



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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December 2016



*“Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”
O Little Town of Bethlehem, verse 1 written by Phillip Brooks*

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5

December is a month of traditions. Some of us will remember caroling and cookies. Other will recall decorating and Christmas movies. Many will think of gathering with family and friends. Traditions we love and traditions that we long for.

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is Christmas music. Listening to music, contemplating the meaning, and singing along. With so many Advent and Christmas carols and songs, we might be hard pressed to choose our favorite. While I absolutely love the song “I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas”, my favorite carol is probably “O Little, Town of Bethlehem.” I wonder if you are familiar with the origin of the carol. Rev. Phillip Brooks, pastor of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, took a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands in 1865. Upon returning, he was moved to write this hymn for the Sunday School children in his church. The hymn was well loved and increased the attendance of the Sunday School program significantly, by one account from 36 to 1000! (1)

The hymn has had a life beyond the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia. It imparted great hope in December 1941 with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. It was only 15 days earlier Pearl Harbor had been attacked and any illusions of peace, isolationism and security with it. Churchill heard the hymn for the first time in the local Methodist church for Christmas morning service with Roosevelt on and found solace and resolve for the work ahead of them. Imagine which “hopes and fears” that they had on their minds that Christmas morning.

This hymn captured multiple truths that I find myself reflecting on each and every Advent and Christmas season. For each of us, the hopes and fears of all the years are brought with us in this holiday season. As we await the birth of Christ, we remember the joy of birth of our children, nieces, and nephews as well as recall the fear of losses and death. As we seek to bring presents to the Christ child, we bring exuberance of our gift giving and the fear of our money that does not stretch as far as we need it to go. As we sing joy to the Lord, we bring our hopes and fears.

My prayer for you this Advent and Christmas season is that you will find the same peace that the people of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, and many others have found through God’s word spoken in song. May the Word of God touch your heart, inspire your life, and become a part of your traditions of Christmas.

In God’s Love,

Pastor Monica

1. <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-o-little-town-of-bethlehem>



December Worship at West Grove UMC



Please join us in our worship service to be blessed by the Word of God.

Advent: Christmas through Luke's Carols and Ours

Music is a language of hope and faith, theology and scripture. Let us look at the carols in the Gospel of Luke, and some of our favorites to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Second Sunday in Advent—December 4

Communion Sunday

Emergency Food Shelf Sunday

Scripture: Luke 1: 26- 38 , Isaiah 11: 1-10

Sermon: "Christmas Play List"

Carol Focus: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Third Sunday in Advent—December 11

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55, Isaiah 35: 1-10

Sermon: "Piles of Prophets and Presents "

Carol Focus: *It came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Fourth Sunday in Advent—December 18

Scripture: Luke 1:67-79, Psalm 146: 5-10

Sermon: "Decorations to Remind"

Carol Focus: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 p.m.

Scripture: Luke 1: 76-79

Sermon: "Silent Christmas Letters"

Carol Focus: *Silent Night*

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

12:00 Wiggly Giggly Service

6:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with

Pick up Pageant and Memory Bells

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

at Jenner's Pond

8:30 Contemporary Candlelight Service

11:00 Traditional Candlelight Service with

Holy Communion

Sermon:

"Ugly Sweaters, Songs, and Salvation"

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20, Isaiah 9: 2-7

Carol Focus: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Christmas Day— December 25

One Service at 9:30 am

Sermon: "Manger and Menagerie "

Scripture: Luke 2: 15-20, Isaiah 52:7-10

Carol Focus: *Friendly Beast*



We Need YOU!

Our Soundbooth is a vital part of our Sunday morning worship. They run visuals from the computer and balance audio from the Soundboard. Please let us know how you can serve in one of these ways. Contact the church office for more information!



Gluten Free Communion

Our Communion

bread is now gluten free, so that all can receive from the same loaf. In our church, we have at least 10% of the congregation who have Celiac's disease or gluten intolerance or sensitivity. This radical hospitality allows us to live our theology that ALL are welcome at the Communion table.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by YOU, The Congregation

On Sunday, December 18

after both services

Please bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share at our fellowship time!



Due to the increase in food allergies among the general population, as well as our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if there are nuts in them (including coconuts). Thank you.



Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

As we prepare for Christmas, some of us might not feel the joy of the season.

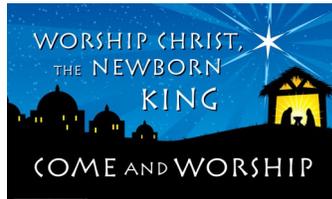
Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, divorce, separation, or physical, emotional, spiritual pain.

Perhaps, the news that fills our media weighs heavily on your shoulders.

Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts is welcome join us for our Blue Christmas service.

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.

Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.



Sunday, December 4th – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21st – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

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

6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service with Pickup Pagaent and Memory Bells

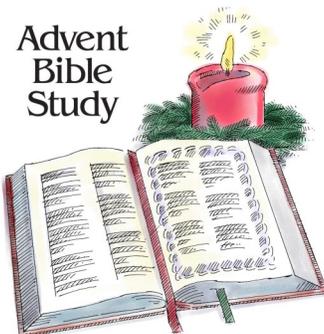
7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day Blended Service at 9:30 a.m.

