



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**  
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*"Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. "*

1 Corinthians 13:13, the Message Paraphrase

It was December 27th this year when I first seeing hearts in the grocery store. My family was still making the rounds on Christmas visiting and deep in the twelve days of Christmas when I saw the valentines candies, hearts, and cards show up! They evoke a particular image of love. Choosing a special valentine to impart all of your love to, with violin music and chocolates. We have imagined that love looks one way between two people who commit their lives to each other. Then sometimes, we expand the notion to include the love that parents have for children or the love the grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members have for one another. If we keep drawing the circle wider, we begin to glimpse the fullness of love.

This year as we approach the month of love, I am thinking about the division and vitriol that has categorized this season of our nation's life. I listen to stories of how families have made rules to "not talk about it" and others who unfollow each other on social media. We are divided, not just on policy and governmental programs, but on perspectives and even listening to one another. It was Charles Schultz, creator of Peanuts, who put the words in Linus' mouth decades ago: I love mankind [humanity] ... it's people I can't stand." On general principle, it is much easier for us to love all of God's people as a whole. How hard it is us for us to love individuals. There it gets messy.



So, what do we do? A few suggestions of how to show love this month of love:

- \* Truly listening. Not just hearing the words that are coming out of the mouth of the one you disagree with—but actually listening.
- \* Have lunch with someone you disagree with. Over burger and fries, tacos and beans, pizza and salad, talk about the first time you went to a concert, drove a car or came to church. You might find connection and relationship outside of your area of disagreement.
- \* Read 1 Corinthians 13. Paul is really challenging us that love is not just an affection, but a series of intentional choices.
- \* Share your valentine candy with someone, even the dark chocolate! Love is sharing!

*In God's Love, Pastor Monica*

*We can do no great things, only small things with great love" Mother Teresa.*



## February Worship at West Grove UMC

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



*You might be a poor spiritual friend if....*

We are called first and foremost to relationships. The way we treat one another matters. Jesus and the other scriptures have a lot to say about this!

### February 5, 2017 Communion Sunday

#### Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*\*Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day is on the first Sunday of each month*

**Scripture:** Luke 10: 25-37,  
Deuteronomy 15:10-11

**Sermon:** "The Full and True Jesus"  
*Do you know who Jesus is?*

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 12, 2017

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20

**Sermon:** "You are Jealous!"  
*Do you find yourself jealous of others?  
Learn how to release your envy.*

### Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Memory Bell play at 11:00

#### February 19, 2017

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3: 4-15  
Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18

**Sermon:** "You are vainglorious"  
*Do you find ourselves needing the credit for everything? Learn how to collaborate with others in faith.*

### Eight Sunday after Epiphany February 26, 2017

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23  
Proverbs 26: 1-6

**Sermon:** "You are Foolish"  
*What is true wisdom?  
Learn how we can find wisdom in Christ.*



### SNOW CANCELLATIONS:

Winter is upon us! The church will post any cancellations of worship services on our website, [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org), through our constant contact email, our Facebook page, and our phone message by 7:00 a.m. on day of cancellation.

**FIRST SUNDAYS:** Our Emergency Food Pantry serves our community and provides much needed food and supplies to families in our area. Your donations are appreciated. An Emergency Aid donation envelope can be found in your bulletin on First Sundays as well. The funds collected help others in need with rent, utility bills, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

First  
Sunday



### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

**Hosted by the Missions Team on Sunday, February 19 after both services**

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.

Pastor Shirley will be on call February 2, 3, and 4 as Pastor Monica will be away at the Board of Ordained Ministry retreat. As the Southeast District Committee on Ministry chair, Pastor Monica is on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Please be in prayer as the board reviews candidates for ordination, commissioning, and full-time licensing.

One Generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

~ Chinese proverb



Please remember West Grove in your will

## THE WEST GROVE UMC ENDOWMENT FUND

The West Grove UMC Endowment Fund is funded by bequests, memorials and gifts made to the fund. Contribute to the fund by a check made out to "West Grove UMC – Endowment Fund" and send it to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Bequests or memorials may be designated for the Endowment Fund.

Your giving allows us to continue our ministries into the future!



Worship on the second Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Allison Theater is led by Karen Hruz. In February, March and April, the services will be led by Karen Hruz while Pastor Jim and Betty are on vacation. Join us there!

**Sunday, February 12th**  
**11:00 am**

## DO YOU LIKE TO WELCOME GUESTS?

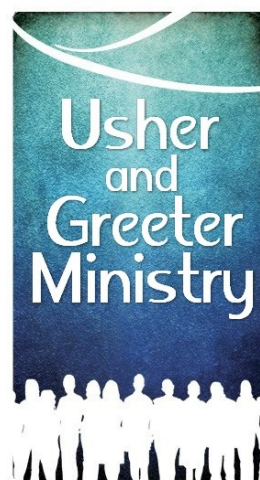
### CAN YOU HELP OTHERS FEEL COMFORTABLE?

