



# **West Grove United Methodist Church**

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



***Third Sunday in Advent  
Sunday, December 17, 2017***

# 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

## OPEN

- Prelude** "Come, Adore the Savior" Memory Bells  
(arranged by Ron Mallory)
- Welcome and Ministry Opportunities** Pastor Monica  
*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.  
First-time guest or member, let us know you were here!*
- \*Call to Worship (Responsive)** Matthew Rinehimer  
One: Who comes to save us? Who save to lift us up?  
**Many: God sends a child to lift up the lowly and bring down the powerful.**  
One: How will we know?  
**Many: God sent a Jesus, our Savior and King!**
- \*Processional Hymn** "There's a Song in the Air" UMH 249
- \*Opening Prayer (Unison)** (written by Maren C. Tirabassi) Matthew Rinehimer  
**O Holy God, our Advent waiting is a confession.**  
**We wait for a Messiah because the proud are still powerful,  
the mighty are still exalted, and hungry people stand unheard at the door.**  
**We wait for your incarnation in human form,  
because we have not recognized you in our sister;  
we have not loved you in our brother;  
we have not served you in our neighbor.**  
**In the stillness of Advent love and light,  
heal us and make us new through the good tidings  
of your presence in our lives. Amen.**  
(Moment of Silence)
- Words of Assurance** Pastor Monica
- \*Passing of the peace** Matthew Rinehimer  
One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**Many: And also with you.**
- ## GROW
- Advent Wreath Lighting** Mission Possible
- Moment for All Ages** Pastor Monica
- New Testament Lesson** *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24* Matthew Rinehimer

**\*Gospel Lesson** *Luke 1: 46-56* Matthew Rinehimer

**\*Response to the Lessons** Matthew Rinehimer

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

**Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Anthem** "Song of Mary" Chancel Choir

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10. Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.

**Sermon** "Mother: Mild and Wild" Pastor Monica

## **SERVE**

**\*Hymn of Response** "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" UMH 244, v. 1, 2, 4

**Moment of Impact** *Mission Possible* Pastor Monica

**Offering** "I Wonder As I Wander"  
(arranged by Peggy Bettcher) Memory Bells

**\*Offertory Response** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH No. 95  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

**\*Offertory Prayer (Unison)** Pastor Shirley

**God, who turns lives right-side up, use these gifts we offer to be light  
for those in the shadows of society, to be food for those who hunger,  
to be refreshment for those parched by life, and to be hope for all  
who cry out to you, O God. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

**Gathered Prayer** Pastor Shirley

**The Lord's Prayer** Pastor Shirley

**\*Hymn of Sending Forth** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240

**\*Benediction** Pastor Monica

**\*Choral Benediction** "Blessing" Chancel Choir

**\*Postlude**

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



## Advent Wreath Lighting



(Sing verse 3 and Chorus) “Christ, Be Our Light!”

Reader One: Young Mary received her news from the Lord, both sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savoir of all began to grow in her womb.

Reader Two: Fear could have lead to many things, but her grounding in faith led Mary to walk humbly into God’s preferred future.

**All: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in everything. God is still in control.**

Reader One: Mary began God’s revolution where she was: answering God’s call to make room for God.

Reader Two: She sang boldly, when she might have been meek. Mary pointed to God’s ways of bringing justice, restoring lowly to be lifted up, and the proud to be brought low.

**All: As we light the first candle, we join with those who wait. As we light the second candle, we trust with resolve where we feel very weary and unsure. As we light the third candle, we rejoice with justice.**

(Sing Chorus) “Christ, Be Our Light!”



Third Sunday *of* Advent



## New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 46-56

And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the  
lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will  
call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things  
for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the  
thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from  
their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our  
ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for  
ever.’

And Mary remained with her for about  
three months and then returned to her  
home.