Advent
Bible
Study



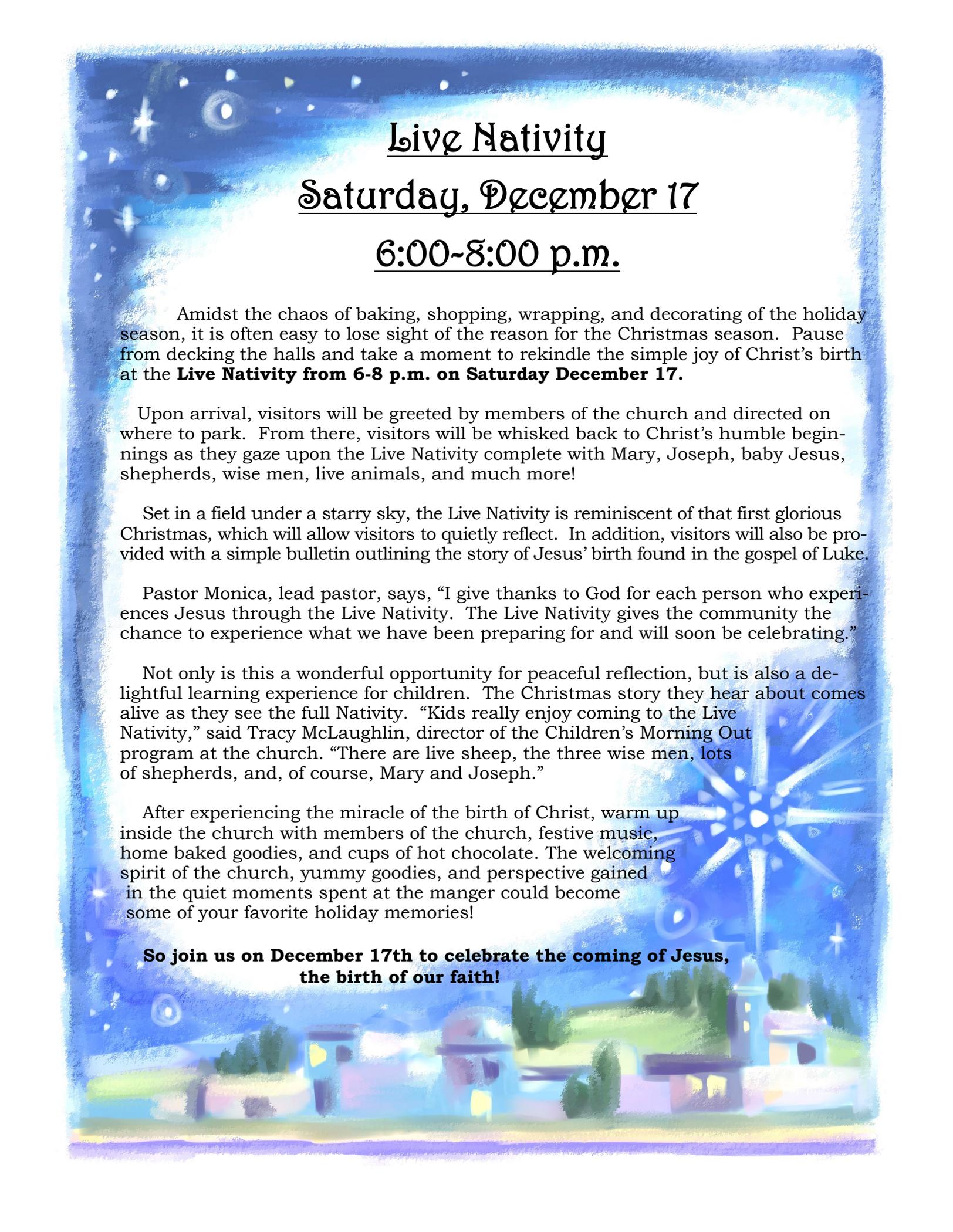
ADVENT BIBLE STUDY AT

Jenner's Pond

Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a Bible study that will include the background and birth of Jesus.

Jenner's Pond Bible Study, Fridays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00 – 11:15 A.M. Alison Theater



Live Nativity
Saturday, December 17
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Amidst the chaos of baking, shopping, wrapping, and decorating of the holiday season, it is often easy to lose sight of the reason for the Christmas season. Pause from decking the halls and take a moment to rekindle the simple joy of Christ's birth at the **Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday December 17.**

Upon arrival, visitors will be greeted by members of the church and directed on where to park. From there, visitors will be whisked back to Christ's humble beginnings as they gaze upon the Live Nativity complete with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, live animals, and much more!

Set in a field under a starry sky, the Live Nativity is reminiscent of that first glorious Christmas, which will allow visitors to quietly reflect. In addition, visitors will also be provided with a simple bulletin outlining the story of Jesus' birth found in the gospel of Luke.

Pastor Monica, lead pastor, says, "I give thanks to God for each person who experiences Jesus through the Live Nativity. The Live Nativity gives the community the chance to experience what we have been preparing for and will soon be celebrating."

Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for peaceful reflection, but is also a delightful learning experience for children. The Christmas story they hear about comes alive as they see the full Nativity. "Kids really enjoy coming to the Live Nativity," said Tracy McLaughlin, director of the Children's Morning Out program at the church. "There are live sheep, the three wise men, lots of shepherds, and, of course, Mary and Joseph."

After experiencing the miracle of the birth of Christ, warm up inside the church with members of the church, festive music, home baked goodies, and cups of hot chocolate. The welcoming spirit of the church, yummy goodies, and perspective gained in the quiet moments spent at the manger could become some of your favorite holiday memories!

**So join us on December 17th to celebrate the coming of Jesus,
the birth of our faith!**



Advent

Join us for Wednesdays Night Fun in
Advent

(November 23rd – December 14th)

Potluck and Activity 6-8p

Wednesday, November 23rd – Join us for a Movie Night—*Polar Express*

Wednesday, November 30th – Make and Eat Gingerbread families and mulled apple cider

Wednesday, December 7th – Join us for a Movie Night—*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, 2000 version

Wednesday, December 14th – Singing Our Songs—Join us for a carol sing.

We will have pot-luck style dinner. 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!

We will provide plates, utensils, drinks, and desserts.

Come one week, come all of the weeks!

Bring the family, bring the kids, invite your friends and neighbors!



Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 4th ~ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us!

Bring your family and invite your friends!

Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m.

allows **all ages** to join in the festivities.

Welcome the Advent Season with music by the Chancel Choir, PraiseWorks Band, Memory Bells Handbell Choir, special musical numbers and, of course, a carol sing-along.

Stay after for delicious, homemade

Christmas cookies and cider!

Invite your friends and family to get in the Christmas spirit!



LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



**Help Us
Celebrate the
Real Reason for
the Season! We
need YOUR help
with the Living
Nativity!**

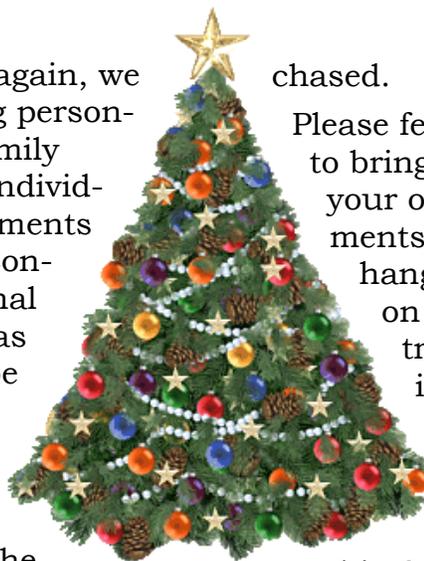
This year's Living Nativity is scheduled for Saturday, December 17th from 6-8 p.m. Your attendance, support, and help allows us to share the Gospel with our community.

Sign up to bake cookies, provide hot beverages, lend a hand to set up or take down the Nativity scene, greet people as they arrive, or even dress as one of the many Nativity characters.

For more information, **or to sign-up,** contact **Lori McClain at 610-869-7812 or llmccl@verizon.net** or sign up in the Narthex.