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

**Rain Catoia is our coordinator for  
8:30 am worship. Email her at  
[raindowdy@aol.com](mailto:raindowdy@aol.com)**

**Joan Saller is our coordinator for  
11:00 worship. Email her at  
[ssaller@comcast.net](mailto:ssaller@comcast.net)**

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



## The Church Office



**Will Be  
Closed:**

The Church office will be closed on Monday, February 20 in honor of Presidents Day.

## Sunday School Roamers 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.





be presented by the Rev. David Norris, a recently retired Pastor and the instructor for the Issue Study: Climate Justice at Mission U last year. The Mission U study highlights justice, peace and integrity of creation as important dimensions of partnering in God's mission today. It offers biblical, theological, and ethical insights as the basis of advocacy on climate justice. Many who attended found his class very informative and interesting.

**This event will begin at 9:00 am with a brunch of light breakfast foods and beverages.**

**The program will begin at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary.**

In case of inclement weather and cancellation, the program will not be rescheduled.


## A colorful illustration of a 'Rummage Sale' sign. The sign is white with a blue border and the words 'Rummage Sale' in red, cursive-style text. It is surrounded by various household items: a blue vase with yellow flowers, a red and white striped lamp, a yellow picture frame with a landscape scene, a blue golf bag, a yellow teapot, a purple bowl, and a brown suitcase. The items are arranged on a green grassy surface.

[illegible]

In addition, **we are looking for someone to lead our UMW Unit.** If you feel led or would like information on what is required or information on helping with future events and programs, please see Cindy Haley.

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# A BEAD AND A PRAYER



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE  
to Protestant Prayer Beads

KRISTEN E. VINCENT

Copyrighted Material

**A BEAD AND A PRAYER CLASS:** Do you have trouble focusing when you pray? Does your mind wander ? Prayer beads helps one stay focused while praying. The Prayer Ministry Team invites you to **A Bead and A Prayer Class** starting **Sunday, February 5 to February 26 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 2.** The first class will be making your prayer beads. (Kits will be available for \$15.) The remaining classes will be learning how to use your beads, and learning the history of prayer beads. Men and women are welcome. **Today is the last day for sign up!** If you are interested in the class, but not interested in making your beads, bring your own pre-made prayer beads, which you can find on Amazon. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shirley, Susan Paisley, Pam Howard, Joan Saller, or Cindy Haley

Have someone in your house heading to college?

Here are some important words from Dave Ramsey, of Financial Peace

University. Get more information by signing up for the FPU classes:

Student loans can turn what should be a blessing—an education—into a burden.

Dave Ramsey's financial coaches have seen far too many families struggle to repay educational debts while their marriages, mortgages and careers hang in the balance. One such family owed an unbelievable \$800,000 in student loans!

It's a familiar problem that's plaguing the nation, as total student loan debt now exceeds credit card and auto loan debt. So what can Americans do about it?

For starters, our coaches say you can stop believing these nine lies about higher education. Then you can start believing the truth that no debt is good debt—no matter how many letters it puts behind your name.

**1. Lie: In order to be successful, I need a four-year degree.**

**Truth:** A bachelor's (or master's) degree can open doors, but hard work keeps those doors open. Some of the world's wealthiest businesspeople didn't even finish college—think technology tycoons Bill Gates, Larry Ellison and Michael Dell. They're proof that the traditional route isn't the only path to success. Other options include trade schools, community colleges, apprenticeships and good old-fashioned entrepreneurial drive.

**2. Lie: I have to go out of state for the major I want.**

**Truth:** Enrolling in an out-of-state public university can increase your costs significantly. Like \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year significantly. That's not even considering the flights to get there or the long car rides home. Plus, many students change majors at least once during their academic careers—if not more. So think twice before heading across the border.

**3. Lie: My future employer will care where I went to school.**

**Truth:** Most employers don't look at your GPA, and they don't care about your alma mater. In fact, a recent Gallup survey reported that only 9% of employers place importance on a student's graduating university, while 84% cited a candidate's skills and field knowledge as "very important" in making hiring decisions.

**4. Lie: I can't afford to go to college without a student loan.**

**Truth:** Yes you can! Let us count the ways: Scholarships are worth your time—apply for as many



as possible. Choose an in-state university or local community college. Find a part-time job while you go to school (even a work study program will help). And look for non-traditional options like joining the military or taking a few semesters off to save up before you go.

**Related: 5 Ways to Pay For College Without Loans**

**5. Lie: Student loans are good debt.**

**Truth:** Debt means you owe someone money. Period. That paycheck after you graduate? Yep, you'll have to give a big chunk of it to the government or a private lender after your grace period ends. Instead of saving money, getting married, buying a house, and starting a family, you get to make interest payments—lots of them. What about that sounds good, exactly?

**6. Lie: I'll just get all my loans forgiven.**

**Truth:** Loan forgiveness programs exist to attract smart grads to low-paying government jobs (usually the kind no one else wants). And they come with a laundry list of stipulations. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, for example, applies to specific not-for-profit employees who've already made 120 payments on their Direct Loans. So they're still paying back most of their debt while simultaneously limiting their income.

