



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road,

West Grove, Pa. 19390

Phone: 610-869-9334,

Fax: 610-869-0110

E:mail: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org



February 2018



Love that is
more than
Valentines

Ash Wednesday
Noon 7 PM
February 14

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent and be-love the good news.” Mark 1: 15*

Snowy days are good for many things:

Mugs of hot cocoa

Sledding down the biggest hill you can find

Binge-watching your current favorite show or movie

Reading

Snuggling

And making Valentines!

Snipping the construction paper, gluing the doilies, and debating who the recipient should be! Making Valentines might bring a flood of memories: perhaps the kind that make you giggle and the kind that make your cringe.

But love is not just for making valentines. Love shares the same root with believe. To believe is to hold an idea or thought as truth endeared to one as loved. Listen this way the words Jesus proclaims in the first chapter of Mark after coming of the desert, after the temptations:

“The time is now, God’s way is here, turn around, and hold dear loving the truth of Gospel.”

What is this Gospel? Our verse for the year: “Be doers of the words, and not just hearers only” James 1: 22 assumes that you have already heard the God’s word. The writer of the book of James imagines that you and I have already heard God’s good news. We already know about Jesus. We already know about God’s love. We already know what we are invited to do and to be.

Our challenge is whether or not we will do anything with that information.

Perhaps, for some of those most mature in the faith, this is the challenge. Tell the story. Be active in your faith. DO God’s way. For others, I wonder, do we know what the good news is? Or more poignantly, do we remember? Have we felt the good news of Jesus? We make valentines for a sweetheart, because of a feeling -sometimes fleeting, sometimes lifelong. Holding dear the loving truth of the Gospel is an active life long discipleship commitment filled with learning what the good news.

How unusual it feels to have Ash Wednesday and Valentines’ Day share the same calendar block. Some may feel truly conflicted about whether to go to dinner or come to Ash Wednesday services. For the conscientious among us, there is both a noon-time service and restaurants open on the weekend! However, God’s love is expressed most truly in many ways. God’s love can be expressed in those sweet valentines you and I made as well as the ones we donated for children at Penn London elementary (see page 7 for details). God’s love can be expressed through marriage as well as through friendship. God’s love can be expressed through children as well as adults. God’s love knows no bounds. It is only us who bind God’s love.

So, this February 14th, hear the good news, you are beloved of God. God, who loves you, longs for you to turn around from anything that has separated you from God and love most fully God and God’s people.

THIS is the good news, the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ, thanks be to God, Amen.

In God’s Love, Pastor Monica



February Worship at West Grove UMC



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

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 4, 2018

Communion Sunday

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

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39, Psalm 147: 1-11

Sermon: "DO Go Back "

Healing is personal, but not private. It is individual and communal. Where is God calling you to go back and serve?

Last Sunday After Epiphany

February 11, 2018

Scout Sunday

Scripture: Mark 1: 40-45

Sermon: "DO BRAVE"

Bravery requires much of us. Faith requires brave moments. Join us as we look at brave moments in the lives of disciples then and now.

New Series for Lent

DO Pause: In faith, there is action and active pausing. Why do we pause in Lent? We pause to see where God is leading us as a community and as individuals at this particular time.

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Scripture: Psalm 51: 1-17

Sermon Title: "DO Pause to Confess"

In our lives, we find ourselves separated from God, Pause to confess your separation and find the source of life and love in God.

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

Scout Sunday

Scripture: Mark 2: 1-12

Sermon: "DO Pause to Listen"

Listening to the needs of others is a gift. Acting on what on you discover can be even more challenging. What can we learn from man who was paralyzed and his friends about listening to the needs of our friends?

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2018

Scripture: Mark 2: 13-17

Sermon: "DO Pause to Know "

The knowledge of the mission of Jesus is the deepest knowing. How did the disciples come to know Jesus? Jesus the expert teacher, offers us an object lesson. Come and see!



Worship is on Sunday,
February 11th at 11 am
in the Alison Theater led by
Karen Hruz.

Join us or tune in on the Closed Circuit TV at
Jenner's Pond.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON

Monday, February 19th,
in observance of President's Day.

The office will re-open at

**7:30 a.m. on
Tuesday,
February, 20th.**



First Sunday

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.

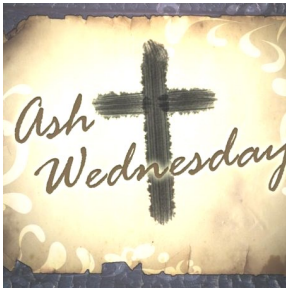
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by: Missions Team

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.





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

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

Consider joining us at the noon service. We hope that some of our folks who prefer not to drive at night, or who might have conflicts in the evening, can join us as we offer additional opportunities to worship. Let us prepare our hearts for Lent.

Sunday Mornings View and Chew: **Cultivating Tenderheartedness in Race Relations**



Watch at home – discuss it here the **last Sunday of each month** from February through June (note two exceptions)! The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to be tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32). Enhancing understanding through education is a means to move from mere tolerance to tenderheartedness. Each month participants will be assigned a movie, videos, or YouTube to watch that speak to relations between white people and people of color. A list of questions to consider will be sent with the assigned video or movie. Watch it at your leisure, but come ready to share your reactions and responses with the others in the Sunday School class (Room TBA). Mel Leaman will facilitate the process. Please email Mel regarding your participation at jmleaman@comcast.net or sign-up in the narthex. Mel will send you the questions upon your registration.

