



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**
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May 2017



Spring reminds me of change. The empty sticks, that were a month ago weighed down with snow and looked like they were not good for anything, have found shape with green leaves and the shape of the hydrangea bush is coming into my imagination. The bits of straw and cotton shoved in between my shutters now have purpose as home to wrens and other birds around our home. Hard, dry ground is now springing forth with colors and blooms decorated with beautiful colors.



Spring is the season that reminds us that the place where we once thought nothing was possible, everything is now possible! It is no coincidence that resurrection is squarely scheduled in spring. At the first signs of possibility, we are reminded that God was never overcome! But new life is not just for our natural surroundings! New life is for us! For those of us who are new to faith, and for those of us who have been around for a while.

On May 24th, we celebrate Aldersgate Day. The day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced new life. He had grown up in the church as a pastor's kid. He was ordained in the Anglican church. He was active in the work of serving others in the community. However, he had not experienced God's presence for himself. He was attending bible study with his friends, the Moravians. Read about the event from his journal:

May 24th, 1738

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

I began to pray with all my might for those who had in a more especial manner despitefully used me and persecuted me. I then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart. But it was not long before the enemy suggested, "This cannot be faith; for where is thy joy?" Then was I taught that peace and victory over sin are essential to faith in the Captain of our salvation; but that, as to the transports of joy that usually attend the beginning of it, especially in those who have mourned deeply, God sometimes giveth, sometimes withholdeth, them according to the counsels of His own will.

After my return home, I was much buffeted with temptations, but I cried out, and they fled away. They returned again and again. I as often lifted up my eyes, and He "sent me help from his holy place." And herein I found the difference between this and my former state chiefly consisted. I was striving, yea, fighting with all my might under the law, as well as under grace. But then I was sometimes, if not often, conquered; now, I was always conqueror."

For you and me as we watch flowers blossom and bloom, birds return and nest, and the earth bring forth new life, let us be open to where God might be calling us into new life. John Wesley has been ordained for 10 years when he experienced God's presence in his life for the very first time. Open your heart and mind to where God might be calling you! Maybe God is calling you to teach Sunday School or VBS. Maybe God is calling you to work with our soundboard or in the office. Maybe God is calling you to pray for others or visit them when they are homebound.

Be on the lookout! Just like spring, God calls you when you have begun to think nothing good will come. Just like spring, God blossoms and blooms in our lives in brilliant ways. Just spring, God continues to come back again and again to us, so that we might know God's delight.

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica



Psalm 23

This familiar psalm includes good teachings about who God is and educative points for who we are in the world. It's familiar nature opens it up as teaching tool to use with others.

Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 7th

Communion Sunday

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

**Scripture: Psalm 23:3,
Matthew 18:10-14**

Sermon: Guidance Shepherd

God promises to guidance us.

How do we know where God is guiding us?

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 14th

Mother's Day

Scripture: Psalm 23:4, John 14: 25-31

Sermon: Comforting Shepherd

Comfort comes in many forms. Where is God comforting you?



Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 21st

**Scripture: Psalm 23:5,
Mark 6: 34-44**

Sermon: Provider Shepherd

When you feel like you do not have enough, God provides what you need. How is God providing for you?

Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 28th

Scripture: Psalm 23:6, John 10:11-18

Sermon: Eternal Shepherd

Not for a day, a week, a month, God is the shepherd of our souls forever.

Catch the weekly video here:

<http://westgroveumc.org/west-grove-umc-on-youtube/>



We provide a worship experience for the tenants at Twin Pines Nursing home on the following Sundays at 2:00 p.m. **August 6, November 5**

If you would like to be a part of the group that goes to Twin Pines to provide worship,



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in recognition of Memorial Day.

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

May's Coffee Fellowship is brought to you by :

The Faithlinks Class



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.



The United Methodist Church

REACHING OUT MINISTRY

HAPPY EASTER 2017!

In March we attended the Congo Central Conference in Kamina/DRC. We would like to thank you very much for your prayers and for your support.

As we are celebrating Easter, it is a time to renew our commitment to serve the Risen Lord.

We need your prayers and your supports on:

- *Training pastors in June – August
- *Building two classrooms in June-July
- *Drilling two wells at Mtipule area
- *Mission teams from Oklahoma in June and July
- *Buying an UMC land in Makambako (almost usd 4,000.00)
- *Getting some clinic equipment
- *Training women



JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!!!!!!

Pictures:- Rev Umba leading UMC leader seminars in Dodoma(April 8-9,17).

- Mrs Ngoy training some women in making handbags.