The flowers gracing the altar this morning are  
in  
celebration of:

***Karen Underwood's birthday***

Given with love from:  
Linda Peirson, Linda Shiplet, and Kim Smith



# 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.*

Welcome to this gathering of God's people worshipping and praising God! May we continue to be moved by the Spirit to live as the body of Christ. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

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Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

***Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.***



Our Assisted Listening system is available to all who could benefit from additional amplification or assistance. Please see our soundboard operators for questions or to use a unit.

**EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY:** Our food supply is in need of replenishment. If you would like to donate to the pantry, the following are items in high demand, as they are not covered by food stamps: **Laundry soap, body soap/wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, house cleaning products, shampoo and conditioner.** Also needed are some staple items: **tea bags, juice boxes, coffee, juice, canned fruit, applesauce cups, jelly, cereals, snacks for kids, canned meats and stews, baked beans, ramen noodle soup packages, ketchup, and mayo.** Of course, any donation is a blessing to those in need.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a four week Bible study that will include the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Join him on **Friday: December 22nd** at **Jenner's Pond in the Alison Theater from 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

**COAT AND BLANKET COLLECTION THROUGH TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH:** We will collect new and gently used coats and blankets to share warmth with those who do not have it. All sizes are welcome: Men, Women and Children. There will be a rack in the lobby and bins for the blankets. Thank you for your generosity.

**GIVING TREE:** We give thanks to God and all those who took a tag from our Giving Tree this holiday season. Wrapped gifts need to be returned **today** to ensure they can be delivered in time. If you have any questions, please see Joan Leaman.

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** Advent calendars are now available in the lobby on the welcome desk. Please feel free to take and share with your children as we await the birth of Jesus.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Electronic Giving Cards can be found in the friendship folders. They act as a token to put in the offering plate for those who give electronically if they wish.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** Just a reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday. The office will re-open on Wednesday, December 27th at 7:30 a.m. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:30 a.m.

**THIS WEEK: December 17 through December 24, 2017**

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

**Sunday:**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship w/Chancel Choir and Memory Bells

**Monday:**

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)  
 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Knit Wits (#1)

**Tuesday:**

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. SOS Ladies (#5)  
 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.)  
 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)  
 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Bi-Monthly Staff Mtg. (#1)

**Wednesday:**

4:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Girl Scouts Junior Troop #447 (#8 & 10)  
 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Junior Troop #41377 (#8 & 10))  
 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)  
 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)

**Thursday:**

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Advent Wednesdays (Sanc., Kitch., Lobby)**  
 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Venture Crew Youth Mtg. (#8 & 10)  
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Christmas Celebration (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, Sanc.)  
 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Music Practice (#6)  
 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Whelan Wedding Rehearsal (Sanc.)  
 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Junior Troop #4567 (#8 & 10)  
 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Daisy Troop #461 (#12)  
 6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (#6)  
**7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service (Sanc.)**  
 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #12 (#8, 9,10,11,12,13)  
 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. PraiseWorks Band Rehearsal (Sanc.)

**Friday:**

**Kitchen Inspection**  
 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Advent Study (Jenner's Pond-Alison Theatre)

**Saturday:**

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections Group (#8 & 10)  
 3:00 p.m. Kelly Whelan Wedding (Sanc., Lobby)

**Sunday:**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 CHRISTMAS EVE**

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band  
 9:45 a.m. No Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship w/Chancel Choir  
 4:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Service  
 6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service  
 7:15 p.m. Jenner's Pond Christmas Service (Alison Theatre)  
 8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

**God's Faithfulness ~ Your  
 Stewardship  
 Report December 10, 2017**

**General Offering: \$6,629.00**  
**Building Maintenance Fund: \$720.00**  
**Combined Worship Attendance: 175**  
**Emergency Groceries YTD: 174 bags**  
**Anniversary Giving YTD: \$9,535.95**  
**Prayer Bead Garden  
 Donations: \$0.00**  
**Total amount received:  
 \$7,961.00**  
**Goal-\$13,000**  
**Thanksgiving Offering: \$929.00**

**Moment of Impact**

*Mission Possible*

*Our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders meet in Sunday School and think mission in the world. They have been involved in Rise Against Hunger and challenging us with UMCOR hygiene kits. They have served in the pancake breakfast and learned in Sunday School. We give thanks to God for our tweens who are engaged in their faith.*

# P R A Y E R S   O F   T H E   C O M M U N I T Y

**Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain?** Weekdays, please contact **Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.** After office hours and on weekends, please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863.** All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for **four Sundays.** If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, **please update your request with Donna.** Thank you.