Sunday – February 25 – The movie “Crash” (2 hours)

Sunday – March 25 – Understanding Privilege

Sunday – April 29 – Slavery by another name: Incarceration

Sunday - May 20 – Cracking the Codes: Systems of Inequality

Sunday, June 10 – Perspectives on Healing and Reconciliation

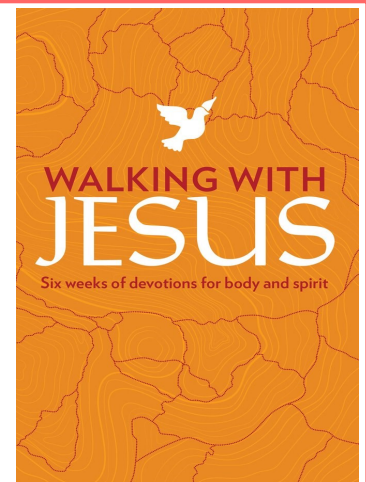
Walking With Jesus ***February 18 through April 1*** **More than a Lenten devotional**



We will kick off the devotional group with a Healthy Potluck Dinner on Sunday, February 18! You are invited to join us in this 6 week program, beginning February 19, designed to help you make small changes and simple lifestyle improvements in your health, and to grow in faith. An inspiring devotional dimension to the program reminds you of the connection between health in body and spirit. As you work on physical health goals (increased steps walked

daily, more vegetables and fruits, increased water intake), daily Scripture readings and meditations help you follow the routes that Jesus walked while preaching and teaching, leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection.

A sign-up sheet and copies of the book are available on a display in the lobby. I encourage you to sign-up and share your email address or phone number, so that we can all share our experiences and support with one another throughout the 6 week journey. **For those interested, we will meet on Monday evenings beginning February 26 from 6:30-8 to share our experiences and support one another along this journey. Our last meeting will be on Monday, April 2 as we gather to close our journey and discuss it's impact on us.** Book donations of \$8.30 are appreciated to cover the cost of the book, but don't let cost be an issue. You are invited to take a book and join the journey! Donations can be placed in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Paisley** by email or phone: sbrintonpais1@verizon.net or **(610) 529-8699**.



2017 Year-End Financial Report

The WGUMC Finance Committee and Administrative Council monitor the financial health of the church each month, comparing giving and spending to the approved budget, with the emphasis on cash flow. Our goal is to ensure that the weekly offering, fundraising events, and designated giving, offset the church expenditures. I am happy to report that for the second year in a row, as a result of faithful giving, we ended the year cash positive. Total income in 2017 of approximately \$438,000 exceeded spending of approximately \$405,600 for an end of the year increase in our cash position of just over \$32,400. This has not always been the case as we ended both 2014 and 2015 in cash deficit positions, followed by a small cash surplus in 2016 of \$12,600 and this excellent result of \$32,400 cash surplus in 2017. We are blessed.

The financial strength in 2017 was mainly driven by your faithful giving. Giving by individual is of course kept confidential. Only the church Financial Secretary, who is responsible for issuing the semi-annual giving statements, and the pastor see the actual giving by family. The finance team and administrative council establish our budgets by monitoring average weekly giving in total. For 2017, using 2016 offering as our guide, we established our budget based on a targeted weekly offering of \$6,538 per week. Due to your generosity and faithful giving, offering in 2017 averaged \$7,069 per week, 8% above budget. In addition to the weekly offering, the Trustees hold various fundraising events, and the net profits from the chicken barbeque, two pancake breakfasts, and the fall Open Market, also provided funds to cover our expenses.

Thanks to everyone who helped organize and came out and supported these fundraisers.

Total spending in 2017 was about 2.5% over budget, but this was the result of specific actions agreed during the year by the Church Administrative Council. In February, based on the recommendation of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee, we added an unbudgeted part-time position in the church office to assist in membership engagement and other clerical duties. Trustees, who are responsible for all building related expenses (maintenance, utilities, mortgage payments and capital spending), ended the year right on budget even after absorbing unbudgeted expenses related to emergency



replacement of one of the heating and cooling units. Our church building is now 18 years old and the Trustees are working on a five year plan to try to estimate the cost and adequately plan for the replacement of our aging building systems. Not an easy task, but an important one.

The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship issued a set of financial guidelines in a booklet that they called "Handling God's Money in the Church." This booklet provides important guidance to the local churches on a number of financial issues including the specific responsibilities of the key financial leadership roles in the church (treasurer, financial secretary, finance chairperson, counters) and provides an outline for engaging in financial best practices (establishing budgets, providing easy to understand financial reports, implementing internal controls.) All things we strive to do here at WGUMC under the leadership of the finance committee. In the area of budgeting the United Methodist Church guidance states, "In many congregations, the focus from week-to-week is whether there will be enough money to pay the bills. Financially vital congregations, however, have moved beyond a survivability mindset to think missionally about budgeting. Rather than thinking in terms of scarcity, these congregations have allowed God's great abundance to frame their approach to budgeting and to raising the funds to support mission." I reread this guidance as I prepared this year-end finance report and looking back at my opening paragraph that emphasized the monitoring of cash flow, asked myself if I, as a member of the finance team, have fully embraced what the Board of Discipleship financial guidelines calls "missional budgeting," the process of establishing an "annual budget that is a statement of faith that reveals what is most important to the congregation." I think under Pastor Monica's guidance, and with input from the various leaders in the church, we have improved in this area, but I close the 2017 financial report by asking that you continue to pray that we as a congregation open our hearts to the discerning, planning and budgeting for God's mission here at West Grove United Methodist Church. Let's think less about our ability to pay and more about our obligation to serve.

