



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove**  
**United Methodist Church**  
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## March 2018



# LENT

*"May my meditation be pleasing to the God, for I rejoice in the Lord"*

*Psalms 104: 34*

Hints of spring have lured many of us outside. With the promise of sunny days and the tease of higher temperatures, we peak our heads outside eager for the next season like prairie dogs over the hills.

The unusual things about this particular part of the season is that we are just as likely to experience burgeoning spring day with sun that fills our hearts with hope with

what will come next as days of damp, dreary, rainy drudgery. It is the paying attention that matters most in this season of March. Many of us learned in school this month to be described as "in like a lion and out like a lamb" (a theological treasure trove, in itself).

This is a season, Lent, of paying attention. We have been pausing to pay attention. I would like to give you another method you might use to do so. This a modified version of the examen, or daily review, from the Spiritual Exercises based from St. Ignatius of Loyola.<sup>1</sup> Traditionally, some might use this at the end of the end of the day to pause and see where God has been experienced throughout the day.<sup>2</sup>

### **1. Recall that you are you in the presence of God.**

Acts 17: 28 - "In God, we live and move and have our being." This is a reminder that each and every moment and an orientation for now.

### **2. Look at your day with gratitude.**

For many of us, this is a fairly easy place to start. We can find something to be thankful for. Gratitude to be alive for another day, light on a cloudy day, flowers poking up through the snow, generosity of others, an extra cookie in the bag, getting through the red light. Gratitude big and small.

### **3. Ask help for the Holy Spirit.**

"When the Spirit of truth comes, the Spirit will guide you into all truth." John 16: 13

Prayerfully ask for the Holy Spirit to be a part of your reflection. The Holy Spirit will draw to mind the events of the day and God's presence throughout the day.

Spend time paying attention to joys, gifts, doubts, weakness.

### **4. Review your Day**

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourself. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?" 1 Corinthians 13:5

This will most likely be the fullest portion of the 20 minutes process. Here are a few guiding questions:

- Where was I kind?
- Where was I too quick to judge?
- Was I silent when I should have spoken?
- Did I speak when I should have remained silent?
- What were the reasons for my behavior?
- Where was I especially aware of God?
- What delighted me?
- What saddened me?

### **5. Reconcile and Resolve**

"I am just like clay in the potter's hand" Jeremiah 18:6

Reflection leads us to the places we need forgiveness and healing and where we need to offer it. It may not be possible in every situation.

Ask God where you how you are an instrument of peace.

Each Examen ends with the Lord's Prayer, giving thanks to the God who gives us our daily bread.

Consider these weeks of Lent, pausing to this practice of reflection at the of the day to allow God to speak through you.

May the God who has made us and who loves us, continue to recreate in each of us the fullness of God's love for humanity.

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica

<sup>1</sup> Based on writings by St. Ignatius of Loyola, The Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1522

<sup>2</sup> Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal by April Yamaski, 2013



## March Worship at West Grove UMC



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

### Third Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 4, 2018

**Communion Sunday, \*Emergency Aid, PB&J Club**

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

**Scripture:** Mark 2:18-22; Psalm 103:1-8

**Sermon:** DO Pause to BE

We Pause to BE to for food for the journey, communion. Join us for Communion. Join us as we serve others. Join us to pause.

### Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 11, 2018

**Scripture:** Mark 2: 23-28, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

**Sermon:** DO Pause to See

It is easy to miss the world and truth around us. God calls us to pause and see. Jesus called the disciples and the Pharisees to see. Paul called the church at Corinth to see. Where is God calling to pause to see?

### Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 18, 2018

**Memory Bells**

**Scripture:** Mark 2: 1-12 Jeremiah 18:1-6

**Sermon:** DO Pause to Create

God is creative and creating. The image of the potter is the God creates in us. Where is God creating in you a reflection of God's very self?

### Palm Sunday Sunday, March 25, 2018

**Cantata**

**Scripture:** Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:1-9, 21-25

**Sermon:** DO Pause to Join the Parade

Jesus had been leading and teaching since beginning of his public ministry. This protect parade brought attention to the distinct differences between Jesus and the establishment, religiously and politically. How are we joining the parade of voices who praise and cry for justice?

### Maundy Thursday Thursday, March 29, 2018

**Noon and 7:00 p.m. (Live stream)**

**Scripture:** Mark 14: 22-42, 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

**Sermon:** DO Pause to Remember

Jesus gathered his disciples as well as all those who considered themselves followers, those, willing to risk it. In remembering, Jesus created the body, the church. Join us as we, the body of Christ, gather to remember.



### Good Friday Friday, March 30, 2018

**7:00 p.m. (Live stream)**

**Scripture:** Mark 15, Psalm 22, Isaiah 52:13-53:12

**Sermon:** DO Pause

On this day, we gather together knowing that death does not have the last word. However, we must pause on Friday's death to anticipate Sunday's resurrection.

### Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil Saturday, March 31, 2018

**5:00 p.m.**

**Scripture:** Mark 16: 1-8

**Sermon:** DO Pause to See Jesus

Where is Jesus? He is not still in the tomb! Come hear the good news! Join us for a wiggly giggly good time!



Worship is on **Sunday, March 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.

### First Sunday

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: Trustees Board

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).



# Pastor's Desk

Thank  
you



## Thank You

I give thanks to God for the cards, prayers, meals, and love showed to my family during my time in the hos-

pital and on leave in January. I thank you for your prayers and your incredible kindness during my time of surgery. I asked you for prayer and privacy and you gave me both. I am also moved by the care you extended to my family. Small acts of caring for Steve, Alisabeth, Felicity, and Peter are very meaningful to us as well. My heart is filled with gratitude for your kindness.

As I extend my gratitude, I also need to give you an update. Some of you will have heard me say, that While my surgery went quite well, carcinoids were discovered and removed.

Carcinoids are a bit different than carcinomas, which many are more familiar with. Both are cancer. Both are malignant. Carcinomas locate in an organ, bones, blood, or body system; carcinoids move around a bit more. Think Whack a Mole, my doctors tell me. So, I have a bit of journey to go on.

At this point, my doctors and I, with the support of SPRC, our District Superintendent, and my family, feel like we can go on this journey together.

While the developed active carcinoid tumors have been removed at this point, this is a syndrome, which means they will come and already developing. As my doctors describe me as clergyperson, "they" are working forming the committee! I work closely with my medical team. Aggressive gentleness is the phrase used. I have embraced this.

I am asking you to pray for me and trust that I work well with my medical team. I have so much gratitude for our journey together thus far. You can feel free to ask me questions, pray for me, have me care for you and your family as I have done before. Please also feel no obligation to have answers or words. I value your prayers and kindness. We will walk this journey together, with God's grace.

Much love,

## Prayer Vigil

Since the earliest days, the church has gathered in prayer. Even before the church was the church, people connected with God in prayer!

On Holy Thursday, before Jesus died, he held a prayer vigil. He asked two of his closest friends to pray with him. Pray for him and him as he knew that death was close.

After the death of Jesus, the church gathered to pray when people needed healing. The church gathered to pray when people were anxious and in fear. The church gathered to pray in celebration!

Prayer is connection with God.

What a privilege, honor, and duty!

It is a long time tradition, here at West Grove and throughout the church at large to hold a Good Friday prayer vigil. This year, we invite you to join in prayer.

You will sign up for a specific time.

You will receive the prayer requests that others have requested as well as other resources to support you during that time.

You can pray from the church in the prayer room or you can pray from your home.

Why should you sign up for to pray for others during the prayer vigil?

Read this thank you from our Bishop to Jena Kilmartin who was assigned to pray for her during the Bishop's recent trip to Congo:

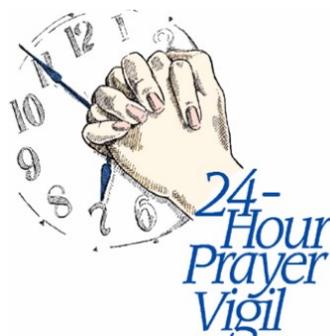
Hello Jean,

I understand from your pastor that you prayed for me during the Congo Mission trip. I want to thank you soooo much. Things went very well....not a plane was late, not a connection was missed, no mishaps or danger or health breakdowns. There were so many moments of cultural connection and grace. Prayer makes all the difference and you were my partner in mission through it all. Thank you and bless you.

Bishop Peggy Johnson

You can submit your prayer requests through the office, through the offering plate, through our pastors.

If you have any questions, please contact (insert contact information for Susan Paisley and Cindy Hailey)



# Pastor's Desk, cont.

## Pastor Jim Update from World Cruise

We give thanks to God for Pastor Jim and Betty as they travel. We receive updates from them. In addition to travel, Pastor Jim is teaching, "A Journey through the Bible, Genesis to Revelation", a PowerPoint program he brought with him. Pastor Jim also shared he has provided pastoral care for a family whose loved one died abroad.



### Giving Thanks to God!

Cindy Haley has been serving as our Delegate to Annual Conference and Lay Leader. We have been blessed! She has served us faithfully! She recently submitted a letter of resignation to the Administration Council to focus on other ministries as well as her family. We give thanks to God for Cindy.

Consider if you might be called to either ministry. See Pastor Monica for more information about attending Annual Conference. Annual Conference is a three day commitment in June. During this time, decisions for the Annual Conference are made, worship is offered, and workshops are held.

### Books Mentioned In Sermons

- Nearing Home: Finishing Well by Billy Graham
- Just as I Am by Billy Graham
- A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society by Eugene Peterson
- Netflix, The Crown: Season 2: Episode 6: Vergangenheit.
- Billy Graham and the Beloved Community: America's Evangelist and the Dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Michael G. Long, 2006
- Miracle in the Making: The Adam Taliaferro Story by Scott Brown and Sam Carchidi, 2001
- Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo
- Irena's Children's by Tilar J. Mazzeo
- The Greatest Showman - Movie
- The View from Here: We Carry Kevan



### Emergency Personnel

As we have expressed support and gratitude for our teachers with our GSR project (see page 8 for more details), others have wanted to also thank our firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and other emergency personnel. Please know that the mission team has heard well your desire and is planning to organize a time to express that gratitude up and coming. Look for it!