Yours,

NGOY MULANGA KALANGWA, missionary advance number 15162Z

Email: nkalangwa@umcmmission.org

UMBA ILUNGA KALANGWA, missionary advance number 14211Z

Email: ukalangwa@umcmmission.org ;ukalangwa@gmail.com

Our projects: Susannah Wesley Education and Health Care Center, advance project No 3020705

Wesley primary school, advance project number No 3020704

Preschools , advance project No 15048N

Morogoro Pastors School, advance project No 3022261

*Mrs Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa is our covenant missionary whom we support. She serves at the Susannah Wesley Education and Health care center in Tanzania. We are delighted to receive her ministry update!

Psalm 23 rewritten

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that he is my source and not my job.

He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning,

I still will not stop — for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check. His retirement plan beats every 401k there is!



When it's all said and done,

I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that,

I BLESS HIS NAME!!



Thanks for joining us in the fight against hunger.

The meals you packaged will make a big impact in the lives of people around the globe. My, age 6, lives in a community where unpredictable droughts and flooding create instability for many farming families. Her family struggles to afford food, typically eating just two small meals each day. Although life is difficult for them, My is a very cheerful, lively child. Since receiving Rise Against Hunger meals at school, My's physical health and academic performance have improved greatly. She hopes to become a doctor so she can help those in need.

My is only one of the tens of thousands of children in countries all over the world who receive Rise Against Hunger meals at school. Since 2005, volunteers like you have helped package more than 310 million meals for distribution to 74 countries. To provide support for children like My around the globe, please consider making a gift at www.riseagainsthunger.org/donate.

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event on 3/25/2017 have been shipped in a container totaling 142,560 meals from our Philadelphia, PA warehouse.

The meals will be received by our in-country partner Salesian Missions in Peru. Currently Peru is experiencing unusually heavy rainfall that has claimed the lives of more than 90 people. About half of the country has been declared in a state of emergency, with landslides and floods destroying crops, livelihoods, and infrastructure. More than 70,000 people have become homeless since the start of the year. Through its partnership with Salesian Missions, Rise Against Hunger will provide food assistance to families in the city of Piura where Salesian Missions work focuses on vulnerable individuals. RAH will be sending 142,560 meals for 889 households as part of our support towards recovery and resilience.

Visit www.riseagainsthunger.org for more information on how you can support Rise Against Hunger and continue your involvement in the fight against hunger. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/riseagainsthunger for updates, videos and photos from the field. Thank you for volunteering with Rise Against Hunger. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the vision of a world without hunger.

Gratefully,
 Robby Riggs
 Program Manager
 Rise Against Hunger Philadelphia, PA
philadelphia@stophungernow.org

**WELL
 DONE!**

© Can Stock Photo

CARING FOR OUR CHURCH ~ A FEW REMINDERS



Thank you for being an important part of our church and our community. There are so many folks who use the church both for church meetings and community groups.

Some reminders so that we can all take good care of the church:

- Please make sure **to turn off lights**, close windows and **lock up the church** behind you as you are leaving. Even if other groups are in the church, they may not have used the door you unlocked or even have the same key, so be sure to lock up.
- If you have projects that create messes, please make sure to **take time to clean them up!** The kitchen closet has the tools for cleaning as well as extra trash bags. Please be sure to empty the trash and deposit them in the cans at the rear of the church by the Admin wing.

We appreciate you leaving our HANDICAP SPOTS for those who need them most. Urgent need is understood, but we want to be sure that they are available for those who truly need them at all times of the day or night.

Most of all, THANK YOU! We are blessed to have so many wonderful, caring people using the church for the betterment of our entire community! Should you ever have any questions or concerns, please call Donna in the church office and she will do her best to address them. 610-869-9334 or office@westgroveumc.org

SCRIP gift cards are 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 though the church. If you buy a \$100 gift card, SCRIP sends \$9.00 to the church! See John Boyd for more details!

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.

Summer Worship

Please note that during July and August our worship will be at 9:30 am. This will be a blended service with elements from our contemporary worship and traditional worship.

We hope you will take advantage of this time for worshipping with persons in our congregation who you may not see during the rest of the year.



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.

Pastor Mundell will be back from his cruise and will lead service. Many thanks to Karen Hruz!

Join us there!

Sunday, May 14th

DO YOU LIKE TO WELCOME GUESTS?

