



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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

THE GOSPEL

LUKE

2:22-40



**The Presentation
of the Lord**

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2014

First Sunday after Christmas 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) (based on litany by Maren C. Tirabassi) Bill Jones

One: People repeat that Christmas is for children.

Many: Christmas is for people of all ages and experiences.

One: Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, and Zechariah, the priest, received new birth breaking all their familiar patterns.

Many: Simeon, the singer, and Anna, the prophet, hoped for years to see the Messiah and saw God in a poor couple's baby.

One: How then shall we respond to Christ's promised coming?

Many: With flexibility for change, patience in long waiting, silence and singing, and by recognizing Christ in the most unlikely brothers and sisters.

*Processional Hymn "Angels From the Realm of Glory" Hymnal No. 220

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Bill Jones

**Lord of mercy and joy,
You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus
who will make known your presence,
forgiveness, and love to each one of us.
Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds
open to receive your love and peace.
Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope
as we encounter others.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

*Passing of the peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

LISTENING AND RECEIVING

Moments for All Ages

Karen Hruz

Old Testament Lesson	<i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i>	Bill Jones
*Gospel Lesson	<i>Luke 2:22-40</i>	Bill Jones
*Response to the Lessons		
One:	This is the word of God for the people of God.	
Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.		
Anthem	“Sound of the Round”	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	<i>Blessed to See Jesus</i>	Pastor Monica

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”	Hymnal No. 224
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		Rev. Jim Mundell
The Lord’s Prayer		Hymnal No. 895
*Hymn of Sending Forth	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	Hymnal No. 238
*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 Memory of
 Anna Herb
 With love from her daughter, Linda Shiplet

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-11; 62:1-3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 2:22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. They had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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.

Merry Christmas! Yes — the Christmas season continues, and we welcome you to worship at this festive time of year. God bless us as we join in praise and contemplation. 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.

**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. **Our Picture Directories** have been proofed and are currently at the printer. We will notify you when they are available.

**LOST AND FOUND:** 1) Black ladies jacket. On the coat rack in the Admin. Wing. 2) Cell phone lost in parking lot on 12/15.

**J.U.L.I.E.T....Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together.** Start the New Year out right and join us for breakfast on Saturday, January 10, 2015! There's no agenda, just a bunch of ladies (all ages, too!) having fun on winter's morning. **We meet at Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348** They have free parking in the parking garage on Saturdays. Questions? Call Margee Michaels or Chris Curtiss.

**HEART TO HEART VIII LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET:** We are preparing our ninth booklet of devotions to be handed out on Ash Wednesday. It will contain faith stories from individuals in our congregation. **WE NEED YOUR STORY!** Everyone has a story to tell of how God has worked in their life and we would like you to share yours. It can be an answered prayer, a lesson learned, or how you live out your faith in your daily life. Children can submit drawings or short messages too! **Your story of faith will be an encouragement to someone!** Simply write your story in 50 to 400 words. Include your name.. Include a scriptural reference if you like. Include a prayer if you like. **TURN IN DEVOTIONS BY JANUARY 31** to: **Cindy Haley at [chaley@zoominternet.net](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net) or**

**Donna Fackler at [donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org](mailto:donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org)**

**THIS WEEK: December 28 through January 4, 2014**

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

**Sunday:**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

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

**Monday:**

9:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Knit Wits (#1)  
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:**

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Brownie Troop 498 (#14)

**Wednesday:**

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)

**Thursday:**

**Happy New Year!**  
*Church office is closed*

**Friday:**

*No activities*

**Saturday:**

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections (#8, 10)

**Sunday:**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**Holy Communion and Emergency Food Shelf**

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with PraiseWorks Band  
9:45 a.m. J.A.M. and Christian Education classes  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir

*The Church's Emergency Food shelf has been depleted by those in need in our community. Items needed are peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, toothpaste, canned soups, canned meats, cookies, canned pasta dinners, instant potatoes, rice, tuna fish, crackers, canned fruit, applesauce cups, dish detergent, laundry detergent. These are just suggestions. If you think of something else that a family would enjoy, please feel free to donate it. Blessings.*

**God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship**

**Report for December 21, 2014**

**General Fund: Offering: \$7,214.<sup>73</sup> Offerings Received YTD: \$320,997.<sup>82</sup>**

**Offerings Estimated to meet Budget YTD: \$349,146 (-\$28,148)**

**Building Maintenance Fund: Offering: \$155.<sup>00</sup> Year-to-Date: \$10,748.<sup>97</sup>**

**Worship Attendance: 8:30-106 11:00-131 Total: 237 Sunday School: 64**

**Emergency Food Bags distributed year-to-date: 88**

# 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  
 Family of Michael Basilio (Covington)  
 Cory Beattie (Shaub)



Fran Bryan  
 Maura Carroll (Bates)  
 Laura Deckman (Paisley)  
 Leslie Dunn (Boyd)  
 Olivia Eason  
 Family of Steve Engle (Ramberger)  
 Lil and Bill Fili (Bratton)  
 Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)  
 Richard Heacock  
 Matt Helm (Laird)  
 Tonya Howell (Boyd)  
 Nancy Jessup (Gambill)  
 Deborah Kennedy (Coates)  
 Claire Krantz (Russell)  
 Kim Kurz (Ramberger)  
 Amy Lengel & family (May)  
 Bill Lilley  
 Neva Luttman (Miller)

Lynn Morgan (McClain)  
 Edel Mullen  
 Tim Mullen  
 Vivian Paisley  
 Liz Powell (Schrader)

Tammy Ramberger  
 The Raimato Family (Tolmie)  
 Lisa Reoli  
 Family of Tom Rosazza (Ramberger)  
 Dot Russell  
 Richard Saller  
 Roann Schneider  
 Family of Willard Stem (Howard)  
 Elli 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 21**

Tim and Eileen Bushnell  
 Ralph Curtiss and Scott Steele  
 Jeff and Carol Stewart  
 Maryanne & Lianne Covington  
 Joshua Robinson / Alisabeth Guepet  
 C. Bruno/R. Catoia/J. Leaman  
 OPEN  
 OPEN  
 Cindy Haley  
 Bill Jones  
 Karen Hruz  
 Rain Catoia / Scott Steele  
 The Rambergers  
 Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

### **Next Sunday, January 4**

TBA  
 TBA  
 TBA  
 TBA  
 Wesley Boyd / Matthew Rinehimer  
 M. Rubincan/A. Castaldi/J. Williamson  
 Jessi Timm / OPEN  
 Fran Miller  
 Judy Gambill  
 Sandy Deckard  
 Karen Hruz  
 Rain Catoia / The Kreutzfeldts  
 Vernon and Sara Ann Ramberger  
 Joe Dea/B. Ditzel/K. Schneider

# **First Sunday after Christmas 8:30 Contemporary Worship Service**

## **Opening Song**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

## **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**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

“Word of God Speak”

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **Moment For All Ages**

Karen Hruz

## **Scripture**

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

*Luke 2:22-40*

Cindy Haley

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**

“Blessed to See Jesus”

Pastor Monica

## **Offering**

“Jesus, I Believe You”

## **Prayers of the People**

The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Jim

## **Closing Song**

“Our King Has Come”

## **Benediction**

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