Congregational Christmas Tree

Once again, we will hang personalized family and/or individual ornaments on our Congregational Christmas Tree to be enjoyed by all in the church lobby. The ornament should bear either your family name, picture, or something symbolic to your family and can be homemade or pur-



chased.

Please feel free to bring in your ornaments and hang them on the tree during any of our Advent Worship Services.

You may also update the ornament you hung on the tree in years past. Leave the old one or take it with you.

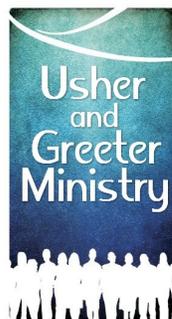
West Grove UMC Church Directory Update



Please check your family's information and update addresses, cell phone numbers, emails, birthdates, etc.

There are many children (and adults) in our church family who do not have their birthdays listed, and we would love to be able to wish them happy birthday!

Our new directory is used by all of our congregation, so please make sure to check your information. The binder with our current directory information is at the Welcome Center in Lobby. Please make your corrections directly in the book or you may email the office at: office.westgroveumc.org Thank you.



**DO YOU LIKE TO
WELCOME
GUESTS?
CAN YOU HELP
OTHERS FEEL
COMFORTABLE?**

**USHERS AND GREETERS
ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY
MORNINGS.**

Rain Catoia is our coordinator for 8:30 am worship. Email her at raindowdy@aol.com

Joan Saller is our coordinator for 11:00 worship. Email her at ssaller@comcast.net

You can also call the office at 610-869-9334.

Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. **Please stop by the lobby information table and pick up an order form or use the form below.** Each plant will be in a 6" pot and will be red with 4 to 5 blooms. **The cost is \$6.50 each.**

POINSETTIAS



The order form 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 11** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in **Christmas Eve bulletins** as well as the **Sunday, December 25** bulletin. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, January 1 after the 11:00 a.m. service. 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:



Giving Tree

Please visit our **Christmas Gift Tree** in the Narthex. On the tree, there are gift tags for families and individuals from our community in

need. We will be providing gifts to both children in the school district, residents at Twin Pines and additional local families in need. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season.

Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 18.



Our Church Office will be Closed to celebrate Christmas at 12 noon on Friday, December 23 and all day on Monday, December 26. We will close on December 30th at 12 noon and all day Monday, January 2nd to celebrate New Years.

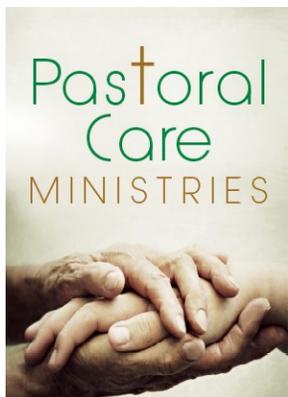
We pray that our staff, our congregation, and our community will have days filled with the blessings of family, friends, food, and God's very presence.



Have you checked our website recently?

www.westgroveumc.org

Look for newsletters, bulletins, sermons, our calendar and much more!



Please let Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our pastoral team shares pastoral care.

We would love to support you and your family with a visit. We depend on you to share the information of which hospital your loved one is in. Please also let us know of any other pastoral needs. Thank you!



Worship on the second Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Allison Theater led by Pastor Jim. Join us on **Sunday, December 11!**

Daily Meditations

They are written one for each day of the week with which you might begin your day. Don't forget to take your bulletin home or catch them on the website. May your day and faith journey be enriched!

Advent Bags for Our Homebound Thank You!



Thank you to all who generously donated gifts for this year's Advent Bags for our homebound and to all who lovingly delivered those gifts. Twenty bags were filled with 25 gifts each, scripture attached to each gift telling the story of Christ's birth, and each numbered 1-25. For the days leading up to Christmas, our homebound can open a gift each day and know they are loved, cared for and cherished by this church family.

With appreciation, The United Methodist Women

Advent Devotionals

Don't forget to pick up your Advent devotionals in the Narthex. There are also advent chains for children to make!



House Blessings

"And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever." 2 Samuel 7: 28-29 From biblical times, when someone moved into a new dwelling, words of blessing were offered over the new home. Home blessings involve prayers, scripture reading, and movement throughout the house.

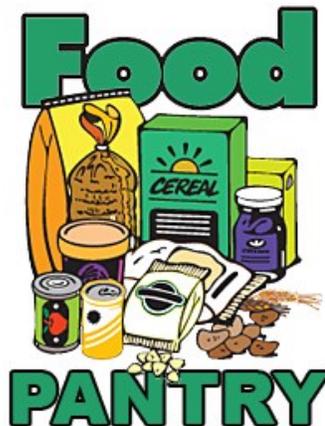


If you are interested in a home blessing, please contact Pastor Monica.

**Our community
has deep needs
with which we can
help!**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls for specific needs for our pantry.

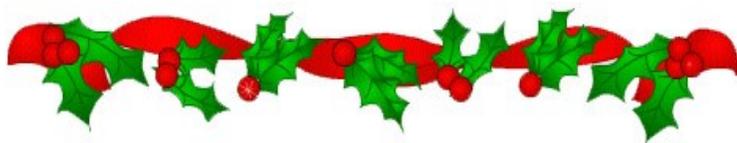
Thank you to Karen Hruz who coordinates our Emergency Food Pantry.



How can you help?

Bring in soups, cereals, shampoos, paper towels, napkins, and cleaning supplies.

There are copies of a shopping list of our current needs clipped to the shopping card in the Narthex. Pick up the list and include one, some, or all of the items with your shopping to serve those in need in our community.



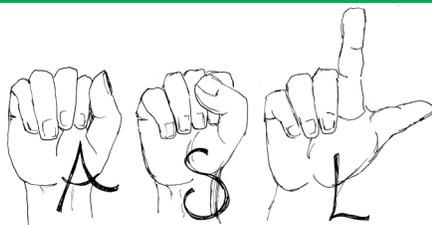
ChurchA

"Mary Had a Baby"

"Mary Had a Baby" is an Advent, four-week, Bible based study that explores the stories behind four African American spirituals: "Mary Had a Baby," "Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow," "Children, Go When I Send Thee," and "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Come, immerse yourself in Scriptures and soulful lyrics as we let these songs be a springboard for learning and growth. Mel Leaman will facilitate the sessions. **We will meet in Room 4.**

"Countdown to Christmas"

Pastor Monica teaching on **Wednesday mornings – 9:30 a.m.** – Countdown to Christmas - Are you feeling the countdown to Christmas getting closer and crunchier? We refocus on the Advent (Coming) of Jesus and preparing ourselves in Room 3.



Mark you calendars for Pastor Monica teaching a course on American Sign Language and Carols on **November 27th, December 4th, 11th, and 18th during our Faith Learning Academy at 9:45 a.m. In Room 2.**

Look forward to learning signs to
*O Come, O Come Emanuel,
Hark the Herald Angels Sing,
Away in a Manager
and Joy to the World.*
Join us!