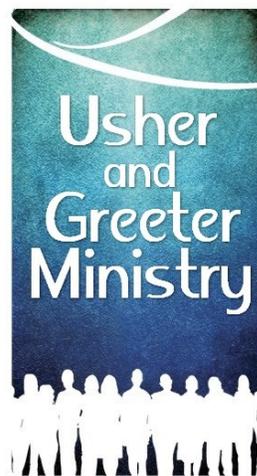
CAN YOU HELP OTHERS FEEL COMFORTABLE?

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.



Books mentioned in sermons

Lesson from a Sheep Dog

By Phillip Keller

A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23

by Phillip Keller

The Last Week: What the Gospels really teach about Jesus's Final Days

In Jerusalem,

by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

The Crucified God

by Jurgen Moltmann

African Prayer Book

by Desmond Tutu

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.

My email address is jmille8698@verizon.net and my phone number is 610-869-8935.



Visitation MINISTRY

Visitation Ministry

"I was sick and you visited me . . ." Matthew 25:36

Visitors bring joy to the homebound and those who are lonely or isolated. Did you know visiting has been a part of the Church's practices since our beginnings?

Visiting is the works of mercy. Jesus speaks of them, "I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink . . . I was sick, and you visited me . . ."

Visiting the homebound is not only 'a good deed,' it's a privilege that the Lord bestows on each and every one of us, if we choose to accept it.

I know it can be daunting to go into a stranger's home for the first time, but in general I have found that they are grateful for a chance to chat and have a visit. It brings us close together as children of God and as members of the Body of Christ.

This is a rewarding ministry, meeting others, getting to know the people and their families. If you are interested in visiting the homebound and the lonely, please contact me, Pastor Shirley Daddario at Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org or call 302-420-4032. West Grove UMC would love for you to join in this privilege.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Shirley



The United Methodist Women 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.



Looking for someone to coordinate our Community Garden!

Great ministry to feed yourself and others as well as be out in God's creation!

See Pastor Monica for more information.

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 tithe and offering.

Item	Quantity	Approximate 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
Fireproof filing cabinet	2	\$ 2,500
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms	25	\$ 500
Multifunction printer	1	\$ 150

Please see Pastor Monica with questions, interest, or ideas.

If your team has ideas or contributions to the opportunity list, please submit them for review to the Administrative Council chair, Carol Whelan.



1



1 Service Project

2



2 Pounds of Food

3



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

With 21 other area churches, we have collaborated to do common good and impact our community by doing service projects, giving food and raising funds for CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates .

YOU GUYS ROCK!

www.giftshare24.com

Final West Grove UMC Totals Include:

-303 pounds of food! That's 103 pounds over our goal of 200 pounds!
Monetary donations of \$1,021!

Final Totals for the Full community:

Over 4,00 pounds of food
Over \$45,000 to CASA



OPERATION CAREWARE

Thank you for your generous donations!

We collected girls and boys underwear, ladies and men's underwear, bras and shower shoes, socks, and undershirts. A trunk load of personal garments were delivered to Sunday Breakfast Missions. They were pleased and so very appreciative of our support.



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, 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.

Pastor Monica challenged us to read the Bible in a year.



If you have taken this challenge, you have already read almost 1/6 of the Bible – GREAT JOB! You have read some heart-warming stories and some familiar passages, as well as some usual passages and things you had no idea were in the Bible.

Some people reading through the Bible would like to get together and discuss.

We are considering getting together on Tuesday or Thursday evening. Let us know what would work for you.

Questions? Comments? Please see Karen Hruz or Pastor Monica for more information.

THE WORLD
IS MY PARISH
- JOHN WESLEY



In our United Methodist connection, we believe our clergy and lay people should be connected in ministry in the church, in the community and beyond the walls.

What's been going on recently?

Pastor Shirley is serving on the Ministerium's efforts to enliven the National Day of Prayer and serves on the Southeast District's Resource Committee.

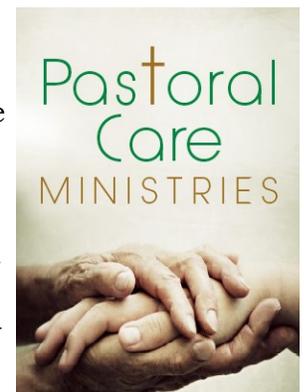
Pastor Monica serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry, who evaluate candidates for ordained ministry. She is the chair of the District Committee on Ministry, supervising licensed pastors. Pastor Monica is also co-coordinator of Annual Conference Worship.

Pastor Jim is offering worship and Bible Study on ship as he and Betty cruise around the world.

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!





Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Set-Up on Thursday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.