**7. Lie: I'll make enough to pay back my loans after I graduate.**

**Truth:** Will you? According to CareerBuilder, half of the Class of 2014 reported working in fields that don't even require a college degree! They probably didn't expect that after four long years of studying. Look, there are no guarantees you'll find your dream job right away—it could take years. Remove a ton of post-grad pressure by refusing loans from the get-go.

**8. Lie: If I lose my job, I'll just go back to school.**

**Truth:** Sometimes going back to school makes sense. But not when you're unemployed with a family to support. If you already have a degree and years of experience in your field, find something temporary while you search for a lasting career. Don't accrue debt for another set of letters when you already have plenty of money-earning potential.

**Related: 6 Questions to Ask Before Going Back to College**

**9. Lie: If I get into a serious financial scrape, I'll file for bankruptcy.**

**Truth:** Student loans are nearly impossible to discharge in bankruptcy. Unless you can prove undue hardship—which is difficult to do—lenders can garnish your wages or take away your driver's license upon default. How's that for a reality check?

Missed this weekend's message?  
Listen to past sermons online.



Did you miss a sermon? Want to check a resource? Hear it again?

On our website,

[www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org), we have **three ways** you can do this:

**Read the manuscript** of the sermon. This is complete with the weekly meditations and scriptures.

**Listen to the Audio** of the sermon. Listen to it through the website or download it onto your MP3 player.

**Listen and Watch** the sermon coordinated with the PowerPoint presentation for the fullest experience of word and image.

Don't miss a single Sunday! Catch each one online.



Family Promise®

Building communities, strengthening lives.

**Family Promise  
of Southern  
Chester County  
-- Good News!**

Hello Congregation Volunteers, Resource Center Volunteers, and Clergy:

Happy New Year!

Good news ... Family Promise of Southern Chester County is starting off the new year in a new home! We have been very fortunate to secure a wonderful facility in Toughkenamon that will meet our needs for many years to come.

We have signed a lease and are planning our move for later this month. Watch your email as well as our Facebook page and website for volunteer opportunities to pack, move, and unpack. Our goal is to be operational in the new building by January 30th. We'll keep you up to date on our progress and, of course, have a Grand Opening celebration once we're all moved in.

Our heartfelt thanks to Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Church for their gracious support during our first year! We hate to be leaving West Grove, but we're looking forward to this next chapter in our work to alleviate homelessness in Southern Chester County.

Thanks so much for all that you do!

Regards,

Susan M. Minarchi, Executive Director

Family Promise of Southern Chester County

"Building Communities, Strengthening Lives"

THE WORLD  
IS MY PARISH  
- JOHN WESLEY



In the United  
Methodist Church,  
clergy serve beyond  
the walls!

Pastor Jim is on vacation January 20 through April 25 on a worldwide cruise. During that time, he will offer worship, Bible study, and Communion on the ship.

Pastor Monica is the chairperson of the District Committee on Ministry. This position makes her ex-officio on the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Conference. She and other members will hold a retreat from February 2nd– 4th for interviewing candidates for ministry recommended for ordination, commissioning, and full time license local pastor status. Thanks be to God for serving beyond the walls.

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!

Pastoral  
Care  
MINISTRIES







## CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica In February

On January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, we finished our celebration of Jesus with the book, Refuge by Anne Booth and Sam Usher.

If you are looking for a child-friendly version of the flight to Egypt, I recommend it highly. A portion of the proceeds also benefit modern day refugees.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, we all read "Simon and his Boat" from Read Aloud Bible Stories volume 2.

Overheard from our reading, "Jesus told them about something better than catching fish" to which one of our little friends replied, "Catching sharks!"

On January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we talked about baptism. Our younger friends read "Jesus is Baptized" in Children of God Storybook Bible. Our older friends read Water Come Down: The Day you were baptized by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, we talked about Jesus is in charge of even the wind and waves! Our younger friends read "The Wind that Obeyed" from Read Aloud Bible Stories volume 1. Our older friends read "Jesus Calms the Storm" from The Usborne Book of Bible Stories.

January song: Fishers of Kids!

## CMO Preschool Registration for 2017-2018

Although we are only about half way through this school year, we are already looking forward to preschool year 2017-2018. We offer preschool classes for children 18 months through 5 years old with many class choices. Our registration for next school year will begin the beginning of February. We will host an Open House on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00. If you are interested in learning more about our preschool, please contact me by either by calling the church or through email,

[tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org). I am available for tours of the preschool most days and would love to show you around.

Thanks so much!

Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director



## CMO PRESCHOOL



Registration time is here!! Our **registration for next school year** begins on **February 6th** for our current families and the following week for new families. I am looking forward to having all of our families return and welcoming our new families.

It's **Consignment Sale time again!** Our consignment sale is **March 16th and 18th** and instructions and tags will be available **beginning February 21st** on the small table by the CMO and Preschool bulletin board. If you have gently used Spring and Summer children's clothing and toys, please consider consigning. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a little money and support our program.