**Look for your 2017
giving envelopes in
Mid December.**



More information to follow.

If you are not able to pick up envelopes, please make sure the church office knows.

If you are willing to deliver envelopes to those who are unable to pick them up, please let the office know.

This helps us save on postage!



Parents – Make a reservation and go to dinner (or Christmas shop) without kids! Enjoy an afternoon on your own! We will watch your kids for you, and you can go on a date, Christmas shopping, wrap presents, the grocery store or take a nap!

Here's the details!

When: Sunday, December 10 from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Where: At WGUMC

Cost: a suggested donation of \$12 per child

Any money that is donated towards this event will be used to help offset the cost of the 2017 youth summer mission trip

What: We will feed the kids pizza, do some crafts, play games and watch a movie. Your kids will be safe and have fun, and you get to enjoy time away and relax for 3 hours!

SIGN UP by filling out the bottom of this form and returning it to the office or giving it to Jamie Lindtner.

Parents Date Night Sign-Up

Child/Children's Name & Age

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Parents Name: _____

Emergency #: _____

Food Allergies or Concerns: _____



JENNER'S POND
A CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Jenner's Pond Christmas Program

The annual **JP Chorus' Christmas Program** will be on **Tuesday, December 6th** at 7:15 P.M. The JP Chorus will be presenting the program to open up the Christmas season. Come out and help us sing the carols and listen as our Chorus sings seasonal songs.

You are invited to come and take part in singing the Carols.

We will be singing nine different Christmas Carols.





A BIG thank you to Linda Shplet, Connie Simcox, and Linda Peirson for their monumental efforts preparing the kitchen for our annual Health Inspection. Every nook and cranny has been scrubbed, polished, and organized. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!

Also, a well deserved Thank You to Vernon Ramberger for cleaning out the grease trap in the kitchen. Phew!



Purple Heart stamps cost \$0.47 for military APO anywhere.

Please use this information to send Christmas cards to our troops. **Also, please help the church office by putting a book of stamps in the offering plate!**



Stewardship Update

We give thanks to God for the faithfulness of God's people.

Last week, many of you offered your commitment cards for 2017. Some of you will offer them this week and still more in the weeks to come. We invite you to offer those commitment cards in the offering plate as a method for you to make a step of faith in giving as well as for us to plan as good stewards around anticipated giving.

We also encourage you to participate in our anniversary giving. This opportunity to give above and beyond your regular tithe and offering is a challenge to the congregation for 130 giving units to give an additional \$25/ month for 12 months. Even our children and youth have gotten into the giving, with youth giving 2.50/ month and children giving .25 cents a month. This giving helps to grow our roots and stabilize our mission and ministry budget.

Many of you have requested an update on our mission and ministry budget. This mission and ministry budget includes all our giving here at the church from our Sunday School program through our roof repairs, our choir music and kitchen supplies, our youth programming and copy machine. For the last three years, at the end of the year, we ran deficits, dipping into our financial reserves. We have sought to turn the tide and strength our financial giving position. With your faithful and generous giving and the commitment stewardship of leadership involved in expenditures, **we are on track this year to end the fiscal year in a cash positive position.**

Our mission and ministries are at the heart of what we do and who we are. Your giving impacts our local community and around the world. When you give you, you create a safe place for AA groups and scouting. When you give, you support missionaries around the world including the Les Family in Ukraine and our United Methodist missionaries through our apportionments. When you give, you teach children and youth through preschool programs, Sunday School, Children's worship, Youth programming, and Confirmation. When you give, you maintain our building as a home for all these ministries and much more. When you give, you equip music ministries to lead us in worship, here and beyond these walls in service.

When you give, you strength our roots in gratitude, so that we may all grow in Christ.

HUNGER WALK UPDATE

The Hunger Walk held on October 16, 2016 raised over \$15,000 to feed the hungry in Chester County! We are so proud of the team and sponsors from West Grove UMC who raised approximately \$3,000.

Baptism

- Through baptism we are joined with the church and with Christians everywhere.
- Baptism is a symbol of new life and a sign of God's love and forgiveness of our sins.
- Persons of any age can be baptized. We baptize by sprinkling, immersion or pouring.
- A person receives the sacrament of baptism only once in his or her life.
- See One of our Pastors or the Church Office for information about Baptism for you or your children.



Planning for the Future

We plan for the future all the time. We hope to have enough milk, eggs, and bread during a snowstorm. We hope to have enough gas to get to our destination. We hope to make good life choices to achieve who God has called us to be. We might want to plan for a future beyond ourselves as we consider wills, estate planning, legacies, and even our own funeral or memorial service.



Sometimes, persons are interested in sharing their wishes and desires for funeral and memorial services with loved ones ahead of time. Other times, information is written in places to be discovered upon death. In other circumstances, families wish to respect the wishes of a loved one, but are unsure as to what best honors their loved one. Prayerfully consider, if you might want to record those thoughts with the church. The church can retain and hold those wishes for you, so that information might be shared and available when appropriate.

If you are interested in recording your hopes for your own services, please be in contact with Donna in the office for a guide or Pastor Monica to discuss your thoughts.

Thank you!



Thank you to Keith Schneider (Master AV guru), Scott Steele (local and church historian), Vinny Rucinski (production

assistant) and Mel Leaman (former pastor) for their work on the 4 videos for our 130th anniversary: **Rooted in gratitude, Growing in Christ.** Wonderful stories were told and captured of our history!

If you are interested in watching online, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcMskzlor4EexJqIRtPVMZw>.

If you are interested in a video of all four histories, please contact the office.



ELECTRONIC GIVING

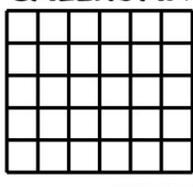
Electronic giving makes keeping your commitment to stewardship simple.

Your tithe can be given first out of all of your banking in giving thanks to God!

You can give through electronic transfer from your bank, schedule bill pay from your account, give through pay pal and other options specific to your bank accounts.

See Donna Fackler in the office to set up.

CALENDAR



Donate Calendars!

Missions ConneXion is also asking for donations of calendars that can be used by inmates or homeless folks trying to get back on their feet. These are small and should be able to fit in a small bag and be designed so that appointments can be added and a section with an address book. The dollar store carries perfect ones. These will be added to the next set of emergency backpacks with extras going to shelters.



CMO PRESCHOOL

Children's Morning Out Program

December is such a fun month for our preschool children. They will be busy preparing for Christmas and the joy and excitement in their faces is always wonderful to see as they learn all about this special day. The children will be learning about Jesus and his birth and always enjoy our "Happy Birthday to Jesus" celebration. At the celebration, the children enjoy hearing the story of Christmas told by Pastor Monica, sing Christmas songs for their parents, and get to make special crafts and play Christmas games.