Sale, Friday, May 5: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sale, Saturday, May 6: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Household goods, adult and children's clothing, toys, and lots of other "treasures" will be for sale. On Saturday, all shoppers may fill a bag for \$2.00

How can you help?

This is a biannual event pioneered by the United Methodist Women. It offers gently used clothing and household items to the community at record low prices. Many families in our community attend this event and the bargains are very helpful to them in these hard economic times. In order for the event to be held, many hands are needed for the physical labor of setting up the sanctuary and putting the items out on tables on the Thursday before the Friday sale. Then the reverse must happen on Saturday to get the sanctuary set up for Sunday worship. It is also helpful to have a half dozen people available during the busiest sale hours to help with check out on Friday and Saturday morning. Please consider lending an hour or two. The United Methodist Women use the proceeds of this event for various missions or additions to our church.

Also needed, of course, are donations of gently used clothing and household items. These can be brought to the church during office hours the week before the sale.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the lobby.

We will be setting up on Thursday, May 4 at 9 a.m.

So, start cleaning and sorting and we will see you at the sale!

Your gently used donations can be dropped off in the lobby coat closet beginning Sunday, April 30 through Thursday, May 4. The church office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank you!



Thank you to all who have spent time on Sunday mornings volunteering in the nursery!

We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

We are in need of additional volunteers, especially during the 11am service.

If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at ahass17@hotmail.com or [610-468-4321](tel:610-468-4321).



Save the Dates for VBS!

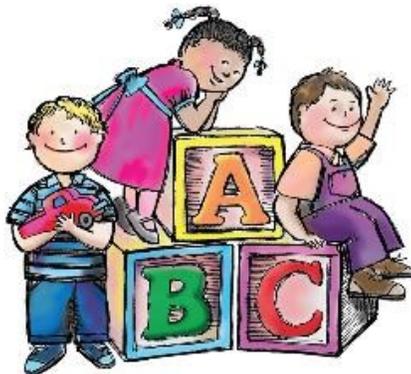
HERO CENTRAL

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

Get ready for an action-packed 5-day super hero training camp where kids discover their strength in God! *Hero Central 2017 VBS* from Cokesbury prepares kids to *Do good! Seek peace and go after it!* Ps. 31:14B (CEB). Kids at **VBS Hero Central** learn God's heroes have Heart (Samuel Anoints David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus Goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories!

Volunteers are needed, so please look for sign-ups on-line and in the lobby!!

CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!



CMO PRESCHOOL

It is hard to believe that our school year will be ending soon. It seems like every year, the school year goes by more quickly.

April has been a very busy month for us. The children have been learning about Easter, are anticipating the arrival of our ladybug larvae and caterpillars, and are looking forward to our field trips to Plumpton Park Zoo. Just like our little caterpillars will grow into beautiful butterflies, our children have grown so much this year.

It is amazing to see the transformation of each little one as they come in September, maybe feeling a little nervous and anxious, to now seeing them walking in to preschool with confidence. Children are truly a gift and we all feel so blessed that our families are willing to share their children with us.

Our year will end with the children singing some of their favorite songs for their families, followed by a visit by the Moo Mobile of Kilby Creamery for an ice cream treat. SHH! **It's a surprise!**

We do still have just a few openings in some of our classes. If you or someone you know may be interested in our preschool program, please reach out to me.

I would love to show and tell you about the wonderful preschool of the church.

Thanks!

Tracy McLaughlin, CMO director

CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica In April



Our Song: Jesus Loves the Little Children

April 5/6 - The Story of Easter by Spark Bible

April 12/13 - Spring Break

April 19/20 - A Sad Day and a Happy Day Read Aloud Bible Stories vol. 2/

God's Wonderful Surprise Jesus Storybook Bible

April 26/27 - The Man Who was Too Little Read Aloud Volume 2

Overheard in Chapel Time:

Child 1: Where is Jesus now?

Child 2: In heaven

Child 3: In your heart

Child 4: He's retired!

As Pastor Jim and Betty are traveling, short update:

Our weather has been excellent, mainly sunny warm/hot days before we came through the Suez Canal and now in the Mediterranean Sea. We still have sunny days but the temperature is cool high 50's and low 60's with cool winds. So, this has been a big change for us. After leaving Hvar the next day we docked at Venice where we stayed overnight giving us two days in this wonderful city. Having been here before, we wanted to visit the island of Burano. To do this we had to take a "waterbus". This is how you get around Venice. Because of all the canals there are no streets as such, only places to walk. You need to take the "water bus" to get where you are going. From Venice we sailed to Sibenik, Croatia, the country we visited before going to Venice. This will be on our next update. We are now on our last leg of the cruise with only a few more ports of call.