**Community Prayer Focus: Advent Activities & Services**  
**Mission Prayer Focus in: UMCOR**

Cory Beattie  
(Shaub)  
Greg Bratton  
(Bratton)



Fran Bryan  
Dee Crawford  
Nina Dickinson (B. Ranieri)  
Jay Durham (Howard)

Tom Fagan  
Ed Farrell (Babcock)  
Laura Featherston  
Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)

Muff Hurst  
Juan Jimenez  
Peg Kent  
William Kirwin  
Wanda Kreutzfeldt

Rosemary MacCoun  
Dave McClain  
Lynn Morgan  
(McClain)

Peggy Mowrer  
Tim Mullen  
Lola Nadolny (Hruz)  
Nancy Pearo (Heist)

Willy Raiford (Babcock)  
Rick Renzulli (McGinley)  
Roann Schneider  
Rick Spencer (K. Smith)

Jeannie Sullivan  
Maureen Stickel (Fackler)  
Zach Trexler (Lytle)  
Gisela Winkler (Mullen)  
Ron and Marliss Wilson



Daniel Engberg—Iraq (Hruz)  
Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)  
Brian Kubo - Qatar (Mullen)  
  
LTC Eric Maxwell,  
Chesapeake, VA  
(The Rambergers)  
Jimmy Strawhecker - NJ  
(Lynne Strawhecker)  
Chris Weidman - Japan (Miller)  
Ed Tolmie

## SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

### This Sunday, December 17th

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

The Simmons  
Pat Heist/M. Rubincan  
TBD  
Joan Saller  
Wesley Boyd/Alisabeth Guepet  
H. McCummings/C. Bratton/OPEN  
Kristin Boyd/OPEN  
John McGinley  
Matthew Rinehimer  
Pastor Monica  
Pastor Shirley/Cindy Haley  
The Covingtons/Scott Steele  
The Sturkes  
Keith Schneider & various

### Next Sunday, December 24th

The Chalmers  
The Simonds  
TBD  
Joan Saller  
OPEN/OPEN  
OPEN/K. Smith/K. Rinehimer  
OPEN/Joan Leaman  
Joan Leaman  
Sue Curtis  
Pastor Monica  
Cindy Haley/Sandi Hampton  
The Chalmers/Linda Peirson  
Bowers/Beauchamp  
Keith Schneider & various



**THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 21st  
7:00 p.m.**

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

Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, divorce, separation, or physical, emotional, spiritual pain. Perhaps, the news that fills our media weighs heavily on your shoulders.

Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts, is welcome to join us for our Blue Christmas service. The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls.

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



Creating a self-sustaining livelihood for children and families experiencing homelessness

**Family Promise  
January 14-21  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our families always enjoy a comfortable and hospitable week when they stay with us. Please come help us and enjoy serving in this fulfilling ministry.

Here are the areas where YOUR assistance is needed:

Set-up and break-down of the Guest and Family / Dining Rooms

Meal Preparation - at the church

Evening hosting - enjoying a meal and relax time with the families

Transporting cots on the final morning to Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square

Breakfast and dessert baked goods - can be prepared at home

Look for a sign-up in lobby in the next couple of weeks with a list of food items needed as well as volunteering your service during the week our guests are here. Please contact Janice Bowers with interest.

(janicesemail2@gmail.com, 484-888-6821) THANK YOU for your service!!

## ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

Parties, gifts, and family tensions dominate the season. So, maybe it's time we explore the true meaning of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.



Join us on

**Wednesdays in Advent from 6-8 p.m.**

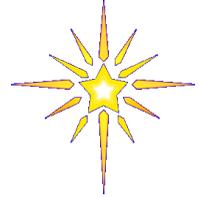
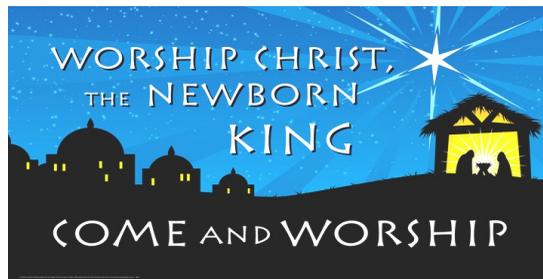
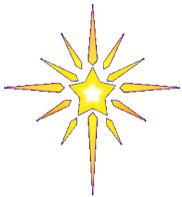
as we use Messy Church to experience creative and fun-filled Christian community. Bring a potluck to contribute to the meal!



**THIS WEEK:**

**Wednesday, December 20th – Celebrate the Manger**

This season, refocus and prepare for Christmas with Messy Church!



### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

8:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

4:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service

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

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond in the Alison Theatre

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

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



**Meditations For Your Week**  
**Sunday, December 17th —Saturday, December 23rd**



**Sunday:** *“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,’” Luke 1:46-47.* Mary’s response to the news of Jesus is joy. Where have you known joy ?

**Monday:** *“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1: 52-53.* Mary’s song of praise comes with knowledge that God rights the wrongs of the world. Look for where God is bringing justice.

**Tuesday:** *“And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.” Luke 1:56.* Mary and Elizabeth together. Pray for those who lift you up and who you need to lift up as well.

**Wednesday:** *“Rejoice always.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16.* Rejoice defined indicated to find joy again. We only need to find joy again when we lose joy. Joy is easy to lose. Life lived loses joy. In the hustle and bustle. In the fullness of life, joy falls out. Today, take moments to find joy again.

**Thursday:** *“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17.* Paul’s letter might seem more Lenten than Advent. However, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, we pray. We pray for our world and ourselves. We pray for our children (those we hold dear), and the children of the world. Praying without ceasing is an invitation to let every thought be a prayer.

**Friday:** *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5: 18.* During a holiday season, sometimes challenges feel heavier. Giving thanks can be more strenuous. Look for true blessings in challenges.

**Saturday:** *“May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.” 1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24.* This benediction is a prayer. Put this prayer on your bathroom mirror to pray each time you brush your teeth.

# 8:30 Contemporary Worship Service

## OPEN

- \*Opening song** "Do You Hear?" PraiseWorks Band
- Welcome and Ministry Opportunities** Pastor Monica  
*Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.  
First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here.*
- \*Celebration Set** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" PraiseWorks Band  
"What Child is This?"  
*(Joined by the Youth Singers: Wes Boyd, Alisabeth Guepet,  
Hannah McCummings, Sydney Simonds, Maggie Stuhrke)*
- \*Passing of the Peace** PraiseWorks Band

## GROW

- Advent Wreath Lighting** Mission Possible
- Moment For All Ages** Pastor Monica
- New Testament Lesson** *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24* John McGinley
- \*Gospel Lesson** *Luke 1: 46-56* John McGinley  
Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10. Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.
- Sermon** "Mother: Mild and Wild" Pastor Monica

## SERVE

- Moment of Impact** *Mission Possible* Pastor Monica
- Offering** "Mary Did You Know?" PraiseWorks Band
- Offertory Prayer (Unison)** Pastor Monica
- Gathered Prayer** Pastor Jim
- The Lord's Prayer** Pastor Jim
- \*Closing Song** "My Soul Magnifies the Lord" PraiseWorks Band
- \*Benediction** Pastor Monica

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