The children will be busy this month **learning about what it means to love**. Many of their ideas of love will be shared in their artwork in the hallway. The children have been enjoying Chapel Time with Pastor Monica. We are so blessed that she meets with the children weekly. Our month will end with a visit from a local dentist to celebrate **Dental Health Month**.

Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director



We provide a worship experience for the tenants at Twin Pines Nursing home on the following Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

**February 5**

**April 30**

**August 6**

**November 5**

If you would like to be a part of the group that goes to Twin Pines to provide worship, please see Pastor Monica!



We thank our quilters, sewers and piece-ers of the Faith UMW Circle who made quilts for our Emergency Aid families.



## Valentines for Our Penn London Students

This is our eleventh year of donating boxed valentines to the children of Penn London Elementary who do not have Valentines to give to their class mates.

Please consider buying a box of valentines and dropping it off in the collection box provided in the church lobby.

**The deadline for cards is**

**Monday, February 6.** Thank you.



**Many, many thanks** to those who blessed our young moms and their children this Christmas! We are so appreciative of the donations of toys, gift cards and funds for family outing tickets for our Christmas Shopping Event. At this annual event, the young moms use the "YoungMoms Bucks" they earn through the year to purchase gifts for their children. Your generous contributions allowed us to offer this empowering and uplifting event to the young moms! Thank you for your support! Special thanks also to Weichert Realtors, Chadds Ford and 2 Willowdale small groups for blessing several YoungMoms families this Christmas with gifts, trees and wreaths!

**SAVE THE DATE: Our 6th Annual Fundraising Brunch** "Dream Big" is on **Saturday, March 11**. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this joyful celebration of our young mom's accomplishments! Interested in helping out? There are opportunities to sponsor the event, donate an item or basket for the silent auction, or volunteer on the committee. Please let me know if you'd like to help!

**Current needs at YoungMoms...Diapers** - We provide a pack of diapers to each young mom when they attend Club night. Our diaper closet is running low! Please help our young moms by organizing a diaper drive with your small group, book club, play group, neighborhood group, etc.

Linda Mercner, Director  
linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com 484-574-3356 (cell)



## YES Youth Retreat

Save the Date: April 16, 2016.

Time: 10:00 am - 4:30 PM

Location: Cedarville UMC



1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 1946

God is calling youth into ministries -- lay, licensed and ordained. Are your young people tuned into God's voice?

At the YES Retreat youth will be exposed to a wide range of ministry options from pastoral to chaplaincy, youth work to prison ministry, a foreign mission field to teaching in a college or seminary, yes, and even business, factory, office and farm. We will worship together and act out some call stories in the Bible. They will have the opportunity to interact with other young people and enjoy indoor and outdoor games. Students will get to meet the Bishop, District Superintendents, members of the District Committee of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry. It will be a great day with food and lots of fun. This is for youth in grades 9-12. Individual youth or your whole senior high group or class are welcome.

## FAITH SHARING EVENT

Our 2017 annual Faith-Sharing Training Event will happen **March 18, from 8:30 AM to 2 PM, at New Hanover UMC.** Our guest presenter is the **Rev. Terry Teykel, a leading "prayer evangelist"** and popular speaker and author. He travels the world encouraging churches to develop and strengthen prayer ministries as a means of revival and transformation. Teykel, the founder of Renewal Ministries and Prayer Point Press, has authored several books, including *The Presence-Based Church*, *My Most Wanted: 40 Days to Pray for the Lost*, and *Pray the Price: United Methodists United in Prayer*. He has spent his life teaching churches how to develop a heartfelt, meaningful relationship with the Lord. His warm, humorous style makes him a much-sought after speaker and seminar leader.

We believe that when prayer and evangelism are reunited the Church will emerge as a powerful force for reclaiming the land and setting the captives free." -Terry Teykl.

**Save the Dates: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**July 10-14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**



## Vocational Intern Program



### Pastors and Congregations:

- Would your congregation like to have the opportunity to have an impact on a college student this summer?
- Would you like to have someone partnering with you in ministry to the community you serve?

### College Students:

- Would you like the opportunity to be on staff at a church for the summer?
- Do you sense God may be calling you into a ministry occupation and would like to gain experience being in ministry for the summer?
- Did you know the EPA Conference has a Vocational Intern Program?

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the EPA conference has this incredible program for college students to experience the opportunity of working in ministry during their summer college break. The church provides half the salary and housing if needed, and the Board of Ordained ministry will provide the other half for a total salary of \$3000.00 being paid to the intern. Applications due by May 1, 2017

For more information please call Pastor Matt Heckman at 717-273-0525 or Pastor Rob Timlin at 717-665-3400.

Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (R.A.P.) FRIDAY, 12:00 Noon- 3:00 p.m.

On January 13, RAP gathered for lunch and a travel program presented by **Richard Heacock**. We enjoyed traveling through Holland and Belgium as Richard shared slides of his travels a few years ago throughout this region. Thank you Richard for sharing your beautiful pictures with us.