SAVE THE DATE

On May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Penn Park, West Grove (across from the YMCA) several churches from all faiths will be a part of National Day of Prayer. West Grove

United Methodist Church is one of the churches participating in this national event.

We will be at the pavilion for prayer time, and live music by the Community Choir from New London UMC.

National Day of Prayer calls on all people of different faiths in the United States to pray for the nation and its leaders. . National Day of Prayer is a time for people of all faiths to pray together .

It is held on the first Thursday of May each year.

Through the efforts of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, more than 35,000 prayer gatherings will be conducted by about 40,000 volunteers across the United States. Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer.

Did you know?

In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

The National Prayer Committee was formed in the United States in 1972. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. According to the Legal Information Institute, the President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.



C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



April Re-cap

- We had a great confirmation retreat at Gretna Glen Retreat Center! The weather was warm, we learned about service by serving at a nursing home. We took an inventory on spiritual gifts as student learned a bit about what gifts they have been given. We participated in some trust activities and learned about what it means to trust in God. And we talked about being a community of believers and the body of Christ. What a great weekend spent with students!



Looking Ahead

May 7th – High School Youth Group @ Brothers Pizza - 6:00

May 21 – Middle School Youth Group @ WGUMC – 6:00

Friday Night Dodge Ball – May 12th. 7 – 9:00.

\$2 for pizza.



Virginia Mission Team information.



- We will meet as a team to prepare for our time in Virginia Beach. We will meet June 5th and June 12th from 7 – 8:30. We will have a team dinner at Jamie’s House on Thursday, June 22nd.
- If you have not already handed in your forms and deposit of \$100 – please do so ASAP.
- Jamie Lindtner ***Director Of Youth Ministry***



Any questions or to get involved in the Youth Ministry @ WGUMC -contact

Jamie Lindtner at
jamielindtner@gmail.com



Rise Up and Pray! is the elevating main theme of the 2017 Eastern PA Annual Conference, which will return to the spacious Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA, from Thursday to Saturday, June 15-17.

Preachers, teachers, musicians, worship liturgists, prayer guides and prayer stations around the meeting hall will all center the gathering in the practice and power of prayer, no doubt invoking the God of eternal

grace to “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.” That centering will receive particular attention when special guest the Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville since 1999, offers a Friday teaching session on prayer.

Three bishops will preach during the 251st session of the Eastern PA Conference, including two familiar voices and a new voice on the Northeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops. Resident Bishop Peggy Johnson will preach for the Opening Worship and Eucharist Service on Thursday afternoon. New Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, who leads the neighboring Baltimore-Washington Conference, will preach for the Ordination Service on Friday night. Bishop Peter Weaver, retired, who led our own conference and the Philadelphia Episcopal Area from 1996 to 2004, will preach during the Memorial Service on Saturday morning .

Special offerings will support scholarships and Methodist Services (formerly the Methodist Home for Children).



West Grove United Methodist Church was issued a \$33.53 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2016. So friends, keep using Amazon Smile when you shop—doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation!



Save the Date!

May 20th , 2017

Bike Ride to Raise Funds to Support Family Promise So. Chester County

Sponsored by West Grove UMC

8:00 am start for 50 miles

9:00 am start for 35 miles

\$40 Entry Fee

Contact Lonnie Luscavage for more information: lluscavage@gmail.com

This event begins and ends at WGUMC. If you are interested in riding, visit our registration site at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880>

We need volunteers for assistance at the church and two rest stops. Contact Janice Bowers, Lonnie Luscavage or the church office if you would like to help out!

Retired Active People



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

RAP – May 19th



Thank you Bob Phillips for sharing your observation of birds at our April gathering. We meet again on Friday May 19th at noon. Please bring your

favorite covered dish as we gather for our last meeting until September. Desserts and drinks will be provided.

Our program in May will be presented by Dick Stuhrke. He will be sharing information about the USS Constitution; the ship that earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" in the War of 1812. Although launched over 200 years ago, the USS Constitution remains afloat in Boston Harbor where it's open to the visiting public. The USS Constitution still holds the distinction of being the oldest commissioned warship of any country's navy in the world, and it is also the only currently commissioned ship in our Navy that can claim to have sunk an enemy ship in battle. Dick will also display a model of Old Ironsides which he recently built. His talk will cover three topics: a brief early history of the US Navy, including events that gave rise to the need of the Navy to build ships like the Constitution; some interesting facts about the ship itself; and his experience in building the model.