We will also have a visit this month from musician, Linda Bunting. Linda will perform an interactive winter music show for the children. Linda will also be doing a music enrichment class for the preschool during the winter season.

CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica

October Song: My God is So Big!

October 26-27 – Pumpkin Patch
Parable and A Pumpkin Prayer

November Song: If you're Thankful
and You know it!

November 2-3 – P is For Pumpkin,
The Fantastic Gifts of Fall

November 9-10 – Splat Says
Thank you! Thank you God

November 16-17 –
Thank you for

Thanksgiving, Count My
Blessings



MISSION POSSIBLE KICK-OFF: JANUARY 8!!



We have prayerfully discerned the resurrection of Mission Possible as a 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class for Tweens. We plan to kick off this new class on **Sunday, January 8, 2017!**

Our hopes and goals are to enhance the worship experience and Bible knowledge of these young people, along with offering mission opportunities and fun activities to foster the spiritual growth of our Tweens.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor or have any questions regarding the curriculum, please talk with Cindy Haley or Pastor Monica.

*****Dear Parents, please join us on January 8 along with your 5th/6th grader in order for us to introduce ourselves as we welcome your children and get to know each other.**



During the summer, some of our children, under the direction of Joan Leaman, illustrated the hymn, For Everyone Born. Our artists included Preston

Catoia, Cora Boyd, Abby Herman, Felicity Guepet, Asher Lindtner, Brady Castaldi, Anna Castaldi, Mac Catoia, Maggie Stuhrke, Hannah Lindtner, Jacob Rinehimer, Owen Jones. This illustrations were transferred and transformed into Powerpoint for congregational singing by Joan Leaman and Bonnie Wolff. Keith Schneider secured permission and coordinated the illustrations to a recording from the First Plymouth Church of Lincoln Nebraska.

The efforts of all of these gifted persons is on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sseHi5aaHNY&feature=youtu.be> as well as on our facebook page.

Please take time to watch, listen, and worship.

Thanks be to God for the body of Christ working together, across miles to worship and serve!

Sunday School "Roamers" Needed

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED!



Our church uses a "roamer" to help out during the Sunday School hour. The roamer can be the second adult or helper working with the Sunday School classes. The Roamer doesn't teach, but is just available by walking in hallway or waiting in the lobby to be called if needed. If you could help by being a roamer, please contact Fran Miller.

Fran's email address is jmille8698@verizon.net and phone number is 610-869-8935.



World AIDS Day, observed each year on December 1, provides an opportunity for people around the world to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS and to show their compassion and support to those living with the disease. Get tested, raise awareness, more information at <http://www.umcmmission.org/Find->



HOW GIANT GIFT CARD PURCHASES ARE HELPING OUR CHURCH!

\$805.00 - this is the amount the church has received from Giant so far in 2016 from individuals purchasing Giant Gift Cards!

Giant Gift Cards - it is a simple and easy way to increase your weekly giving without costing you a cent.

The cards are sold for face value, but the church purchases the cards at a 5% discount. All you need to do to participate in this program is complete the order form located in the lobby, attach your check, and drop it in the offering plate or Carol Whelan's mail folder. I usually have a supply of gift cards on hand and can give them directly to you as soon as I receive a check.

If you spend \$300 a month, the church will receive \$15. In a year the church will receive \$180! If you shop at the Giant, please consider purchasing a Giant Gift Card through the



C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



The Philadelphia Project

Christ-Centered & Kingdom-Minded

December 2 - 4th - The Philadelphia Project. Meet at 5:15 at the church ready to leave. Bring \$ to stop for dinner on the way. Will get back Sunday by 1:00.



December 9th - Dodgeball! \$2 for pizza. 7 - 9:00.



December 10th - Parents Nite Out! Woop Woop!

Parents - need some time to yourselves? Christmas shopping? Dinner out? Bring your kids to the church and the youth will hang out with them! We will do crafts, play games, eat pizza and watch a movie. There is a suggested donation of \$12 per child and all money raised goes towards the youth summer mission trip. 4:30 - 7:30. Sign up with JamieLindtner@gmail.com

YOUTH - should arrive at 4:00 to get setup and ready! Youth - sign up with

Jamie!



December 11 - Middle School Youth Group Movie Night!

6-8pm. Come join us for a movie & popcorn!



December 18th - Youth Christmas Party @ Jamie's house. 5:30 - 7:30. I'll make sloppy joes - youth bring a chips/dessert or a drink! Also - bring a silly cheap gift - wrapped up and ready to put under the tree for a fun gift exchange.



December 30th - We are heading to the Wilmington Stratosphere Park for some trampoline and ninja warrior fun! Time and Cost to



come... Mark the date!

Eastern PA to help launch UMC prayer vigil in 2017



By John W. Coleman



The Eastern PA Conference will help lead off a more than yearlong United Methodist prayer vigil in 2017 by being the second conference to gather daily, even hourly in many places for a full week of prayer together. Our urgent cause for prayer could be the very future of the denomination. January 8-14, 2017, is Eastern PA's week to participate in the Council of Bishops' Praying Our Way Forward Initiative. We are asked to pray for "the church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward."

The council organized that global commission of lay and clergy church members to examine fully the church's laws and teachings on homosexuality and determine whether to recommend requested changes to General Conference. The denomination's unity hangs in the balance, as some groups anticipate division along ideological lines, depending on what the Council of Bishops recommends and General Conference decides. The council has unofficially asked the General Conference business manager to explore venues for a special called session in early 2019, a year ahead of the next scheduled General Conference in May 2020. A formal request for a called session is expected in 2017, after the special commission begins its work.

The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward will likely commence its difficult deliberations in January, hoping to resolve a decades-long impasse that prompted protest demonstrations and tense moments at the 2016 General Conference in May.

The bishops launched the multi-phase Praying Our Way Forward Initiative in October. For the first phase, the council's 84 bishops have each been praying 15 minutes a day for the commission. "That's 21 hours of prayer a day for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward," said Birmingham Area Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, who co-chairs the prayer effort along with retired Bishop Al Gwinn. The second phase begins with rotating conference-wide prayer vigils in January, as each conference commits to come together in prayer, and fasting for some, during a designated week. The effort will continue into 2018.

Prior to our Jan. 8-14 week, members of Eastern PA churches can register their prayer days and times online or manually using a downloadable prayer vigil form at SignUpGenius. And in conjunction with the prayer vigil, Bishop Peggy Johnson will sponsor a conference-wide prayer service on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 7 PM, hosted by Lima UMC. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Bishop Bruce Ough, Council of Bishops President, stressed "We need to begin to prepare the church for whatever might come out of the commission." The council has also encouraged its member bishops to initiate conversations among clergy and laity within their annual and central conferences that would parallel the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. Each bishop may freely structure the process and timeline for dialogue according to the needs of their area, while using suggested questions as a starting point.