Our next gathering will be held on **Friday, February 10 at 12:00 noon**. Bring your bagged lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. **Linda Peirson** will bring us a delightful and interesting overview of **Light Houses**, one of her favorite topics. Invite your friends and join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

If you would like to see RAP continue with great topics of discussion, entertainments, and interesting travels, please join the team for future programming. RAP needs a leader and/or at least twelve interested folks to plan the meetings, events, and programs for the 2017-2018 year and to plan for our 20th Anniversary RAP celebration. Look for the signup sheet at our next meeting, if you are interested in helping. Many thanks to all who gather each month to enjoy this time together and to those who help make the afternoon enjoyable.

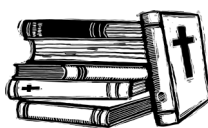
## J.U.L.I.E.T.

**JULIET...Just us Ladies  
Interested in Eating  
Together**



**Saturday, February 11, 2017**

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? Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



**Luther House  
Bible Study**

## Hear the Stories!

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](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net)

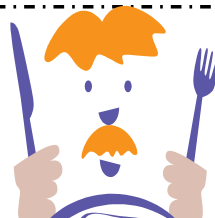
**UMW FAITH CIRCLE** will resume their schedule of meeting on the **1st and 3rd Friday mornings in the Youth Room as of**. Sewing skills are not necessary. If you are interested in our projects or want to confirm that we are meeting on a particular Friday, contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374) or Karen Boyd (443-553-4900).



## R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men  
Eating Out**

**Thursday, February 23**



**R.O.M.E.O.**

**We will meet on** 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.

FEBRUARY

## C.I.A. Youth Ministry News

## January Re-Cap

Happy New Year! January kicked off with a brunch that included some of our brand new college students! What fun it was to catch up and hear about first semester stories. Continue to pray for our students in college!

Confirmation is back at it! We started the new year by creating individual timelines and discussing what our faith stories are. I can't wait to hear each of their faith stories at the end of this process. It's such an honor to be witness to the many ways they experience God in new ways through this confirmation class.

Middle School and High School youth started up again and we spend our 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month throwing balls at each other and talking about how Abram answered God's call on his life as I challenged students to heed to where God is calling them in this new year.

## Check out what's going on for February!



**Confirmation** – Continues to meet at 9:45 on Sunday Mornings. Dates to note – March 11<sup>th</sup> – day trip to Philly for St. George's Time Traveler and April 7 – 9<sup>th</sup> is our Confirmation Retreat to Gretna Glen.

## Youth Fellowship Dates

\* **February 5<sup>th</sup>** – High School Youth Group  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

\* **February 12<sup>th</sup>** –  
MISSION TRIP REVEAL NIGHT! MS and HS together. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

\* **February 19<sup>th</sup>** – High School Youth Group.  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

\* **February 26<sup>th</sup>** – Middle School Youth Group.  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



**Mission Trip Reveal!!** - Come on out February 12<sup>th</sup> and find out **where** we are headed this summer for our mission trip! The mission trip is scheduled for June 25 – July 1 and will be open

for students who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades (by June 2017). Bring a snack on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Invite a friend who might be interested in going and come join in!



**Friday Night Dodge Ball:**  
**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**  
**7:00 – 9:00 \$2 for pizza.**  
**Bring a friend!**

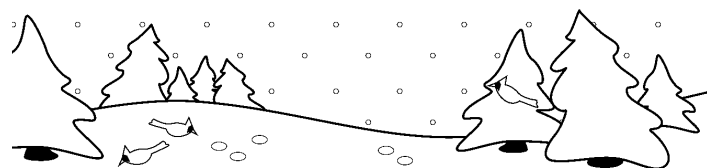
## PARENTS NITE OUT

## FUNDRAISER – Valentine Style!

Mark your calendars for **February 18<sup>th</sup>**. Parents – make plans to go out and drop your kids off for a night of fun. We will feed them (pizza), do some crafts, play some games and end the night with a movie. **Cost is \$12 per child** for 3 hours of fun and dinner. The money raised goes towards the youth summer mission trip. **4:30 – 7:30. RSVP with Jamie Lindtner. Sign-up sheets can be found in the lobby and your bulletin.**



Questions? Want to sign up for something? Or.. want to know how you can help? Contact; Jamie Lindtner at.... [jamielindtner@gmail.com](mailto:jamielindtner@gmail.com) or 610-937-7932





*Thank  
you* 

The family of  
**Fred J. Daddario**

deeply appreciates and gratefully  
acknowledges your kind expression  
of sympathy.

To Pastor Guepet and Parishioners:

Thank you and your church  
members for the lovely basket of  
flowers and prayers for our family  
during this time of sadness. We  
greatly appreciated your  
thoughtfulness.

The Daddario Family



**Save the date:**

**April 9th  
3-5 p.m.**

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.



**How can you help?**

There are copies of a shopping list of  
our current needs clipped to the shop-  
ping 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.

Please focus on needs such as

- Personal care items
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Soups
- Cereals

**Daily  
Meditations**

**Daily Meditations**

We hope you have had a  
chance to catch the new med-  
itations in the bulletin. They  
are written one for each day  
of the week as a short meditation and  
question with which you might begin your  
day. Don't forget to take your bulletin  
home and place the mediations and scrip-  
ture reading in a place you can use each  
day. May your relationship with God be  
enriched. They are also available on Face-  
book and our website!