# Holy Week at West Grove UMC



## Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 25

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

11:00 a.m. Service features the Cantata

“Come To The Cross and Remember”

We begin worship celebrating the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and face towards the cross.  
Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. (Live Stream)



We will recall Jesus' last supper with his disciples as we, too, celebrate Holy Communion.  
The evening continues into the Garden with Prayers.



## Good Friday, March 30

24 Hour Prayer Vigil, Friday, 9 a.m.—Saturday, 9 a.m.

Sign up for a one-hour time slot to come into the church sanctuary and pray for the individual needs of our church family, as well as for needs of our community. Prayer requests and materials provided.

Prayer Stations, 1:00- 3:00 p.m.

All are invited to come to the church and visit the prayer stations that the youth set up for us.

Community Good Friday Worship Service ~ 7:00 p.m. (Live Stream)

On this evening, join us for a service of reflection with  
the Avon Grove Church of the Nazarene

## Holy Saturday, March 31

Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil Service ~ 5 p.m.



A child friendly service full of music making, storytelling as we wiggle and giggle proclaiming  
the Good News that Jesus is Alive!



EASTER

## Easter Sunday, April 1

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

On this triumphant Easter morning, join us at our Sunrise Service  
to proclaim Christ is alive!

Contemporary Celebration Service at 8:30 a.m.

Traditional Celebration Service at 11:00 a.m.  
(Live Stream)

Jenner's Pond Easter Service at 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ this day with Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Christ's resurrection is for you and all humanity is celebrated this Easter morning. The joke is on death!

Nursery and Children's Worship provided at all services.



Sunday  
 March 25  
 3 pm - 5 pm

**West Grove United Methodist Church  
 Invites the all children in the community to an  
 EASTER "EGG"STRAVAGANZA**

There will be crafts, games, a bounce house, prizes, refreshments and, of course, egg hunts! Activities will occur continuously throughout the afternoon, so come as time allows. Our activities are geared for toddlers



Easter Flowers

It's Easter Flower time and you may order yours by placing a check or cash in the "Easter Flower" envelope and dropping it in the collection plate or the church office. Envelopes are available at the Welcome Center or from the Sunday Ushers.

We offer Tulips or Daffodils in 6" pots for \$5.00 each. Lilies with 4-5 blooms in 6" pots are \$9.50 each. **Last date to order flowers is Sunday, March 25.**

<u>Price each</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Tulips</b> \$5.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Daffodils</b> \$5.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Easter Lilies</b> \$9.50	_____	\$ _____

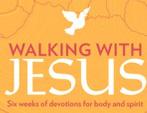
Please designate below how you wish to offer these flowers, so it can be recognized in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Contact the church office with questions or concerns .

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Celebration of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_



## **REMINDER**

### **Walking With Jesus**

**February 18 through April 1**

#### **More than a Lenten devotional**

This is a 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.

**We will meet on Monday evenings beginning February 26 from 6:30-8:00. Our last meeting will be on Monday, April 2 as we gather to close our journey and discuss it's impact on us.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Paisley** by email or phone:

**[sbrintonpais1@verizon.net](mailto:sbrintonpais1@verizon.net) / (610) 529-8699.**

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



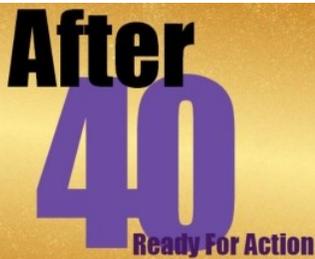
**Watch at home – discuss it here the last Sunday of each month** from February through June (note two exceptions)! The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to be tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32). Enhancing understanding through education is a means to move from mere tolerance to tenderheartedness. Each 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](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net) or sign-up in the narthex. Mel will send you the questions upon your registration.

**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



## **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.**



**We believe that God has a plan for restoration in our world** and that we can take part in the restoration process in our neighborhoods and communities by “showing up” through tangible acts of love and service. **We believe our united effort will take us further on this mission than any one of us doing it alone.**

Give|Serve|Restore (GSR) is a collaborative time of service and giving in partnership with churches across Southern Chester County. This year, our church is participating with close to 25 others in our area– imagine the difference we can make! **The project consists of 3 challenges:**



**1. Participate in a service project!** Opportunities to sign up for group service projects will be available in the lobby between services. You can also take action on your own to serve (such as making a meal for someone in need or helping a neighbor with a house project)! Please note your action on the service wall in the church lobby!



**2. Write a letter of gratitude to a local teacher or school staff (details to follow).** The notecards and envelopes are on the table in the lobby.