R. Scott Steele, Treasurer



**West Grove United Methodist Church
 "Prayer Bead Garden"
 is participating in a
 "Dine to Donate" Fundraiser at
 Perkins Restaurant & Bakery
 Routes 41 and 1, Avondale
 Monday February 26, 2018 from 4pm-8pm**



**West Grove United Methodist Church
 will receive 10% of all sales accumulated by
 our supporters.**

**The more family and friends we invite and
 who show up the more money we raise.**

**Please tell your Perkins server and/or cashier when you check
 out that you are with the
 "West Grove United Methodist Church" Fundraiser.**



Thanks for your support!



Valentines for Our Penn London Students

This is our 12th year of donating boxed valentines to the children of Penn London Elementary who do not have Valentines to give to their classmates.

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 5. Thank you.



**SAVE THE
DATE:
March 25th
3-5 p.m.**

Come one, come all! All ages, all families, friends and relatives, neighbors and guests...you are all invited to our annual **Eggs"travaganza!**

So many exciting things to do and see and learn! Children throughout the area are invited to get their Easter baskets ready and take part in our egg hunt with more than 3000 eggs!

All activities are for children ages toddler through grade 4. There is even an "egg pit" for the infants!

Our egg hunt is well-organized and safe for everyone! It occurs all afternoon, so there is no rush nor trampling of one another! Come and hunt at your pace! **Our event is "rain or shine"!**

SAVE THE DATE!! JULY 9-13 VBS 2018 NEEDS YOU!!

VBS 2018 at WGUMC is planned for the week of July 9th. You will want to get it on your calendars now so you don't miss out on the fun! There are classes for children age 3 through those entering grade 6. Students entering grade 6 may choose to be a participant or a volunteer with the younger children. The theme is "Rolling River Rampage" – Experience the Adventure of a Lifetime with God! The key Bible verse is *Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."* Registration for VBS will begin in a few months.

In order for us to have a successful and impactful week for the children of our church and community, we need lots of volunteers, both adults and youth. Currently, we are lining up key positions and once they are filled, we will be recruiting additional volunteers to support the leaders in each area. The leaders needed are listed below. Please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) if you are able to commit to one of these volunteer positions. When you do, you will receive the leader's guide for your area and can begin to plan so materials may be gathered or purchased.



Leaders needed for:

Opening and Closing Leader

Music Leader

Craft Leader

Recreation Leader

Science Leader

Missions Leader

Preschool Leader

Group Leaders (no planning necessary)

Decorations Leader

Please prayerfully consider how you can support VBS this summer. Thanks!

TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

Saturday, March 10, 2018

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Innabah Program Center
712 Pughtown Rd., Spring City, PA 19475

Registration Fee

Early Registration \$10 - Until Jan. 31; Standard Registration \$12 - Feb. 1 - 25

Late Registration \$15 - After Feb. 25

Breakfast included and snacks throughout the morning.

Agenda

8:30 Registration & Breakfast

9:00 Welcome

Camp Director, Michael Hyde

District Lay Leaders: Jennifer Lafferty, Bill Thompson

District Superintendent Dawn Taylor-Storm

9:15 – 9:30 Travel to First Session Workshops

9:30 – 10:50 Session One Workshops

10:50 – 11:10 Break/Travel to Session Two Workshops

11:10 – 12:30 Session Two Workshops

12:30 p.m. Departure

To Register:

All Registration is Online

Credit and Debit Card Payments Accepted

IMPORTANT - when registering you MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS or the system will not accept your registration

Workshops- Choose 2 Workshops (One from each session) (Full Descriptions can be found in the booklet in the lobby)

Session One Workshops

1. Making Disciples Rather Than Members -Rev. Amy Banka, Hopewell UMC
2. An Alternative to Church Committees—Rev. Tom Ebersole, Wayne UMC
3. How to Have Meaningful Conversations in Your Local Church about Race—Rev. Tracy Duncan, M. Div., Phila.: Eastwick UMC, Member EPA Conference Committee on Religion and Race; Rev. Diana Esposito, Deacon, Grove UMC, Member EPA Conference Committee on Religion and Race
4. Developing an Atmosphere of Giving—Rev. Dennis Emrick, St. Peter's: Mount Carmel UMC
5. Entering the Mission Field—Rev. Dr. Bruny Martinez
6. Emotional Mechanics: Committing to Self-Care—Michael D'Angelo NCC, MS, LPC, Center for Pastoral Counseling of Greater Philadelphia
7. Lay Leader and Lay Member—Dr. Michelle Daniels, South District Lay Leader Team Member; William Thompson, South District Co-Lay Leader
8. Toward a Praying Church—Rev. Andrea M. Haldeman, Pastor of Discipleship & Congregational Care, West Lawn UMC
Rev. Jean Howe, Pastor of Grace UMC, Reading; Pastor of Adult Ministries, West Lawn UMC
9. How to Reach Your Community Effectively—Rev. Thomas C. Davis-Shappell, Retired Elder, UMC 45 years of Ministry, Church Consultant on Visioning and Strategic Planning