**Save the date for Tools  
for Ministry!**

Southeast District will be  
offering Tools for Ministry  
on

**April 29th**

At West Grove United  
Methodist Church.

Save the date and plan  
to join us for wonderful  
workshop and  
engaging learning  
opportunities.



# UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN AT THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND LEARNING

By Shelley Mix

When students at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., returned to campus this fall, a new chaplain greeted them.

**Brandon Harris** never dreamed this is where his career would take him seven years ago when he entered Lincoln University as a freshman.

At Lincoln, Harris enrolled as a political science major with the intention of going to law school, but influences in and out of the classroom steered him to add religion as a second major and eventually complete graduate work in theology.

"Lincoln had a big role," he says. "I had no intention of wanting to be a pastor."

The changing goal started when he became a chapel assistant at the Mary Dod Brown Memorial Chapel where he helped plan Sunday Worship services, led Wednesday noon prayer, and preached regularly, which according to his peers he has a natural gift of public speaking.

"I love preaching," Harris adds. "I believe preaching helps change the course of history."

He said campus chaplain Rev. Frederick Faison gave students progressively more responsibility and showed them a window into what life as a chaplain is like, including allowing Harris to sit in on counseling sessions.

## Religion in the Classroom

In addition to his extracurricular chapel activities and off-campus church experiences, academics played a large part in his choosing divinity school after Lincoln.

The Rev. Dr. Gwinyai Muzorewa, Professor and Chair of the History, Political Science, Philosophy and Religion, met the 17-year-old Harris as a freshman in Introduction to Religion and recalls his "neat attire, exuding brilliance, and inviting politeness."

"As the department chair and religion professor, I took great interest in Brandon, partly due to his work ethic, self-control, and academic enthusiasm," Muzorewa says. "My intention was not to impress him but to help him 'bring out' in him what God has bestowed in him."

Harris credits Muzorewa, adjunct professor Rev. Melvin Leaman, and former vice president for student affairs Dr. F. Carl Walton, for affirming his evolving career path.

"They were people of faith," Harris explains. "Just going to their offices, having coffee, talking...it made a big difference."

Harris recalls telling his parents he was going to add religion as a second major and thinking about theology school.

"They both said they always knew that would happen and that they were just waiting on me figure it out," Harris says.

## Choosing Emory

After graduating summa cum laude from Lincoln in May 2013, the Rochester, New York, native received three full-scholarship offers to graduate school, but

after visiting Emory University in Atlanta, he knew it was the university for him.

"It reminded me of Lincoln. That's why I chose it. It has a sense of warmth, a sense of collegiality between faculty and students."

Harris entered a three-year program at Emory's Candler School of Theology and earned a Master of Divinity and certificates in Black Church studies and Baptist studies in May 2016.

## Chaplain to all denominations

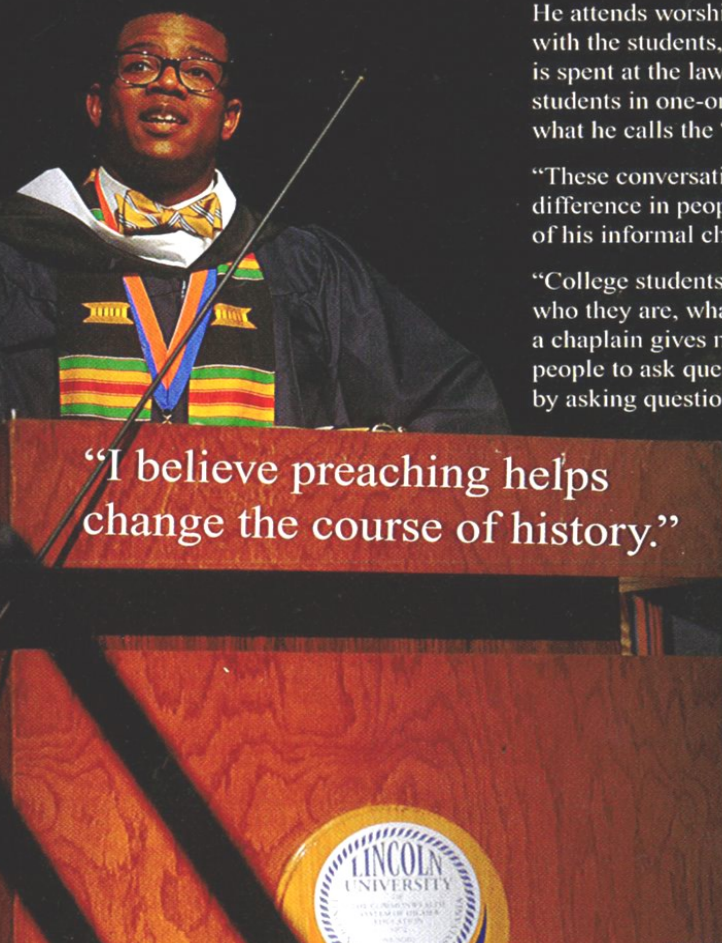
Now at the Catholic university Georgetown, Harris serves as the sole protestant chaplain at the law school and one of only two full-time protestant chaplains at the main campus. He is one of 25 volunteer Chaplains in Residence who live on campus and open their apartments weekly to fellowship with students.