**3. Give \$3 (for Kids) and \$30 (for adults)** to our support the Getting Ahead program, a 16-week workshop that empowers those in poverty to write a better future for themselves and become part of the solution for our community. A special GSR giving envelope is available in the lobby. Please write your checks to “WGUMC” with GSR in the memo line.

We encourage you to joining us and our brother and sisters across Southern Chester County during this Lenten season as we love and serve our community!

Visit [TheConstellationNetwork.com/GSR](http://TheConstellationNetwork.com/GSR) to learn more!

# Welcome Spring

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## CHURCH CLEAN-UP!

### SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018.

The Trustees need your help between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., to spruce up our church so it remains an inviting place to visit and to worship.

- OUTSIDE:**
- Trim bushes in flowerbeds and along parking lots.
  - Weed flowerbeds and remove dead foliage.
  - Plant annual flowers.
  - Remove unused garden plots.
  - Cleanup dirt along parking lot curbs.
  - Remove weeds in drainage basin.
  - Wash and dry all exterior doors.
  - Brush and apply sealant to Harmony Road stairs.
  - Remove weeds on bank sides to Harmony Road stairs.

- INTERIOR:**
- Wash windows.
  - Wipe woodwork in sanctuary.
  - Wipe woodwork in rooms.
  - Wipe and wax cabinets in North Wing classrooms and administrative offices.
  - Wipe and wax cabinets in Narthex.

If you are unable to help, a donation for the purchase of flowers or cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Please pray for good weather and for many volunteers to get the jobs done so our church will continue to be a welcoming place in our community.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. It will list the specific tasks--including tools and supplies necessary to complete the job. If you prefer to do a job before April 21st, please contact Vernon Ramberger at 610-869-3863.



## 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.



## LUTHER HOUSE BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet on Wednesdays from 2 - 3:00 PM in Building #1. Everyone is invited to join us as we delve

deeper into God's Word and share love and support for one another.

During the season of Lent we will be studying, "Encounters on the Road to the Cross," by Robert Martin Walker. In this 7-week study we will meet characters that tell of their encounter with Jesus, as we find ourselves standing in their shoes and seeing Jesus through their eyes. "From this fresh perspective, we open ourselves to knowing Jesus better and understanding anew what it means for us to encounter him in our life and time." If you have any questions about joining us, please contact Cindy Haley at 484-702-7071.



**CMO Children's Clothing and  
Equipment Consignment Sale**

CONSIGN Thursday, March 15-3:30-6:00 p.m.

SHOP Friday, March 16 - 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and

Saturday, March 17- 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

(Items half price on Saturday, except if marked with a red dot)

**Profit Sharing:** Consignor will receive two-thirds of the total sales of their items. Children's Morning Out program will receive the remaining one-third.

**Items to be consigned:** Spring/Summer children's clothing sizes newborn to size 16, toys and baby equipment. **We are asking that you be selective and do not bring stained or worn out clothing.** All baby equipment must be clean and in good working order. Children's shoes must be new or nearly new. Operating items and games **must have all parts and be in working condition.**

**Please contact the church office  
for a full consignment instruction packet.**

**ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE**

**Volunteers are needed!** Consignors are asked to sign up to volunteer at least two hours during the sale. Setting up and cleaning up are always the jobs that need extra hands. Please see sign up sheets and sign up when you pick up your packet.

\*\*Consignors who are signed up to volunteer at least two hours will have the opportunity to shop on Thursday evening once all items have been distributed.

Any questions, please contact Tracy McLaughlin at [\(610\) 869-9334](tel:6108699334).

# 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

**WGUMC needs a Community Garden Manager.**

**We are looking for someone who:**

- Will encourage gardeners to harvest crops and pull weeds from their garden beds.
- Read and follow guidelines available in church office.
- Inform Trustees of any problems or needs.
- Can begin in March of 2018.

The garden plots were started as an outreach to community members to provide space for a garden to plant food/flowers for their own use and/or to share with others—such as the local food bank.

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



Please contact a Trustee, Pastor Monica, or Donna Fackler for information.



# GRETNA GLEN

## CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

### Day & Overnight Programs

Providing an impactful Christian camping experience.

Registration is now open!

Campers and retreat guests come from all walks of life, denominations, and other organizations to enjoy the facilities and programs.

Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, near Mt. Gretna, PA is about 15 minutes east of Hershey, PA.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.  
For more information, visit [www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)

**God's Place Apart.  
Transforming Lives.**



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

VBS 2018 at WGUMC is planned for the week of July 9-13 from 9:00-noon. There are classes for children age 3 through those entering grade 6. Students entering grade 6 may choose to be a participant or volunteer with the younger children. The theme is "Rolling River Rampage"- Experience the Adventure of a Lifetime with God! 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. Many volunteers have already stepped forward and we are so appreciative. There are still some spots to be filled and we hope you might consider filling one of them. Adult and youth helpers are needed with decorating and set-up, preparing and serving snacks, assisting a group leader, and registration/sign-in. Please let Joan Leaman

**BIKE SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY  
SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> (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!

