Roann Schneider  
 Elli Streibel (Mullen)  
 Heidi Streibel (Mullen)  
 Jeannie Sullivan  
 Fernando Tena  
 Jonathan Tena  
 Dorothy Tolmie (Tolmie)  
 Zach Trexler (Lytle)  
 Joseph White (Tolmie)  
 Megan Wittman (Lytle)



Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)  
 Allan Frost - Guam (Frost)  
 Brian Kubo - Qatar (Edel Mullen)  
 LTC Eric Maxwell, U.S. Embassy,  
 Mexico City (The Rambergers)  
 Tom Peirson & Troop - Afghanistan  
 (Simonds)  
 Dave Springer - Fort Bragg, NC  
 Jimmy Strawhecker - Glen Burnie, MD  
 (Lynne Strawhecker)  
 Chris Weidman - Nellis Air Force  
 Base,  
 Las Vegas, NV (Fran Miller)

## SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

**Ushers—8:30**  
**Ushers—11**  
**Greeters—8:30**  
**Greeters—11**  
**Acolyte 8:30/11**  
**Nursery 8:30/9:45/11**  
**C. Worship—8:30/11**  
**S. S. Roamers**  
**Lay Reader—8:30**  
**Liturgist—11:00**  
**Moment All Ages**  
**Hospitality 8:30/11**  
**Counters**  
**Sound Booth**

**This Sunday, December 14**  
 Tim and Eileen Bushnell  
 Ralph Curtiss and Scott Steele  
**TBA**  
 Maryanne & Lianne Covington  
 Cecelia Figueroa / Joseph Yarbrough  
 J. Lindtner / K. Smith / E. Mullen  
 Jessi Timm / Joan Leaman  
 Joan Leaman  
 Mike Chalmers  
 Tom Hoover  
 Eileen Bushnell  
 Beth Arnold / Don Hurst  
 Sara Ann & Vernon Ramberger  
 Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

**Next Sunday, December 21**  
 Tim and Eileen Bushnell  
 Ralph Curtiss and Scott Steele  
**TBA**  
 Maryanne & Lianne Covington  
 Jonathan Lestourgeon / Sydney Curtis  
 H. McCummings/A. Castaldi/K. Boyd  
 Amy Castaldi / Kim Weingarten  
 Amy Castaldi  
 Ken Arnold  
 Janis Schrader  
 Pastor Monica  
 Mike & Denise Byers/Scott Steele  
 Dave Talley and Beth Arnold  
 Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

# **Third Sunday of Advent**

## **8:30 Contemporary Worship Service**

### **Opening Song**

“Better Is One Day”

### **Welcome and Ministry Opportunities and Opening Prayer**

Pastor Monica

*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.  
First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here!*

### **Celebration Set**

“You Are the One”

“Mary Did You Know?”

### **Passing of the Peace**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

The Simonds Family

### **Advent Wreath Litany**

See Page 7

### **Advent Song**

“Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)” TFWS No. 2090, Vs. 3

### **Moment For All Ages**

Eileen Bushnell

### **Scripture**

*Isaiah 63:7-9 and \* Luke 1:46-55*

Mike Chalmers

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #9 for Children’s Worship. At 9:30, the children staying for JAM will be taken to the youth room (#8 & 10) and those who are not staying will be brought back to the Sanctuary.

### **Sermon**

“Have You Known a Miracle?”

Pastor Monica

### **Offering**

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord”

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

*Mason Robert Hendrickson*

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” No. 611, Vss. 1,3

### **Prayers of the People**

The Lord’s Prayer

### **Closing Song**

“Glory To God Forever”

### **Benediction**