Session Two Workshops

10. Reaching Kids – Equipping Families: Creating and Growing Children's and Family Ministry Program—Kelly Rismiller, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries, West Lawn UMC
11. Reaching Your Community with Facebook—Rev. Lou Hornberger, M. Div
12. The Work of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee: the makeup, role and process of the committee, including pastoral evaluation.—Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum, Retired Elder, Former DS, Church Consultant, M.Div., D.Min.
13. Team Building with Youth and Young Adults—Kelly Nelson, Program & Guest Group Coordinator, Innabah Program Center
14. Reading the Scripture Through Native American Eyes- Verna Colliver, EPA Conf Committee on Native American Ministries
15. The Ministry of Being a Local Church Trustee—Alvin Kingcade, Sr., CSM, Past Pres. EPA Conf Board of Trustees
16. Why Should I Consider the CSM and CLM Training? - Jennifer Lafferty, CLM, South Dist. Lay Leader, Certified Health Minister
Carrie Thurmond-Argo, CLM; Angela Anderson, CLM
17. Taking Your Finance Team to the Next Level—Lawrence A. Lee, MBA, CSM, Sr. Accountant EPA Conference
18. Prayer Vigil—Rev. Andrea M. Haldeman, Pastor of Discipleship & Congregational Care, West Lawn UMC; Rev. Jean Howe, Pastor of Grace UMC, Reading; Pastor of Adult Ministries, West Lawn UMC
19. Technology in the Worship Service: How's That Working (or Not Working) for You? - Aubrey Bates, CLM

COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGER

Qualifications for the Position:

1. Dislikes viewing a "weed patch" where lush raised garden beds should be seen when driving north on Rt. 1.
2. Willingness to encourage gardeners to harvest crops and pull weeds from their garden beds.
3. Ability to read and follow prepared guidelines--copy available from church office.
4. Will inform Trustees of any problems or needs.
5. Will begin position in March of 2018.



If this position is not filled, the Trustees have voted to remove the remaining garden beds and to end the Community Garden Program.



COMMUNITY GARDEN: RESTORATION OR DEMISE?

The Trustees have voted to remove the community garden plots unless a Community Garden Manager is found to supervise the program.

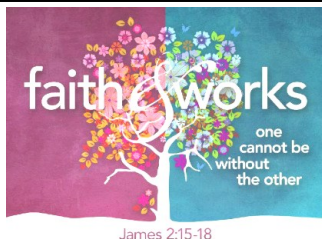
The garden plots were started as an outreach to community members to provide an available space for a garden to plant food/flowers for their own use and/or to share with others. Food could be donated to the Chester County Food Bank for the community food cupboards.

We began with fourteen raised beds. Due to deterioration and lack of use, there are currently six available. Last season, two active gardeners participated.

If a Community Garden Manager is found by March 20, 2018, the Trustee Board will retain the six raised beds and will add more if requested. Please contact a Trustee or notify Donna Fackler for additional information.



TRUSTEE REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION



Trustee Ministry

As our church building grows older, we are faced with challenges to keep it looking good and running smoothly. The unexpected failure of the HVAC Unit put our Trustee Capital Expense line item in the General Budget in a \$10,000 deficit in January of 2017. This unit (above the Youth Room) controls the heat and air conditioning for the west side of the south wing (side toward Guernsey Road).

Thanks to our planned fundraising programs--Chicken BBQ, Open Market, and Pancake Breakfast--the Trustees with the help of our church family were successful in covering this deficit. The regular giving of faithful members and above

and beyond giving of members benefited as well.

Our Spring Cleanup Day was well attended and volunteers weeded flower beds, trimmed bushes, washed windows, and polished woodwork. Throughout the year additional projects were completed:

- Scott Steele painted several exterior doors.
- Girl Scouts planted 36+ flower plants supplied by the Trustees.
- Fred Daddario and Ralph Curtiss removed the BBQ pit.
- Julie and Bob Hughes repaired and painted the Harmony Road steps and weatherized the windows in the Administrative wing.
- John Boyd repaired computers and updated software.
- United Methodist Women provided financial support.
- Dave Talley replaced lightbulbs and also weeded the Harmony Road bank.

Our required inspections--Kitchen by CCHD, Boiler by L&I, Insurance Co., and Fire Extinguisher Inspection--were completed successfully but cost \$500. Plumbing repairs were completed--kitchen sink faucet replaced, grease trap pipes unclogged, water fountain and leaking toilets repaired. The Rt. 1 banner and the banner on the north end of the building were replaced. Repairs were completed to the pillar at the main entrance. The cracks in the parking lot and driveway were patched with hot tar. Boy Scout Troop 12 was granted permission to place a storage shed on church property behind the sanctuary.

The Trustees' ministry of service is to keep our building in good repair to always provide a place to worship and to minister to our community and world.

After 40 Ready For Action

Lenten Study

All those stories in the Bible where the number 40 is a prominent feature... forty days and forty nights of rain in the time of Noah... the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years... the resurrected Jesus seen alive for forty days. Somebody goes through something hard in order to be prepared for something better in the kingdom.

Hopewell UMC has shared a brand new Bible Study curriculum for the Season of Lent: seven weekly lessons looking at these stories... periods of testing or temptation or rigorous effort by God's people in order to equip them for some new adventure in ministry.

These lessons include video teachings from United Methodist clergy, including our own Pastor Monica, group discussion, and personal reflection. During this Season of Lent, let's empower ourselves for action: 40 days of getting prepared through fasting and prayer and confession of sin and study of the word, readying ourselves for a fresh experience of Easter grace that together we might be bold witnesses to His resurrection!

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesdays in Lent: February 21-April 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m. We will gather to share a potluck dinner and then enjoy the Lenten Study together.