Safe Sanctuaries



As many of you know, our church participates in a program called "Safe Sanctuaries." It is an effort to keep children, youth and vulnerable adults safe from abuse when they are

engaged in programs in our church. If you are a volunteer who works with one of those groups, the policy requires clearances which are to be updated every three years. Many groups and employers require the same clearances, so copies are acceptable. Clearances can be obtained online. Criminal Background Checks can be done at epatch.state.pa.us and Child Abuse Clearances can be obtained at

www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS. There is a \$10 fee for each. The applications can also be filled out on paper and mailed. A money order must be used to pay the fee. If you are unsure if your clearances are up to date, or **if you would like a paper application and help filing, see Fran Miller. Fran's email address is jmille8698@verizon.net and phone number is 610-869-8935.**



**EMERGENCY
BACKPACKS
ASSEMBLY**

What: Package meals to be shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. Assemble backpacks with supplies for returning citizens from prison and our homeless neighbors.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Where: West Grove UMC



Dear Friends,

Today, more than ever, our churches need to be places where people can come together and find space for respectful dialogue with one another. Our district will be offering intentional opportunities throughout 2017 for clergy and laity to engage these vital conversations with one another. Please mark your calendars now for a Southeast District Night of Dialogue on Jan. 16, 2017 (Martin Luther King Day) from 7-9 p.m. at Church of the Open Door in Kennett Square. The evening will be an opportunity to grow in relationship with clergy and laity throughout the district. We will take time to hear each other's stories and learn from one another. We will also discern ways that we can help our communities have vital conversations with one another and how to build bridges in our communities. DS Taylor-Storm will lead the devotion for the evening; Rev. Lydia Munoz will be our lead facilitator for the dialogue. These conversations are vital to our ongoing journey to become the beloved community that God intends for us. The resources we use during the evening will be able to be reproduced for use in each local church.

A registration link will be forthcoming. Please save the date. May God bless the work of your hands this day.

Together in Ministry,
Dawn Taylor-Storm, District Superintendent

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

On November 13th, our Community Church at Jenner's Pond dedicated the generous gifts of hymnals for that worshipping congregation.

God is worshipped in different and creative ways such as story, drama, and art. Singing has always been an important thread running through the fabric of the worship of God. We thank you, Lord God, for the long tradition of worshipping in song.

We dedicate these hymn books to your praise and worship. May our singing bring glory to your name, Lord God; in the name of Christ. Amen.



We thank Martha Pink & Dr. Bob and Ellen Hayes for their generous gift of these hymnals. They are donated in memory of Martha Pink's husband, John and in memory of the The Hayes' sons, Bob and Jim.



Let us be in prayer for you. When you request prayer by contacting the church, you will hear three questions:

- Would you like this on the prayer chain?
- Would you like your name in the bulletin for prayer?
- Would you like your prayer need shared at gathered prayer in worship?

We are asking these questions to clarify how we can best share your joy or need. Thanks be to God for all who pray!

Prayer Ministry

Retired Active People

R.A.P.



RAP gathered on November 11th and enjoyed a great trip around Alaska with

Pastor Jim and Betty Mundell. We thank them very much for sharing with us their picture travelogue entitled: "ALASKA ROAD TRIP" - 1600 miles in 15 days - Home of the wild, land of God's beauty and home of the pioneering spirit.



RAP Christmas Celebration

Come join us on **Friday, December 9 at noon.**

Please bring your favorite covered dish as with gather for the Christmas season.

Desserts and drinks will be provided.

Following lunch we will be entertained by John Clayton and The Revelators, as they will bring us music of the season.

J.U.L.I.E.T.

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together



December 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Please join this group of ladies for a breakfast time of food, fun and fellowship. **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 Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



Hear the Stories!

Luther House Bible Study Luther Class is for men and women who are interested in coming together to learn the stories of the Bible. All are welcome. We meet every Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 pm at Luther Building #1 in the parlor, right inside the door. Come join us! Bring your friends. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Haley at: chaley@zoominternet.net

UMW FAITH CIRCLE will resume their schedule of



meeting on the **2nd and 4th Friday mornings in the Youth Room as of January 6th.** Sewing skills are not necessary. If you are interested in our projects or want to confirm that we are meeting on a particular

Friday, contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374) or Karen Boyd (443-553-4900).

R.O.M.E.O.

Retired Older Men Eating Out



will meet on Thursday, December 29. If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEO lunch. We get together to eat at Perkins in Avondale on Rt. 41 on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.. **Call Roger Bates, at 610-869-7638,** if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.



A Prayer

Because in this season we read the stories which tell us that you have done it before; because we - in different ways - still deal with hope and disappointment, faith and fear,

GOD, SEND US AN ANGEL, OR GIVE US A DREAM

When the world wearies us, when we seem to walk on a treadmill but really need to dance on a trampoline,

GOD, SEND US AN ANGEL, OR GIVE US A DREAM

When life seems to throw at us the opposite of what we want; when we find ourselves asking how will I cope? How will they manage?

GOD, SEND US AN ANGEL, OR GIVE US A DREAM

When we cannot see beyond the hurdles in our way; and the past seems a safer place than the future

GOD, SEND US AN ANGEL, OR GIVE US A DREAM.

Even as it jolts us, pushes us in a direction we've never travelled before, opens us up to unusual thoughts and strange adventures,

GOD, SEND US AN ANGEL, OR GIVE US A DREAM

Then, with Elizabeth and Zechariah and Joseph and Mary, and shepherds in the fields who all had to deal with the unexpected, we will bless you, God, for all your messages and all your messengers of good and different news.

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We give thanks to God for our United Methodist women. Here are the handmade quilts for Christmas to local families served by our food pantry and Family Promise.



Financial Leadership Academy Completion

Dear Church Leaders,

Congratulations, your pastor, The Reverend Monica Guepet, recently completed participation in the 2-year Financial Leadership Academy sponsored by the Mid Atlantic United Methodist Foundation. We want to thank you for providing time and support for your pastor to participate with nearly 60 others in this process. As a result of the Academy, your pastor is now a certified financial leader who is better equipped to provide the kinds of leadership that will create a climate of generosity and generate more resources for mission and ministry.

We also want to encourage you to work with your pastor to implement and grow some of the financial procedures and stewardship strategies learned through participation in the Academy.

God be with you in your ministry.