He attends worship services on Sundays with the students, but most of his time is spent at the law school counseling students in one-on-one conversations, what he calls the "ministry of coffee."

"These conversations make a big difference in people's lives," Harris says of his informal chats.

"College students are trying to figure out who they are, what they want to do. Being a chaplain gives me a space to encourage people to ask questions. We prod students by asking questions." **L**

"I believe preaching helps change the course of history."







Coming up! March 1-April 16,

## 1 Service Project

1		1 Service Project
2		2 Pounds of Food
3		\$3 (Kids) \$30 (Adults)



We can show our love for our neighbors and towns by **giving of our time and energy**. Get involved by **signing up for a coordinated project** from our cross-church team or **taking action on your own**. **Children are highly encouraged to participate!** Kid-friendly service projects are denoted on our sign-up site, and individual ideas are great opportunities to demonstrate kindness toward neighbors or classmates. Get creative! Regardless of how you serve — individually or as a group, on your own or with a planned project — **be sure to tell us how it went!**



## 2 Give Pounds of Food

Local food cupboards **care for needy families** in our area by providing nutritious food all year long. **Learn what foods are most needed** (although all donations will be accepted!) and there will be food donation bins at each participating church. Donations will benefit: West Grove UMC Emergency Food Pantry.



## 3 Restore

\$3 (Kids) / \$30 (Adults)

Donations will benefit **CASA Youth Advocates**-an organization committed to advocating for each child in the foster care system.





# EVERY CHILD NEEDS A CHAMPION

CASA YOUTH ADVOCATES

## Our Mission & Vision

Our mission is to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are involved in the family courts. Through it, we envision a bright future for all abused and neglected children that begins with a permanent and nurturing home combined with opportunities to learn, thrive and build resiliency. CASA does this by promoting and supporting quality volunteer advocacy from people within the communities we serve.

CASA lives and operates by the following guiding principles:

- Every abused and neglected child has the right to live in a safe, permanent and nurturing home environment
- CASA volunteer advocates are essential to helping abused and neglected children to successfully navigate court appearances
- CASA volunteers should represent the diversity and experience of our community
- We are committed to delivering exceptional value to the donors, volunteers and community partners whose support drives our mission forward



**Financial Peace University offered during the Sunday School Hour!**

On February 19, FPU will hold a Question and Answer session for those who would like to learn more

about the class before registering.

**The classes will begin on February 26** and continue through April 10 in room 4 from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. See David and Barbara Delany for more information.



Save the dates:

We are hosting our  
next week:

April 16th—13rd

Mark your calendar to  
help out!



Sponsored by the  
Oxford Mission ConneXion

**What:** Package meals to be shipped  
throughout the world to support school  
feeding programs, orphanages, and  
crisis relief.

**Date:** Saturday, Mar. 25, 2017

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon

**Where:** West Grove UMC

**Who:** Volunteers of all ages

**Celebrating that in 2016, for  
the first time in multiple years  
our giving exceeded our ex-  
penditures! Look for more de-  
tails to come.**

**Thanks be to God!**



## Thoughts on Faith

*"Christian social  
witness is not mere-  
ly a footnote to*

*these foundations of our faith," Harold  
T. Lewis writes, "but is an outgrowth of  
them. It is faith in action. It is what we  
do as a consequence of what we be-  
lieve."*

*"What good is it, my brothers and sis-  
ters, if you say you have faith but do  
not have works? Can faith save  
you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and  
lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says  
to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and  
eat your fill', and yet you do not supply  
their bodily needs, what is the good of  
that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no  
works, is dead." James 2: 14-16*



**February 11th: Trip to a HUB of Mission  
Central.**

UMCOR supplies kits around the country and the  
world to those in need.

We will put together School kits, Layette kits, and  
health kits for UMCOR

No need to bring supplies

Join us at 10 am at Christiana Mission HUB

21 W. Main St., Christiana, Delaware 19702

## *Books mentioned in sermons:*

*The Preaching Life by Barbara Brown Taylor*

*Gospel Medicine by Barbara Brown Taylor*

*A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings  
and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. by  
Martin Luther King, Jr. and James M. Wash-  
ington.*



**We will be making Hope Totes.** Be on the look out for supplies to bring in .

Hope Totes are small plastic bags that are provided by the Sun-day Breakfast Mission, and our congregation has been filling them with new, unopened products, including: toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lip balm, socks, brush and comb, tissues, shoelaces, hand or body lotion, disposable razors, mouth-wash, etc. The filled bags are then delivered to the Sunday Breakfast Mission and distributed as needed. These basic supplies can make a big difference in the way people who are homeless live and feel about themselves.