Sundays in Lent: February 18-March 25 and April 8, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Room #3 Pastor Monica will teach the Lenten Study.



Worship Service Volunteers Needed!

We are in particular need of Greeters, Ushers, Communion Servers to be included in the rotation for the 11:00 service. Service volunteers serve on an approximately 4-6 week schedule, and arrive at 10:45 AM the week of your shift.

Please contact: Joan Saller, ssaller@comcast.net to be added to the regular schedule or to be part of a pool of last-minute substitutes.

8:30 service volunteers (and substitutes) are also always in need; please contact Rain Catoia to be added to the schedule, rainowdy@gmail.com.

A huge thanks to Joan Saller and Rain Catoia for coordinating volunteers for our services each week!!



WGUMC Fantasy Football League Standings



<u>Quarterfinal</u>			
groves 3 and 2 (1) 113.24			
Andrew's Team (8) 141.31			
<u>Semifinal</u>			
jerry's boys (4) 104.47	Andrew's Team		<u>LEAGUE</u>
Ten Plagues (5) 123.62	Ten Plagues	<u>Final</u>	<u>CHAMPION</u>
		Ten Plagues	Ten Plagues
		Duct work	
Duct work (3) 153.59	Duct work		
Team Knucklehead (6) 72.10	Team hip hop		
Bob's Team (2) 100.11			
Team hip hop (7) 110.10			



THINK SPRING!

Spring arrives on March 20th!

The Trustees are planning our **ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP DAY** for **SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018.**

The Trustees--with your help--hope to accomplish many projects:

OUTSIDE: Weed and cleanup flower beds

Clean playground fencing

Scrub exterior windows, frames, and sills

Trim bushes

Cleanup Community Garden area

INTERIOR: Wash windows in all rooms

Vacuum sanctuary chairs

Polish/wax furniture and wood work in sanctuary and north wing rooms

Shine kitchen cabinets and equipment

With your assistance, the Trustees will continue having our church in excellent condition, so that it is inviting to everyone!



COMING SOON...



We are going to see about offering the basic course for Christ Servant Ministers at one of our local United Methodist churches. We will

need a minimum of 12 students. It will probably be on a Saturday for 3-4 hours.

A Christ Servant Minister is...

An active, supportive member of a United Methodist congregation;

Eager to serve through the church

Well-informed on Scripture, and on the doctrine, heritage, and the life of the United Methodist Church

Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, caregiving ministries, and spoken communication

Willing to improve his or her skills by training for service.

Talk to Pastor Monica if you would like to know more.



Visiting others is a part of who we are at West Grove UMC...and it's biblical! It is the works of mercy. It is what Jesus teaches. He says, "I was hungry, and you gave me to

something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink . . . I was sick, and you visited me . . ."

Taking the time to make a visit to those who are homebound, lonely or isolated brings joy to those being visited and to those visiting.

The Visitation Ministry team invites you to be a visitor. Some of our visitors visit the same person every 4 to 6 weeks, partnering with another visitor. Some visit different people. This rewarding and fulfilling ministry is so gratifying.

If you are interested in visiting our brothers or sisters, or want to learn more about the ministry, feel free to contact me, Pastor Shirley Daddario at Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org or call me at 484-268-0497.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Shirley



SCRIP Scripts

SCRIP HAS A NEW CONTACT PERSON! Gene Aucott, the Chair of Trustees, has taken over the SCRIP program since the departure of John

Boyd. Should you have any questions, want to refill cards online and don't know how, first-timer who needs some details, he is the man to contact! His email is gene.aucott@comcast.net or you can leave a message on his home phone #610-869-7355.

You can also ask to be added to his SCRIP ordering group for reminder emails! Remember, by purchasing gift cards through the church for things you need anyway (gas, restaurants, lots of stores) you are helping the church to get a small rebate in return. The more of us who order, the larger the rebate which goes directly to the Mission and Ministry of the church!



Proverbs 13:16 A wise man thinks



West Grove United Methodist Church was issued a donation of \$15.18 from

the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30. So friends, keep using Amazon Smile when you shop. It doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation!

All you have to do is **type in smile.amazon.com in your browser, choose West Grove United Methodist Church as your charity and then go shopping!** It is all the same stuff, no fees. Save it to your bookmarks so you don't forget to *Smile on West Grove UMC* when you shop online. Tell your family and friends too! It's that easy.

A percentage of your spending dollars will be credited to the church.



Anne Rice-Burgess, President and CEO of Methodist Services sends her thanks for WGUMC's donation of \$250.00. Your generosity and dedication to supporting children, youth, and families in Eastern PA, made it possible for Methodist Services to offer a joyous Christmas for the children they serve. Through caring supporters, like you, Methodist Services will continue to advance its mission: to provide life enriching programs to children, adults, and families as they face the challenges of limited resources, increased poverty, homelessness, disabilities, and educational inequities. Thanks be to God!

"Thanks so much for the Advent Bag. It was a pleasure to open a package each morning. It brightened my day. It is wonderful to have my church family to remember me at Christmas. I miss all of you but I am unable to make it to church. Keep me in our prayers. Again, thanks for all the gifts." In God's Love, Peg Kent

Kristin Proto, Executive Director of The Garage, sends her thanks for your generous donation of \$350.00. Your gift to The Garage helps students stay in school and graduate on time, as well as avoid risky behaviors, increase self-esteem, and pursue post-secondary education.