Plan to join us for a great afternoon program, and good food and fellowship. Hope to see you in May.



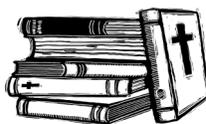
J.U.L.I.E.T.

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together



Saturday, May 13, 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)



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. **We will be starting a Lenten Study entitled "Walking Toward Glory" by John Birch.** If you have any questions, contact Cindy Haley at: 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
May 25, 2017



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.

Mother's Day prayer from Women of the Bible

We remember Sarai who was taunted by others in the household because of her inability to have children. All-encompassing God we pray for those who feel excluded when we emphasize one kind of family as normal

We remember Esther, who was adopted and raised by her cousin. God who embraces us all, we pray for those who cannot be raised by their parents, for a short time or permanently.

We remember the mother of Moses, who placed him into a raft on the river. Saving God, we pray for parents who struggle to raise their children in oppressive circumstances.

We remember Hannah, who loved her child so much she handed him over to another to raise. Loving God, we pray for parents who have placed their child in another family.

We remember Naomi, who grieved the death of her sons. God, who grieves with us, we pray for parents who mourn the death of a child. We remember Ruth, who gave up her family to be family to another. Inclusive God, we pray for those who choose to be family to those isolated by culture or language or distance.

We remember Elisabeth, who had a child in old age and we remember Mary, who had a child as a teenager. Ageless God, we pray that as a community we accept people of varying life stages and responsibilities and relationships.

We remember Rachel, crying for her children. God of justice and hope, we pray for those whose children are killed, and look to a time when children can live safely in their communities.

We remember Lois and Eunice, who taught Timothy faith by example. Faithful God we pray for those who teach us faith by their lives, may we remember that we also teach about you in the way we live.

We remember other people, not named in the Scriptures, like the mother of the prodigal son. Companion God, we pray for those who wait for a phone call or a visit, cut off from family and friends by distance and disagreement.

Nurturing God, we give thanks for those who enrich our lives by their presence, who teach us about your abundant love, who encourage us to journey in faith.

~Rev. Patty Lawrence

Our community has deep needs with which we can help!

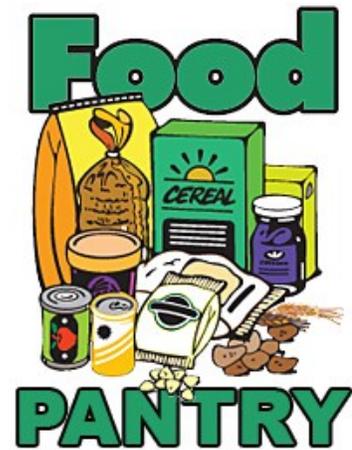
Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls for specific needs for our pantry.

How can you help?

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

Please focus on needs such as

- Personal care items, Toilet paper, Paper towels
- Soups, Canned meats, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits



Daily Meditations

They are written one for each day of the week as a short meditation and question to begin your day. Take your bulletin home and read each day. May your relationship with God be enriched. They are also available on Facebook and our website!



Signs of Depression

Written by the Healthline Editorial Team

Medically Reviewed by George T. Krucik, MD, MBA
on July 31, 2015

Could It Be Depression? Being unhappy isn't the same as being depressed. Depression is a term often used loosely to describe how we feel after a bad week at work or when we get dumped. But major depressive disorder — a type of depression — is much more complicated. There are specific symptoms and signs that determine whether it's depression or just a case of the Mondays.

Determining if persistent, unshakable feelings are a result of depression can start the process of healing and recovery life. Read through these warning signs and test yourself to see if it's time to see a professional.

Major depression is a mood disorder that affects the way you feel about life in general. Having a hopeless or helpless outlook on your life is the most commonly associated symptom of depression. Other feelings may be worthlessness, self-hate, or inappropriate guilt. Common, recurring thoughts of depression are vocalized as, "It's all my fault," or "What's the point?"

Lost Interest. Depression can take the pleasure or enjoyment out of the things you love. A loss of interest or withdrawal from activities that you once looked forward to — sports, hobbies, or going out with friends — is yet another telltale sign of major depression. Another symptom of major depression is a decreased sex drive and even impotence.

Fatigue and Sleep. Part of the reason you might stop doing things you enjoy is because you feel very tired. Depression often comes with a lack of energy and an overwhelming feeling of lethargy, which can be the most debilitating symptoms of depression. This could lead to excessive sleeping or no sleep at all.