**Wednesday,  
March 1st,  
2017**

Please join us at 12 noon or 7pm for our Ash Wednesday Service.

Both service will feature the imposition of ashes and the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Join us at the noon service. We hope that some of our folks who pre-fer not to drive at night or who might have conflicts in the evening can join us as we offer additional opportunities to worship.



## Lent Wednesday Night Fun!

Join us for potluck dinner and activities to prepare for Lent.

**Families can get a night off of cooking by coming to the church for a potluck dinner of whatever assortment of dishes show up. All beverages will be supplied. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, it will be appreciated, but by no means mandatory. The event is totally free.**

**March 1—Ash Wednesday Service noon and 7pm - no potluck.**

**March 8—Lenten Prayer—Making a Chain**

**March 15— Game Night**

**March 22 - Baking Cookies for those who serve us!**

**March 29—Making Easter boxes for Shut-ins**

**April 5—Give Back Day—An experience of global missions—HERE!**

**April 12—Packing Hope Totes**

Join in us one week or all the weeks!



## Scout Sunday is February 5th

Please join us for worship on Sunday, February 5th as we celebrate our Scouts! (Boys and Girls!)

We will be celebrating our charter with Troop and Crew 12. Do you know that we charter 1 Boy Scout Troop #12, 1 Venture Crew #12, and host 2 Daisy Troops #4383, Troop #4567, 3 Brownies Troops #447, #498, #4070, 3 Girl Scout Junior Troops #41377, #453, 04317!

As we celebrate the important role that scouting plays in the life of our congregation and community, we hope that you will join us on February 5th in worship.



Please let know if you earned a my Faith, My Promise pin, We will present it to you!



**Thank you for your generous giving to Human Relations Day.**

We will be sending \$145 to the Conference for nurturing at-risk youth, strengthening communities' self-improvement efforts and advocating for the oppressed. Thank you for giving.

*Thank you for our Knit Wits for making the beautiful prayer shawls given out at the Blue Christmas service!*

In case of an emergency, many in our community look for a warm location with access to electrical power, warm food, and comforting conversation.

West Grove UMC has been providing this informally for many years. This month, our trustees have approved our official inclusion on a Chester County list of facilities that would be available as Comfort Care centers in case of an emergency.

At each emergency, each comfort care center sets their availability. Prayerfully consider how you might be able to help in the case of an emergency.



## 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.*

## From Ronald McDonald House

### 2,013 FAMILIES KEPT CLOSE IN 2016



THANK YOU for your support in 2016. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide over 2,000 families with accommodations during their child's illness or hospitalization.

Here are 3 quotes from families expressing their gratitude for the programs you help us provide:

*1 We travel 8-9 hours... for our son's surgeries, and appreciate being able to stay so close to the hospital while he is there... The Ronald McDonald house is a little bit of light in darkness. Thank you so much!"*

*2 "We've had countless stays at Ronald McDonald House in 18 years and every stay has been a blessing. Thanks to the wonderful staff and volunteers."*

*3 "It's so nice to stay close to the hospital and allow him to play some ping-pong and pool to keep his mind off of his health for a little bit! Thank you to everyone who makes it so comfortable for us!"*



SCRIP is a great way to help our congregation.

Do you order books from Barnes and Noble for school or pleasure?

Buy a gift card from SCRIP through the church. If you buy a \$100 gift card, SCRIP sends \$9.00 to the church!

See John Boyd for more details!



Happy New Year Mission Partner,

I was sitting here reflecting on 2016, and what a busy and rewarding year it was! Of course, I immediately thought of you and how God used you to help make a difference.

Thanks to your prayers and support, thousands of lives have been transformed. This year, you've helped provide 325,000 hot meals, 107,000 nights of shelter, hundreds of pounds of clothing and many signs of hope and God's healing.

Your support made a powerful impact last year. Now, we're stepping into 2017 with renewed vision and purpose to reach hungry, homeless and hurting people in our community. I hope we can count on your support again this year.

Thank you for caring about neighbors facing homelessness, and for reaching out with God's love in a truly significant way. I invite you to come see firsthand how your compassionate support is bringing hope to your neighbors in need.

As we recall the words of Hebrews 12:1, "...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

May God richly bless you,

Rev. Thomas J. Laymon  
Sr. Pastor/President Sunday Breakfast Mission



**Save the Date!**

**May 20th , 2017**

### **Bike Ride to Raise Funds to Support Family Promise**

8:00 am start for 50 miles

9:00 am start for 35 miles

\$40 registration fee

Contact Lonnie Luscavage for more information

[lluscavage@gmail.com](mailto:lluscavage@gmail.com)





**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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)



*~ 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](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)**

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

**[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)**

**The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries**

**[Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org)**

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

**[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)**

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

**[davsan5@comcast.net](mailto:davsan5@comcast.net)**

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director

**[Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org)**

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

**[Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org](mailto: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

OPEN - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Luke Chalmers- Delegate to Annual Conference

Cindy Haley - Lay Leader

OPEN - U.M.W. President

OPEN- Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers

Ad Council Member at Large