Students like Richard, who started coming to The Garage in 7th grade. Richard struggled with grades and with making positive choices. At The Garage, Richard received help with his homework, and also began experimenting with music alongside one of the volunteers.

Prior to The Garage, Richard had negative experiences with the WG Police Dept. Officer Justin Fonock began to build a relationship with Richard, and last summer they attended Camp Cadet. Officer Fonock has committed to being Richard's mentor and they now meet on a weekly basis. Donations such as yours help The Garage continue to support and provide opportunities for other students like Richard.

Thanks be to God!



The men and women of the Daily Reflections groups sent a thank you in their Christmas card for your continued support and use of the WGUMC building.

We give thanks to God for ministry of Daily Reflections that is a life line to so many in our community.



7 SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Cultivating our faith life is an important part of wellness. Here are a few ways to gain new perspective of yourself, others and God throughout the year.

This article was featured in the Winter 2017:

- **Try praying at different times** during the day. You may notice that you pray differently at different times of the day.
- **Laughter and rejoicing** need to be a part of our faith life. Think of something funny that has happened, and thank God for giving us humor in our lives.
- **Loving yourself** is the first step in “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Spend a few minutes writing about what it means to love yourself. Remember that God loves you.
- **Meditation or listening** is a part of our faith life that we often neglect. Consider taking five minutes to sit quietly and breathe. Try to quiet your inner voice and just listen.
- **Go for a prayerful walk** and remember that all of creation belongs to God, though it can be easy to forget that. The air you breathe and the ground you walk on belong to God.
- **Pray a movement prayer.** Stretch out your arms. Touch your toes. Stretch your neck. Feel the brilliance in God’s creation and the way that your body is put together.
- **Thankfulness** comes in a variety of forms. Each day make a list of everything that you encounter for which you are thankful. At the end of the day, incorporate the list into a prayer.



*Thank
you*



Dear Friends,

My library is full of cards, my ears fill with tell of prayers and good wishes and my heart is full. During my medical leave, I am appreciative of prayer, support, and kindness. Thank you kindly for your love and compassion. In God's Love, Pastor Monica

CMO CHAPEL TIME with Pastor Monica

January is a wonderful month filled with Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Junior Day, and snow days. We continued with our Christmas song as we were still in the season of Christmas through Epiphany.

Younger: *Refuge* by Anne Booth and Same Usher

Older: *Three Wise Women* by Mary Hoffman

We sang *Away in the Manager*.

Then, as the snow days, Martin Luther King, Jr day, in service days, came, we also were very thankful for Miss Judy - Judy Gambill. Judy Gambill filled in Pastor Monica's absence. She lead wonderfully. We are so blessed to

have such talented folks. Most of our children (due to snow) had the chance to enjoy:

Who Counts? by Amy Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

One Hundred Sheep

Ten Coins

The Read Aloud Bible volume 5: The Stories that Jesus Told

Two Men and their Houses

If snow changed the scheduled, we will

catch up!

Our song for January was "This Little Light of Mine"

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



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 at (610-468-4321).

CMO PRESCHOOL



Registration time is here!! Our registration for next school year begins on **February 7th 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 17th and instructions and tags will be available beginning February 20th on the small table by the CMO and Preschool classrooms. 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. I am always looking for volunteers. Please reach out to me if you would like to volunteer some time.

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.

Tracy McLaughlin, Director (cmo@westgroveumc.org)



Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.) Friday, Feb. 9

Thank you, Linda Peirson, for hosting our January gathering. We enjoyed a great program presented by Hunter Hale and Kelly Raum, Environmental Health Specialists with the Chester County Health Department on Food Safety. We also learned about their responsibilities as inspectors of food establishments. The program was very interesting and most informative.



Please join us at our next gathering on Friday, February 9, 2018 from 12 p.m. to

2:30 p.m. Our February co-hosts are Connie Simcox and Janet Gregg. Bring your lunch and enjoy provided beverages and delicious desserts. Our February program is Canine Partners for Life, presented by Emily Fritz, Education and Demonstration Coordinator. Don't forget to invite your friends and join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.



Canine Partners for Life

As we continue to celebrate our 20th year as RAP, a special program is being planned in May along with a covered dish luncheon. To conclude our celebration year we would like to plant a tree in the front of the church and provide a small bench dedicated in memory of and in honor of all our former and current members. Envelopes to make a donation toward the tree and bench will be provided at our greeters table each month.



Please contribute as you feel led. Checks may be made to WGUMC with RAP TREE on the memo line.

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

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

Saturday, February 10, 2018



Juliets meet for breakfast and fun... second Saturdays at 9:00! Join us! We meet at **Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348** They have free parking in the parking garage on Saturdays. Questions? Contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



**Luther House
Bible Study**

Hear the Stories!

Everyone is welcome to attend! We meet on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Luther Building #1. Come join us, once a month or every week! Come as you are able. We have been reading through Romans and enjoy sharing how God's Word works in our lives. If you are interested, have questions or would like to know more, please contact Cindy Haley at [484-702-7071](tel:484-702-7071) or chaley@zoominternet.net.

Faith circle will be meeting on February 2nd and 16th at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth room. We will continue to work on quilts... and also bookbags for Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pa.



If you are interested, please join us at 9:30 on the 2nd and 16th! (Sewing skills not necessary.)

Contact Chris Curtiss for more information at (610) 345-0374 or curtiss152@yahoo.com



R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men Eating
Out**

February 22, 2018

R.O.M.E.O.