Register online at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880) ; or mail a check made out to West Grove United Methodist Church, 300 N. Guernsey Rd, West Grove, PA 19390.

\$40 until April 30<sup>th</sup> 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/>



## MISSION POSSIBLE

We are nearing the completion of assembling Hygiene Kits for UMCOR. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help us reach our goal of 100 Kits. We are surpassing this goal which has only been possible by your generous donations. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued love and support of our Mission. Stay tuned – for a final count when we deliver the kits to Mission Central.



## #MeToo

The #MeToo gathering on February 11th planted a seed. If you can relate to that statement know this:

If this would have been your first time disclosing:

We believe you.

If you are not ready to disclose:

You don't have to.

If it wasn't a big deal compared to others' experiences:

We still care.

We've got your back!

We believe you.

We are here for you.

*"The power of #MeToo has allowed every woman to see that the struggle is not hers alone." Oprah Winfrey*

Contact Pastor Monica at [pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org), Pastor Shirley at [shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org](mailto:shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org), or or Susan Paisley, RN FCN, [sbrintonpais1@verizon.net](mailto:sbrintonpais1@verizon.net), 610-529-8699.

# 2017 Statistical Report

Did you ever wonder how United Methodists go their name? John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement was derided for being methodical in his approach to his faith. He and a group of friends, the Oxford Club, developed the old-time equivalent of spreadsheets to keep track and hold themselves accountable for their spiritual lives of prayer and fasting, scripture reading and visiting the sick. When clergy are licensed and ordained, the promise and take vows to be "Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary."

Ordained elders are ordained to Word, Order, Sacrament, and Service. Pastor Monica is an ordained Elder and as part of her responsibilities, she orders the life of our church. Each local church is required to complete a statistical report around the conference and around our global church. They are due by February 18th. In a very methodical way, the statistics are gathered, analyzed, and give us a fuller picture of our global church. They also tell us about our conference, our district, and our local church. I, Pastor Monica, decided to use this information over the next number of months to tell the story of where we have been and where I think we are heading. The report asks lots of questions. It required the work of hours and many people. I am thankful to Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator, Scott Steele as our Treasurer, Janice Bowers, as our Financial Secretary and Missions Chair, Vernon Ramberger as Trustees Financial Secretary, Gene Aucott as Trustees Chair, Kristin Reisinger, as SPRC Chair, Steve May, Technology Team Lead, and Tracy McLaughlin, as CMO Director.

**This month, I will share with you the first section: Membership.**

In 2016, we began the year with 452 members. At

the end of 2017, we ended the year with 481 members. We received 11 members through Confirmation. We received 1 through Profession of Faith. 1 person was an affirmation of faith. There were 4 restorations of membership. We received 6 folks from transfers from other congregations. We give thanks to God for the reception of new members through confirmation, profession of faith, affirmation of faith, restoration of membership, transfer. Those categories of memberships give nuance to each person specific situation. From a family who comes from a Presbyterian church to a family who has not been to a church before, we seek to meet them where they are and walk with them in their faith journey. The statistical report methodical records it as well.

We also recognize in that time the death of long time members and the death of those we held dear that who we knew for a short time. Five members joined the communion of saints. Our membership changes here on earth, but the body of Christ reflect fully communion of saints. I give thanks to God for each of those who individually remember. We offer blessing to those who moved away as well.

**Our membership grew 3% from 2016 to 2017.** We give thanks to God for those of you who are sharing God with your neighbors and friends. This is the open part of our mission.

Let me answer a few questions from the statisticians and mathematicians among us (You all know, I love questions, truly!):

These numbers do not reflect worship attendance or attendance at any other program. Those numbers will be reflected on in a subsequent section or in an area that will be called constituency. I will be happy to reflect more fully on that area.

**Look next month for my reflection on reporting worship attendance and online worship.**

## 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, he is the man to contact! His email is [gene.aucott@comcast.net](mailto: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 ahead; a fool doesn't, and*

## SHOP & SMILE!



Did you know that you can help WGUMC just by shopping on Amazon? It doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation! **IT'S EASY!!!** Type in [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) in your browser, choose West Grove United Methodist Church as your charity and then shop away! It is all the same stuff, no fees. Tell your family and friends too! It's that easy. A percentage of your spending dollars will be credited to the church.

We received 25.68 from October 1st through December 31st, 2017. Thank you for shopping!

# Thank You

The General Board of Global Ministries thanks WGUMC for the generous contribution of \$3,054 that was received in December 2017. 100% of the contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Disaster Response, United States Advance #901670.



"Your gift allows Global Ministries missionaries to be The United Methodist Church's embodiment of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work."

## Good News!

Tom Fagan is now out of the service and doing well.

**Thank you** for your prayers for him over the last few years!



## Giving Tree



A recipient of the Giving Tree sends their thanks to

WGUMC for making such a difference for their kids and grandkids at Christmas!