Depression is also linked to insomnia, as one might lead to the other and vice versa. They can also make each other worse. The lack of quality, restful sleep can also lead to anxiety.

Anxiety and Irritability. Sure, Pablo Picasso's "The Old Guitarist" might have summed up the depressed painter's emotions during his Blue Period, but often people with major depression see plenty of red, so to speak. The physical and mental toll of depression also contributes to anxiety and irritability. Depression also affects the sexes differently. Research shows that in addition to irritability men may display symptoms not typically associated with depression, like escapist or risky behavior, substance abuse, or misplaced anger.

Appetite and Weight. Weight and appetite can fluctuate differently for each person with major depression. Some will have an increased appetite and gain weight while others won't be hungry and lose

weight. A distinguishing factor to determine if the dietary changes are related to depression is whether they are intentional or not. If they're not, it might be a clue that something larger is wrong.

Uncontrollable Emotions. One minute it's an outburst of anger. The next you're crying uncontrollably. Nothing outside of you prompted the change, but your emotions are up and down at a moment's notice. Depression can swing your moods around, keeping you away from the calm you so desperately want. In a similar way to another mood disorder, bipolar disorder, moods can fluctuate uncontrollably, which is one reason why the two are often confused.

Looking at Death. The scariest reality with depression is its connection with suicide. In fact in 2013, more than 41,000 people died from suicide in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Suicides rarely come without showing symptoms first. Often people will talk about it or have a first attempt before succeeding in ending their life.

Getting Help. If you have had some of the previously mentioned symptoms for more than two weeks, you might be suffering from major depression disorder. Recognizing that you are depressed and finding the right information is pivotal to getting the right help.

Depression affects millions of people, but there are varying treatments available, from lifestyle changes to medications. No matter the path of treatment you choose, asking for professional help is the first step to getting back to feeling like yourself again.

Suicide prevention

If you think someone is at immediate risk of self-harm or hurting another person:

Call 911 or your local emergency number.

Stay with the person until help arrives.

Remove any guns, knives, medications, or other things that may cause harm.

Listen, but don't judge, argue, threaten, or yell.

If you think someone is considering suicide, get help from a crisis or suicide prevention hotline. Try the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Sources: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline • Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Support Family Promise while enjoying the sounds of the



Unionville Presbyterian Church Choir



Will include traditional and contemporary choral music. A free, delicious Dessert Reception will be available following the concert. A free-will offering will be received to support the work of Family Promise of Southern Chester County whose mission is to alleviate homelessness for children and their families in our community.



Saturday, May 13, 2017

6pm—Concert • 7pm—Dessert Reception

Unionville Presbyterian Church at 815 Wollaston Road in Kennett Square, PA

For more information call 610-347-2327

From Vision to Action

A year ago, we put action to our vision to reallocate our rooms and space to be used to their fullest potential. Over the summer, painting and adapting, shelves and electrical outlets were reconsidered and adapted in my many of rooms, so that we could give the most possible spaces for ministry opportunities. We have followed that up this year with the installation of three smart televisions that can interface with computers, phones, and our technological devices.

We give thanks to God for the vision of reallocation that has allowed ministries to thrive. We have increased space, energy, and opportunities around Faith Learning Academy (our adult Sunday School options). We have grown our CMO preschool classes and programs. We have expanded technology capabilities for many ministries. We have enriched these areas to be used for ministries of scouting, community, children, education, and much more.

Thanks be to God for Vision and Action!

Looking Forward

We are prayerfully discerning vision for our church in future years. We invite the whole congregation to pray specifically:

God will give us specific hearts for our community.

God will open us to move beyond comfortable to growing in our faith.

God will rise up leaders and servants to serve those in need and lead.



On March 26th, members of our leadership team and other interested persons met to Recap where God is calling us and how our vision is guiding us in following God.

Eighteen months prior, we had met to take stock and where we were and to discern. Since then, we have come to a more sustainably cash positive position in fiscal stability. We have reallocated our building use. We have an associate pastor of Congregational Care. We continue to focus on our mission:

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

Open~ Grow ~ Serve

Out of our recap, we have cast a vision of ways in which we are called to live out this broader vision.

Open:

- Invitation Community Events
- Invitational evangelism
- Engagement
- Share the Excitement
- Community Connection

Grow:

- Develop ongoing Discipleship opportunities
- Develop leaders who share their faith openly, lead boldly
- Faith Leadership Academy
- Children's Ministry leader with innovative and engaging ideas who can coordinate and equip volunteers
- Strengthen youth ministry

Serve:

- Build Relationship through regular international mission trips to the same place to serve those in that community as well as deepen faith and leadership of those who go.
- Transform lives of those on the ground as well as those servants of God who commit.
- Know our community and love it.