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 610-724-0477**, if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Youth Grove UMC Peanut Jelly Club! is an ministry to and



people. PB&J Clubs have proven themselves to be an easy and effective way to serve people in need. Just as important, when we share a PB&J sandwich, we are sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

We are Kicking-Off our PB&J Club on Super Bowl Sunday! Starting in February, we are preparing for our ministry by collecting the supplies we need so we can start making sandwiches on Sunday March 4 after the 11am worship service.

Please help us, if you can, by bringing the following with you to church:

February 4

Jars of creamy peanut butter (any brand)

February 11

Jars of grape jelly or jam (and brand)

February 18

Granola bars (and brand)

February 25

Zipper sandwich bags and disposable food prep gloves

March 4

King Sized loaves of white bread

Group @ West is starting a Butter and A PB&J Club outreach feed hungry homeless

BIG SCREEN, BAD MOVIES!

THESE MOVIES ARE SO BAD, THEY'RE GOOD!

PRESENTED BY: THE YOUTH GROUP @ WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THIS MONTH'S NOMINATIONS FOR BAD MOVIE OF THE MONTH

BATTLE OF THE GIANTS!

THE 50 FOOT WOMAN

AN EMPOWERING TALE OF WOMANHOOD!

-VS-

THE COLOSSAL MAN

A CAUTIONARY TALE OF ATOMIC BOMBS AND MEN.



VOTE FOR YOUR PICK ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE OR IN THE BALLOT-BOX IN THE LOBBY.

(VOTING IS OPEN UNTIL SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, WINNER ANNOUNCED SUNDAY, FEB 18)

SHOWTIME: MONTHLY ON THE 4TH FRIDAY @ 7PM

WARNING!

NO CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN SIXTH GRADE. THIS IS A YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ORIENTED PROGRAM (AND FOR OLDER ADULTS YOUNG AT HEART). EXPECT PEOPLE TO MOCK THE MOVIES, OFFER RUNNING COLOR COMMENTARY, PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE DIALOGUE, AND POSSIBLY EVEN USE PROPS INTERACTIVELY DURING THE SHOWING.

Our Emergency Food Bank Depends on You!



WGUMC's Emergency Pantry has distributed over 40 bags of food in just this first month of 2018! We are blessed to be able support others in difficult times with our emergency food pantry. It is your generous donations that allow us to do that.

Providing a family with food also allows a family the flexibility to put those funds towards paying rent or utility: to eat and keep on the lights. Don't forget the food pantry as many in our community are struggling this winter.

The most needed items currently are: **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.**

Any donation is a blessing to those in need.

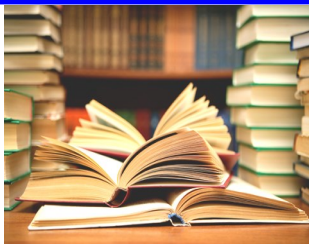
Thank You!



DREAM BIG

Our opportunity list gives you a chance to give beyond your regular tithe. Consider how you might impact our congregation and community.

Item	Quantity	Approximate Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!)	2	\$ 4,000
Monitors- Narthex (42" - 46") (Dream fulfilled!!)	3	\$ 4,000
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$ 15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$ 50,000
Fireproof filing cabinet (Dream fulfilled!!)	2	\$ 2,500
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms (Dream fulfilled!!)	25	\$ 500
Multifunction printer	1	\$ 150



Books Mentioned In Sermons

In worship on Epiphany Sunday (January 7), the day the church remembers the star that led the magi to Jesus, we passed out nice star shapes. On each star was printed a word. While this tradition is new to many, it has been lived out in many congregations.

If you were not able to be present, you are invited to stop by the church to take a star from the manger on the altar and consider how God might be speaking to you this year through the word printed on the star.

The Prayer Ministry team has grown recently to a total of 9 servants, committed to serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Mission is to follow the Holy Spirit guiding us as we discern how to support and equip the church to have a prayerful life style.



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*
New King James Version (NKJV)

"Be Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only"

James 1:22

From Vision to Action

UPDATE:

We posted for the part time **Children's Ministry Coordinator**. We give thanks to God for the generosity of the congregation and a grant received for the funding of this position. We are hopeful to hire a Children's Ministry Coordinator to reinvigorate our children's program. Please help us spread the word to those who might be well qualified bringing energy, enthusiasm, and care to our children's program to build upon the incredible program we already have.

Prayers for our Church

Join us as we pray specifically throughout the year for our church and community:

-God will move us from hearers of the word, to doers.

-Each person of the community will be welcomed here as a child of God.

-God will strengthen and grow leadership in our faith community for the next ways God is calling us to DO Faith.



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

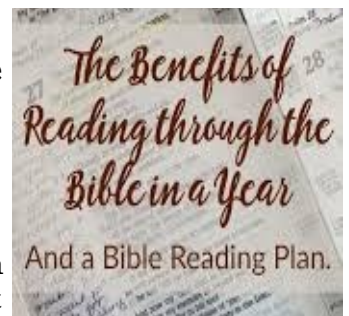
How can you stretch to meet our 2018 goals?

1. **INVITE:** Pick up a copy of Walking with Jesus for a friend. Invite them to Walk the journey with you.
2. **READ:** This month, read Mark chapter 1 and 2. If you read about 3 verses a day, you will complete both chapters in 28 days. We will be reading it in worship too.
3. **SERVE:** Can your talents serve others? How are you serving your neighbor?

Interested in Reading the Bible In a Year?