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you for everything that you have done for me throughout my two surgeries. Your prayers and reassurances have helped me through the toughest hours. Words cannot repay you for all that you have done. God has blessed me once again with your friendship.*

*May God Bless and Keep You,*

*Linda Shippet*

## 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. Worship 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](mailto: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 the Office for 8:30 volunteers. **A huge thanks to Joan Saller and Rain Catoia for coordinating volunteers for our services each week!!**



## Eat Right—20 Ways to Enjoy More Fruits and Vegetables

### Food, Nutrition and Health Tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Building a healthy plate is easy when you make half your plate fruits and vegetables. It's also a great way to add color, flavor and texture plus vitamins, minerals and fiber. All this is packed in fruits and vegetables that are low in calories and fat. Make 2 cups of fruit and 2 ½ cups of vegetables your daily goal. Try the following tips to enjoy more fruits and vegetables every day.

1. Variety abounds when using vegetables as pizza topping. Try broccoli, spinach, green peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms and zucchini.
2. Mix up a breakfast smoothie made with low-fat milk, frozen strawberries and a banana.
3. Make a veggie wrap with roasted vegetables and low-fat cheese rolled in a whole-wheat tortilla.
4. Try crunchy vegetables instead of chips with your favorite low-fat salad dressing for dipping.
5. Grill colorful vegetable kabobs packed with tomatoes, green and red peppers, mushrooms and onions.
6. Add color to salads with baby carrots, grape tomatoes, spinach leaves or mandarin oranges.\*
7. Keep cut vegetables handy for mid-afternoon snacks, side dishes, lunch box additions or a quick nibble while waiting for dinner. Ready-to-eat favorites: red, green or yellow peppers, broccoli or cauliflower florets, carrots, celery sticks, cucumbers, snap peas or whole radishes.
8. Place colorful fruit where everyone can easily grab something for a snack-on-the-run. Keep a bowl of fresh, just ripe whole fruit in the center of your kitchen or dining table.
9. Get saucy with fruit. Puree apples, berries, peaches or pears in a blender for a thick, sweet sauce on grilled or broiled seafood or poultry, or on pancakes, French toast or waffles.
10. Stuff an omelet with vegetables. Turn any omelet into a hearty meal with broccoli, squash, carrots, peppers, tomatoes or onions with low-fat sharp cheddar cheese.
11. "Sandwich" in fruits and vegetables. Add pizzazz to sandwiches with sliced pineapple, apple, peppers, cucumber and tomato as fillings.
12. Wake up to fruit. Make a habit of adding fruit to your morning oatmeal, ready-to-eat cereal, yogurt or toaster waffle.
13. Top a baked potato with beans and salsa or broccoli and low-fat cheese.
14. Microwave a cup of vegetable soup as a snack or with a sandwich for lunch.
15. Add grated, shredded or chopped vegetables such as zucchini, spinach and carrots to lasagna, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, pasta sauce and rice dishes.
16. Make fruit your dessert: Slice a banana lengthwise and top with a scoop of low-fat frozen yogurt. Sprinkle with a tablespoon of chopped nuts.
17. Stock your freezer with frozen vegetables to steam or stir-fry for a quick side dish.
18. Make your main dish a salad of dark, leafy greens and other colorful vegetables. Add chickpeas or edamame (fresh soybeans). Top with low-fat dressing.\*
19. Fruit on the grill: Make kabobs with pineapple, peaches and banana. Grill on low heat until fruit is hot and slightly golden.
20. Dip: Whole wheat pita wedges in hummus, baked tortilla chips in salsa, strawberries or apple slices in low-fat yogurt, or graham crackers in applesauce.



Authored by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics staff  
registered dietitian nutritionists.

## CMO CHAPEL TIME with Pastor Monica

### FEBRUARY is LOVE

This month, we talked about God's love. As our friends exchanged valentines, we learned that God loves us and we share that love with others.

We sang the song Jesus Loves Me with ASL motions.

We read from the books:

- Who Counts? : Ten Coins by Amy Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

- My Valentine for Jesus by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton
- A Special Kind of Love by Stephen Michael King
- God Loves Me More Than That by Dandi Daley Mackall
- Love You When you Whine by Emily Jenkins



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

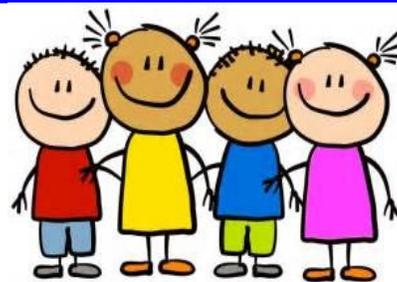


We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

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](mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com) or at (610-468-4321).

## CMO PRESCHOOL



The children had a busy February filled with lots of lessons about love and kindness. Each class celebrated Valentine's Day with a special snack and lots of conversations about how we can show love to our family and friends.