In Christ,

Andy

Rev. Andy Lunt, Ph.D, Dean

Financial Leadership Academy

Mid Atlantic United Methodist Foundation

andylunt.mafoundation@gmail.com



Trustees are looking for help painting, scrubbing, and changing light bulbs.
See Gene Aucott if you can help!

Opportunity List

The list below comes from the dreams and visions of various teams in the church. We encourage all giving to be above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings.



We give thanks to all who have already given to fulfill our dreams!

Item	Quantity	Approximate Total Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80")	2	\$ 4,000
Monitors- Narthex (42" - 46")	3	\$ 4,000
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$ 15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$ 50,000
Wireless microphones	2	\$ 900
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms	25	\$ 500
Postage stamps (one full mailing)	250	\$ 120
Carpet cleaning rental for Sanctuary	1	\$100



Seminar plants vision of 'Church as a Movement'

"Kingdom Building," and definitely not "Church Building," was the theme of Hopewell UMC's 13th annual Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth seminar, Oct. 22. Church visionary Reggie McNeal taught a packed sanctuary that the Kingdom is "life as God intended it," and that the Church should offer not a building but "a relationship with Christ" to help people achieve that life. Like an airport, it should be not a destination but a hub, from where disciples are sent out to save the city and change the world. "God is calling us to a new chapter" in our story, said McNeal in a presentation full

of humor and honesty. About 225 attendees registered for the Downingtown church's annual leadership training event. Assuring them of his Georgia Baptist upbringing and generations of pastors in his family, McNeal explained, "I come to you from deep in the belly of the beast. I'm not saying Church as an institution has no relevance or value, but I want to emphasize Church as a movement."

The popular author and keynote speaker cited the growing numbers of people, now 1 in 5, who profess no interest in any religion, while many others aren't willing to be merely "congregationalized" as members. Young millennials especially are looking for places that are authentically nurturing and outreaching. "To have any hope of connecting with them," McNeal warned, "we're going to need a completely different posture than 'come and get it.'"

For more information, ask Pastor Monica or Cindy Haley, who both attended.



SCRIP Scripts for December



December Tip: Dashing through the store, jingle bells in hand, oh I wish I had SCRIP cards to manage Christmas spend!

Christmas is a very joyous and giving season. However, we can all agree it can be a very hectic time, but with a little preplanning you can keep within your budget and enjoy the holidays without added financial stress.

Plan for selecting gift cards to give as gifts and have a few on hand for last minute surprises. (No malls, no lines, just smiles) Christmas is a time for giving so consider picking up a few gift cards and tuck them into the gifts for families on our giving tree. Gift a family in need with a card for giant, acme, etc for help in preparing meals and make their holiday a little brighter.

Pick up a Giant, Acme card for meal planning and preparation. Start thinking for future ham dinners and purchase a Honey Baked Ham card either as a gift or to use for family gatherings. Perhaps a Marshall, Target, Kohls, or Walmart card can be planned out in increments of \$10 or \$25 to purchase decorations, pick up small gifts, or additional paper products. By having cards on hand, taking full advantage of sales, and coupon stacking you can maximize your savings, maintain your budget, and have a financial stress-free holiday.

Merry Christmas from The Trustees

Have You Remembered To Include West Grove UMC In Your Will?

An important consideration for those of us who have been generous to our church is, "How can I continue to support its ministry even after my death?" Making a provision to West Grove UMC in your estate planning is as simple as a couple of lines into your will, but don't wait to make those plans. For assistance with this, talk with your financial planner or call the church office. More elaborate gift bequests can be brokered through the church professionals at the Mid-Atlantic Foundation. Consider leaving a tithe (10%) of your estate to West Grove UMC or even a flat gift amount! Thank you.



An Inconvenient Christmas

Soon we will be singing Advent hymns in our churches and wondering where this passing year has gone. December 25th falls on a Sunday this year, and I am already hearing questions about having worship services on Christmas Day. I've fielded such comments as: "It is so inconvenient when Christmas is on a Sunday." "No one comes, and people are tired from the Christmas Eve services the night before." I have been asked if it would be alright to cancel church services on Christmas Day and perhaps even on New Year's Day a week later, since the same kind of holiday issues exist. It is true that attendance is typically low on a Christmas Sunday. Some churches have opted to have one short service with coffee and cinnamon rolls. And I've heard of at least one church inviting people to attend services in their pajamas. All of this says that Christmas, when it falls on a Sunday, is inconvenient to many, and we are trying to find ways to make it work for us. Family gatherings and a million other holiday festivities compete with worship on that day. But I call on all of our churches to persevere and continue to hold services in some fashion on Sunday, December 25. It is, after all, the celebration of Christ's birth. The truth is, Christmas, the real Christmas, has never been convenient. The birth of Christ came amid a time of political unrest.

The circumstances of Jesus' birth were certainly less than convenient. This Galilean couple made a hundred-mile trek across rough, unpaved roads, as the new mother-to-be rode perched on a donkey in her third trimester of pregnancy. The birth event itself ends up happening in a rustic stable for animals, not exactly the cleanest or most comfortable environment. A murderous, unbalanced king seeks the child's life and kills a swath of innocent babies in his foiled attempt at eliminating the competition. There was nothing about the realities of this Jesus' birth that was glamorous or even convenient. A fancy Hallmark card depicting the nativity with golden insert envelopes simply doesn't tell the real story. Christmas is still inconvenient, and it always will be. The coming of Christ ushered in a whole new paradigm whose purpose was to turn the world upside down, and not just a little. Mother Mary, in the "Magnificat" describes the plan: "He (God) has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty." (Luke 1:51-53) Simeon, the aged prophet in the temple, said similar things about Jesus at the time of his dedication: "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also) so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34-35).

The best way to celebrate this newborn king is not just to show up for church services on Christmas Sunday. We should feel compelled—indeed, honored—to do the inconvenient and difficult work of justice ministries: sharing our wealth with those who are hungry for bread and for equality; speaking out when we see inequities and sharing power with people who usually don't have a place around the table. This is year-round ministry-in-action that celebrates the birth and life of Christ every day! I challenge you to call your churches to a time of prayer and study during Advent. At my Days on the Districts meetings with clergy this fall I gave to everyone copies of a 40-Day Prayer Challenge book, titled *Draw the Circle*, by the Rev. Mark Batterson. You and your congregation could read this book, or one like it, as you prepare together for the celebration of Christ's birth. Through prayer and searching the scriptures the Lord will surely lay on your hearts what you need to be doing to "let justice roll down like water and righteousness as a mighty stream." (Amos 5:24) And what the Lord asks you to do won't likely be convenient or easy; but the real work of Christmas means walking the difficult, dusty roads that Jesus walked, while bearing a cross on your shoulder.