Many people took the challenge last year and found much meaning in reading the Bible. Most people who read it followed a plan. This plan allows for days off, for catch up time, and lays it out in a way that keeps readers engaged. Look here on line or pick them up in the lobby.

<http://christchurchusa.org/pdf/2017BibleReadingPlan.pdf>





Coming up!

**Kick-Off
Ash Wednesday
February 14**

1. Service Project: We can all bless our communities in service as the hands and feet of Christ in the world!



This year our coordinated service projects will focus on supporting education in our communities – whether through the local schools or other educational programs for children and adults. GSR also encourages people to serve in any way they'd like, through self-initiated acts of service for friends or neighbors. In 2018, folks took action by shoveling driveways, making meals, spending time with senior citizens, and cleaning up public spaces.

2. Notes of encouragement: This year we will be moving our usual food drive to a different time of year



(based on needs expressed by our partners), and adding in a new element! Our aim is to bless every staff person in our public schools with a note of encouragement and a small gift card to demonstrate our support and gratitude for the work they do. Each church member will have the opportunity during a Sunday service to write a short note to a specific faculty or staff member and contribute \$5 towards the purchase of a Wawa or Starbucks gift card (we provide the cards, envelopes, and names). We're looking forward to being a collective blessing this year to those working hard to serve our kids!

3. Monetary Donation (\$3 Kids) / (\$30 Adults): \$30 is the suggested donation per person because this value



is generally attainable for most people, but still is sacrificial in nature. We desire every family member to be involved, so \$3 is suggested in order for children to participate as well. All donated funds will support Getting Ahead – a 16-week workshop that empowers individuals in poverty to develop resources for themselves and their communities.

At least 24 churches participating this year!

SCOUT SUNDAY

February 11, 2018



On February 11th, We invite all Scouts to join us for Scout Sunday. We invite our chartered Boy Scout troop 12 and Venture Crew 12 along with the Girl Scouts that we host here at the church. We also invite all those who participate in scouting in any form to come to church in uniform. Scouting is an excellent way to learn discipline and reverence. Join us as we celebrate the scouts among us.



BIKE SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY SATURDAY, MAY 12TH 2017 8AM 300 N. Guernsey Rd. West Grove, PA 19390

Please join us for the
second annual Bike

Southern Chester County starting at West Grove United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 12th (rain or shine, no refunds).

Registration starts at 7:30 AM and rides start at 8 AM. NEW for 2018 – a 8 mile ride for the whole family to enjoy!

Online registration at: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880)

[32002680880](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880) or mail check made out to West Grove United Methodist Church, 300 N. Guernsey Rd, West Grove, PA 19390. \$40 until April 30th then \$50 until day of event. 8, 35 or 50 Mile routes available through beautiful Southern Chester County – see lovely farmland, scenic woods with rushing creeks and rolling hills. **RIDE INCLUDES:** Two rest stops with food and drink (35 and 50 mile only), Lunch for all riders, SAG support vehicles, well-marked routes as well as cue sheets. Helmets required! **For more information:**

<http://westgroveumc.org/bike-southern-chester-county/>



*We give thanks to God for
Kristin Boyd for her time as our
Administrative Assistant. We
wish her every blessing on her
new adventure!*

Children's Ministry Coordinator Position

Thanks to all who generously gave gifts at Christmas towards growth of our Children's Ministry at West Grove UMC. As a result of our congregational giving and being recipients of a grant, we are able to make the significant step of hiring a part time Children's Ministry Coordinator. Please share the job description below with any who may wish to bring their talent and energy to growing our children's programming here at West Grove UMC.

The West Grove United Methodist Church Children's Ministry Coordinator will be responsible for development and implementation for the children's program with preschool-6th graders. S/he will build relationships with children and volunteers and coordinate execution of programs that nurture children to grow in the Christian faith.

Position: • Part-time 20 hours per week, 48 weeks per year; • Start date ~April 1, 2018 • Vacation: 4 weeks per year, without compensation

Prerequisites: • Successful completion and submission of Pennsylvania child abuse clearance, Pennsylvania criminal background check, Federal Bureau of Investigation clearance, drug testing, and driving record check

• Coursework within an elementary education program or an accredited pastoral ministry program is helpful but not required

Specific tasks:

- Design, plan, supervise, and participate in regular children's programs
- Facilitate Sunday School program
- Recruit, train and support adult volunteers and children's ministry leaders and Sunday School teachers
- Communicate with children, parents, Pastor, and church leadership on a regular basis regarding scheduled activities, goals, and news
- Plan, organize and lead opportunities for children in worship, mission, service and fellowship, to include, for example: Preparing children to take communion; Organizing "Mission Possible" events; Structuring activities to introduce Bible study to 3rd graders; Coordinating attendance at children's Christian camp week/ends; Coordinating children's choir
- Administer and delegate execution of children's outreach events, to include, for example: VBS, Easter Eggstravaganza, and Trunk or Treat
- Regularly attend at Sunday worship; participate in worship leadership as requested by Lead Pastor
- Attend church meetings as necessary, especially as related to children's ministry
- Meet with Children's Ministry Coordinators/Pastors at other local churches as necessary

- Meet with Youth Pastor and/or Lead Pastor regularly for supervisory review

To inquire or apply, please send your resume to
monica.guepet@westgroveumc.org



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



2018

~ 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

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Staff

The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for
Caring Ministries

Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org

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

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Kevin Babcock-Youth Pastor

Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

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

Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary

Kristin Reisinger - 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

Cindy Haley - Lay Leader

OPEN - U.M.W. President

Prayer Team - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large