Preschool registration began the beginning of February and is on going. Many of our families arrived a couple of hours early to wait in line to ensure their child would be able to return to preschool and receive their first choice in classes. I feel very blessed that our families feel so strongly about our preschool program and trust us with their precious children. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool, please reach out to me. I would love to tell you more about our program

Our Consignment Sale is quickly approaching. The sale will be Friday, March 16th and Saturday, March 17h. I hope you will come out to shop and/or consign.

This Spring we will offer a music enrichment class as we have done in previous years. It is always a joy to see the children enjoy this music time with Linda Bunting. Linda does a wonderful job of teaching the children about music and instruments while keeping the lessons age appropriate. Each week, she brings in a different and unusual instrument for the children to try along with her guitar.

Thank you for supporting our CMO and Preschool program.

Retired Active People



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

Once again, as we gathered in February, we enjoyed a very informative and interesting program presented by Megan McMullen, Education and Demonstration Presenter and retiring canine partner, Neville, from **Canine Partners for Life**. Thank you **Connie Simcox** and **Janet Gregg** for hosting our February gathering. And many thanks to those who volunteered their help and provided desserts.



Our next gathering is **Friday, March 9, 2018** at noon. You will not want to miss our scheduled program! Join our host, **Vernon Ramberger**, for an afternoon of fellowship as we enjoy music presented by Mel Leaman entitled, "Time Runs Through It - Eclectic Songs of Love and Life." Mel will be sharing many pieces he has written.

Invite your friends, bring your lunch and enjoy the provided beverages and delicious desserts. Join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

As we continue to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Come, and be a part of this long-standing group of faithful members who enjoy gathering each month for a time of fellowship, food and fun!!!!



Come, and be a part of this long-standing group of faithful members who enjoy gathering each month for a time of fellowship, food and fun!!!!

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

Saturday, March 10, 2018



Juliet's 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**

Faith Circle is taking a mid-winter break. Watch for an announcement in the newsletter and bulletin for our Spring start-up date.



### Grants to Assist in Defraying Higher Education Costs

April 30 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 2018-2019 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:

[epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships](http://epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships)

All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including April 30 to May 21) 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.



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

Retired Older Men Eating Out

March 29, 2018



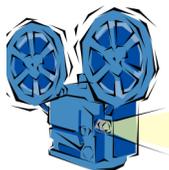
**R.O.M.E.O.** If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEO lunch. We get together to eat at Perkins in Avondale on Rt. 41 on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. **Call Roger Bates, at 610-724-0477**, if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



**PB&J Club Kick-Off**  
**Sunday, March 4**  
**Following 11am Service**

Come join us as we make PB&J sandwiches for the homeless. This is a fun and easy way for us to be the heart and hands of Jesus for hungry people living on the streets.



**Bad Movie Night**  
**Friday, March 23**  
**7pm**

Come on out and watch a movie that's so bad it's good! Of course, you're invited (expected) to mock the movie, offer running color commentary, provide alternative dialogue, and possibly even use your own props interactively as we watch it.

We need movie suggestions!

Nominate your favorite bad movies here: <https://goo.gl/forms/0hTMtaq8aaOl8ZhC2>

# Dodgeball!

**Dodgeball & Pizza Night**  
**Friday, March 8**  
**7pm**

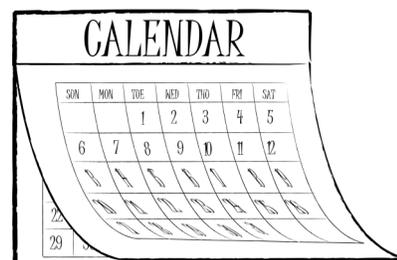
Dodgeball, Pizza, Dodgeball.

Get your Dodgeball on people!

"Remember the 5 D's of dodgeball: Dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge." - Patches O'Houlihan

## FIRST SUNDAYS

Pastor Kevin has changed his Sunday at church to the first Sunday of every month. He did this for two reasons: So he can be here for PB&J Club and so that he is here to kick-off each month together!



## Children's Ministry Coordinator Position



We are 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. This is a part-time position, starting on April 1, 2018.

For a detailed job description, please visit, [www.lbcjobs.com/jobs/childrens-ministry-coordinator-6/](http://www.lbcjobs.com/jobs/childrens-ministry-coordinator-6/)

**To inquire or apply, please send your resume to [monica.guepet@westgroveumc.org](mailto:monica.guepet@westgroveumc.org)**

# 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 (Dream fulfilled!!!)	1	\$ 150

Would YOU like to make a visit to a sister or brother in our church family?

Call Pastor Shirley

484-268- 0497



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)*

United Methodist Women are looking for a leader for the Rummage Sale that is scheduled for May 4-5. Set up is on Thursday, May 3. Please contact the church office.



*“Be Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only”*

James 1:22

**From Vision to Action**

Our Vision is moving forward!  
Children are at the heart of our life together!

We are hiring for a Children's Ministry Coordinator.

If you know someone who loves children, get excited about designing kid-friendly experiences, and can not squeeze in enough creative uses for recyclable projects - this might just be the role for you (or someone you know!)