Look here next month for more on strategies of how we will be looking in the next 1-5 years to open our hearts to Jesus!

Mpasa Medical & Nutrition Center Pediatric Building Update

The community of Mpasa, an area that historically has been home for over 5 million refugees, is filled with excitement about the new pediatric building being constructed at Mpasa. The building will soon be completed and furniture and equipment delivered so that Mpasa Medical Center can begin to use this new facility to enhance the care of patients in the area. What will this mean for the people of Mpasa region?



2 new operating rooms with new operating beds and operating lights, An isolation room for children with a communicable disease, A large pediatric ward with special pediatric beds and accommodations for parents who will be there to care for their children as is the custom in Congo, A new laboratory for testing and analysis, A new ultrasound for diagnostics especially for maternity, New surgical instruments to enhance the medical care of patients, A new incubator - the 1st in Mpasa! And so much more!!!

THANK YOU, Southeast District! Your generosity is already touching the lives of thousands in the Mpasa area.

Your new phase, providing solar energy will expand our impact!



Be on the look out for our touring display of Sponsored Children in your Sunday School classes and our monthly Coffee Fellowships. We will be asking for donations when you see this to aid the children we support with Compassion International in Indonesia and with Children International in Columbia.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Volunteers are needed to support meals for the UrbanPromise StreetLeader Training.

June 16th and 17th

Needed:

- *meal preparers in the kitchen the afternoon of 6/16
- *meal deliverers, servers, and clean up in the evening of 6/16
- *pick up and deliver breakfast and lunch on 6/17.

Contact Janice Bowers for information.

(janicesemail2@gmail.com)



New Baby Bottle Campaign!

We will be supporting Chester County Women's Services during May and June through a Baby

Bottle campaign.

Chester County Women's Services is a non-profit pregnancy care medical center in Chester County, offering help and hope to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

The baby bottle campaign for CCWS is a vital and essential program that supports the free services that we provide to those in unplanned pregnancy situations. Last year the Campaign brought in over \$31,000, with over 29 churches participating.

We will distribute the bottles in May and collect them 4-5 weeks later.

We invite everyone to take a bottle and fill it with your loose change during those several weeks.

Please look for a display in the lobby in the coming weeks that will have additional information.

Bishops Announce Special General Conference in 2019

The Council of Bishops announced the call to a special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The special meeting of The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by Council of Bishops, based on the proposals from the Commission on the Way Forward. The 32-member commission, appointed by the bishops, has the charge of finding ways for the denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality.

General Conference, which usually meets every four years, is the only body that can speak for the denomination. "The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference," said Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce Ough, the president of the Council of Bishops, in a letter released Tuesday, April 25.

The Commission on a Way Forward includes two leaders of the Wesleyan Covenant Association as well as at least three openly gay members. All told, the commission includes eight bishops, 11 laity, 11 elders and two deacons from nine countries. The group is currently looking at ways to loosen the church's structure.

The special General Conference session would use the same delegates as General Conference 2016 unless annual conferences choose to elect new delegates. Last year, by a vote of 428 to 405, General Conference decided not to take up any legislation related to homosexuality and instead authorized the bishops to form the Commission on a Way Forward. The vote came after rumors of a potential church split reached a fever pitch.

The bishops do not have a vote at General Conference. However, they do have the authority under the Book of Discipline to call for a special session of the General Conference, a possibility last considered to address the worldwide economic crisis of 2008. The bishops in 2009 ultimately opted not to call a session that time. Since The United Methodist Church formed in 1968, it has only held a General Conference once outside of the normal four-year schedule. That was in 1970, and its purpose was to organize the merger of Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations.

The hope is the special General Conference will help strengthen the denomination that will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News Service. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the [free Daily or Weekly Digests](#).



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church

Grants to Assist In Defraying Higher

May 1 is rapidly approaching. On that date, the Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be accepting grant applications to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2017-2018 school year. The application is available on the Conference website. It can be accessed as "Grants to Defray Higher Education Costs." at the following website address.

www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships

All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) May 1 to May 15 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered. Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected.

It is important that this information be provided to church members who plan to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2017. Please communicate this grant opportunity to your congregation as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact the Education Society Chairperson, Al Adey at ahadey@verizon.net.

Sincerely,
Alfred H Adey



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



2017

~ 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.

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Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

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Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director

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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

Joan Leaman - 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

Prayer Team - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers

Ad Council Member at Large