Ronald McDonald House

Mission Opportunities



EMERGENCY BACKPACKS ASSEMBLY

What: Package meals to be shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. Assemble backpacks with hygienic supplies for individuals being released from the county prison system.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Where: West Grove UMC Sign-up to volunteer in the church lobby

Stop Hunger Now packages and ships meals to feed people in need. They have engaged over 500,000 corporate, student, civic and faith-based volunteers to package meals.

They educate thousands of people each year about hunger and inspire them to help end it. This year, they will package 45 million meals, and ship over \$9 million in donated aid, mainly vitamins and medical supplies. On the day, you package meals with preset foods and in a preset process. All you need to raise is 29 cents for each meal you package.

Stop Hunger Now meals are nutritiously sound. Every dehydrated rice/soy meal is fortified with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Join us!

If you can not join us, you can help by covering the cost of a meal. At 29cents a meal, consider giving \$6 and covering the cost of 20 meals.



New Redistricting of Churches Completed

By John W. Coleman

The Eastern PA Conference Cabinet has completed arrangements of its 415 member churches into four new districts—East, North, South and West—to take effect July 1, 2017. The reduction from six to four districts was a necessary cost-savings decision made by the Annual Conference at its adjourned session Oct. 1. While the East District, which retains its current name, will now have 92 churches, the other three, newly named districts will each have more than a hundred.

The number of churches in each district are:

East District: 92 churches North District: 113 South District: 104 West District: 105

To ensure full inclusiveness, the Cabinet intends for each district to see itself as wholly new and not merely expanded and renamed with the addition of new churches. District meetings, decisions, leadership roles and program initiatives will be aimed to reflect that “all things new” understanding. “We are launching into a new way of living that will challenge us to resource churches more locally through the ministries of our mission connexions,” said Bishop Peggy Johnson. She credited the helpful feedback she received to her presentations of the redistricting plan during district town hall meetings last April. “It is my hope that the leadership of the mission connexions can fill in the gaps so that District Superintendents are freed up to perform their role as Missional Strategists.

“Finances are clearly driving most of this decision,” said the bishop. “But with every challenge there is an opportunity to learn new ways of doing ministry and keeping the goal of making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world always before us.” The Cabinet studied carefully the geographical, cultural and theological realities of churches across the conference, said Johnson. “Great care was given to be sure not to put all African American churches in one district and to have a mix of multicultural churches in each district,” she explained.

Various aspects of the new district transitions are being planned and worked out now. That includes: the work of District Resource Assistants; reconfiguration of district committees on Ordained Ministry; nominations for district leadership positions; UMW and UMM leadership positions, etc. The current six districts will likely celebrate their life and ministry together at Tools for Ministry gatherings and district conferences next spring. But the new quartet of districts will then celebrate their new configurations during lay and clergy gatherings with the bishop next fall.

LCH to Open Dental Center in Southern Chester County in December

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) granted Kennett Square's La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) a \$350,000 award to open a new dental center to serve southern Chester County.

This fall, low-income residents of southern Chester County will now have access to dental care—a service that is a crucial need in this part of the county. Many uninsured clients, who must travel to Coatesville or West Chester to access the nearest available services, simply go without.

“Nearly half of our clients have not seen a dentist in a year or more,” said LCH Medical Director Cindy Schmeltz, DNP, FNP-C, CRNP. “We know that oral care is an essential component of overall health. We see so many dental problems during patient visits, and now we will be able to get them the care they need right in their own backyard.” Based on the 2015 Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey, there are 17,000 adults in southern Chester County who need a dental visit. Additionally, 15 percent of children, or 3,300, were not examined by a dentist within the past year.

LCH completed a needs assessment last fall and



began the application for federal funding. Thanks to the funding award, the 43-year-old Federally Qualified Health Center will expand into dental care for the community no later than December 2016. The

LCH Dental Center will be located on McFarlan Road in Kennett Square in space that will be leased from Dr. Robert Krauss, an endodontist with over 30 years of experience in southern Chester County.

Services will be offered to community members using the same model as LCH's existing services – Person-Centered Services. LCH will accept Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, and private insurance. Uninsured patients will pay for services received on a sliding scale, and no patient will be turned away for inability to pay. Four full-time employees will staff the site: one dentist, one dental hygienist, and two dental assistants. LCH is now interviewing for these positions.

LCH has served southern Chester County for more than 40 years as a multi-service, bilingual nonprofit that changes lives through Person-Centered Care: health care, social assistance, and education and workforce development.



Mission Work in Africa Grows

Churches in the Eastern PA Conference are supporting missionaries and vital mission efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania, spanning a vast distance that makes occasional visits and newsletters all the more essential. Those visits and communications help strengthen relationships and inspire support.

The Rev. Jonathan and Donna Baker, our Congo Partnership missionaries working in the Central Congo Area, visited the Southeast District here twice in the past four months. In October they presented a celebrative report to clergy during the Bishop's Day on the District. And in June they addressed the full District Conference. The district raised funds in 2014-2015 to build a pediatric clinic in the region of Mpsa, near Kinshasha. In 2015-2016 it raised more, along with partners, to help furnish it with equipment. Now in Phase III, known as Light4Life, district members are raising funds to help provide solar power and a solar-powered blood bank for the medical center.

The new Pediatric Medical Building's ground-breaking occurred Sept. 19. “This was a celebration of a dream for Mpsa for many years and is a culmination of so much prayer, preparation, and sacrificial giving by many people both in Congo and among our U.S. Partner Conferences,” wrote the Bakers on the Partnership's Facebook page. The United Methodist Church built a medical clinic and nutrition center in Mpsa in the late 1990s to serve a large migration of refugees escaping civil war, drought, and other conflicts. When the new pediatric clinic is finished, medical staff will be able to improve maternal care and treat children separately from adults, said Donna Baker, a retired nurse.

Meanwhile, generous donations have provided much-needed equipment, including a generator, an infant incubator for newborns, a surgical bed and operating lights. An ultra-sound machine is next among the many critical needs that still exist. “You are making a life-saving difference for Christ in Central Congo,” Jonathan Baker told the district in October. “You are there with us through your prayers and support.” You can also support the Bakers individually as missionaries through the Advance: Donna L. Baker, Advance #3022054; Jonathan E. Baker, Advance #3022050.





West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

Phone: 610-869-9334, Fax: 610-869-0110

E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org



2016

~ 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.

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

pastor@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend. Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries

Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Staff

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director

Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Board and Committee Leadership

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

Barbara Delaney - Finance Chair

Scott Steele - Treasurer

Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary

David Delaney - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Susan Paisley - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Coordinator

Don Hurst - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Luke Chalmers- Delegate to Annual Conference

Cindy Haley - Lay Leader

Cindy Haley - U.M.W. President

Pastor Shirley Daddario - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers

Ad Council Member at Large