Pray about it or Pass it on to Someone you thought about.



*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:** someone to join you for Easter service or prayer stations on Good Friday.
2. **READ:** Read Mark chapters 3 and 16.
3. **SERVE:** Join us in service. Consider what your service project for GSR will be.. can you make a meal for a friend in need or help someone who needs a extra hand around their house?

**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.

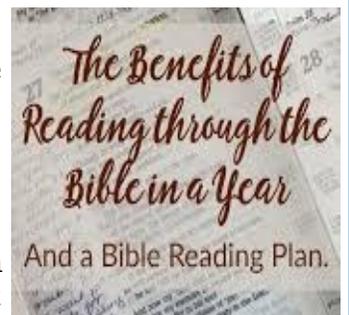
-Each person of the community will be welcomed here as a child of God.

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



**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>

# Eastern Pennsylvania Conference News



On February 14th, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, a six-member team of District Superintendents Reverends Irving Cotto, Tracy Bass and Bumkoo Chung along with Reverend Nicolas Camacho, community outreach pastor at West Lawn UMC and lead organizer of the conference's new Helping Puerto Rico Rise Again campaign; the Rev. Herbert Coe, pastor of St. Daniel's UMC in Chester; and Andres Cotto, a musician and member of Casa del Pueblo UMC in Hatboro and Irving Cotto's son, arrived in Puerto Rico on a similar mission of mercy. They are there to visit Methodist churches trying to recover from Hurricane Maria's damage and destruction, where there is also much hard work being done and just as much need, if not more, for our conference's generous assistance.

They are visiting Puerto Rican Methodist churches and their communities Feb. 14-23 to learn about the destruction caused mostly by Hurricane Maria in September and the urgent needs that Eastern PA Conference churches can address there. They will visit churches in the San Juan area and in outer rural areas that continue to suffer most from a lack of electricity, food and other necessities six months after the historic storm struck the beleaguered island.

Team members will meet, pray, fellowship and worship with Bishop Hector Ortiz and pastors and members of some of the 96 Methodist churches, 33 of which were damaged. The team will also deliver monetary gifts to the church leaders, while gathering information and stories of struggle, survival and ministry to bring back and share with Eastern PA churches. The conference launched its Helping Puerto Rico Rise Again campaign in January to raise \$100,000 by Annual Conference in June. The goal is to help the autonomous Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR) repair heavily damaged church facilities, support beleaguered pastors and fund recovery efforts in their communities, addressing some critical needs that may not be cared for by UMCOR (the UM Committee on Relief), FEMA or other sources of help.

We give thanks to God for those who have already helped as well as those who will answer the call to serve.

Last year at our session of Annual Conference we made a presentation about the "Abundant Health" project that was launched by the General Board of Global Ministries. Quite a few of our churches signed up to be a part of the solution, which includes taking concrete action of some kind on one or more of the following areas of health:

- Promoting health and wholeness for all people,
  - Addressing nutritional challenges and promoting breast feeding
- Advancing prevention and treatment of childhood diseases

Ensuring safe births.

Something we all can do locally is to promote the physical health of our members by encouraging exercise and proper diet. Obesity and high blood pressure is an epidemic in our country and sadly even among our clergy. The Abundant Health office is launching a "Hulapalooza" to encourage exercise. Hula-hooping is a way to get moving and have fun at the same time. I am encouraging all churches to get hula-hoops or find other ways to get our members and pastors moving. We need exercise programs that can improve our physical health and draw awareness to the importance of the enhanced life a healthy body can bring. The hula-hoop is a call to "get moving" to do something tangible to help heal our world. Youth groups and Sunday School classes could sponsor a "hula-thon" to raise funds for global health. Many curable diseases are still taking the lives of people around the globe. Maternal education, clean water projects and inoculations for developing countries are just a few of the areas of need. Let's be local and global in our approaches to health. Everyone can commit to at least one thing that can lead to Abundant Health. The possibilities are endless, and the life-giving Spirit of God goes with you as you do.





# Congo Update



A small, joint team of Eastern PA and Peninsula-Delaware Conference Cabinet members and church leaders arrived Wednesday night, Feb. 14, in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) capital city. About an hour away in Mpsa, they began a two-week visit to several places where the Bishop Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership is hard at work helping to save and improve lives through healthcare, education, and development.





**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

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

E:mail address: [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

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



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

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

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

The Reverend Kevin Babcock-Youth Pastor

[Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org)

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

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

Kim Nuzzaci - Administrative Assistant

[adminasst@westgroveumc.org](mailto:adminasst@westgroveumc.org)

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

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

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

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

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

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

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

**Board and Committee Leadership**

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

Barbara Delaney - Finance Chair

Scott Steele - Treasurer

Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary

Kristin Reisinger - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Joan Leaman - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley, RN - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

OPEN - Delegate to Annual Conference

OPEN - Lay Leader

OPEN - U.M.W. President

Prayer Team - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large