



# The Wesleyan Star

## West Grove United Methodist Church

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## May 2019



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."  
Jeremiah 29:11*

I often hear folks, younger and more gifted in years, telling me how good things used to be. They tell me that things

are getting worse day by day. I hear mourning about the world as a whole and certainly, the state of the church. Just turn on the news and you get the impression that things are getting worse every day.

However, that is not exactly correct. In the world around us, hope is springing up like wild flowers. A few signs of hope include the percentage of people in the world living on less than \$1.25 per day has been cut in half since 1990, ahead of the schedule of the Millennium Development Goals which hoped to reach this target. Children are 1/3 less likely to die before age five than they were in 1990. The global childhood mortality rate for kids under 5 has dropped from 88 in 1000 in 1990 to 57 in 1000 in 2010. The global infant mortality rate for kids dying before age one has plunged from 61 in 1000 to 40 in 1000. Now, any child dying is of course one child too many, but this is astounding progress to have made in just twenty years.[1] Also, the first person born with HIV has been cured of the infection. She's the first child and only the second person in the world known to have been cured since the virus touched off a global pandemic nearly 32 years ago.[2]

We may hear that some churches are closing and turning inward, but that is NOT the story here at West Grove. With reaching out to our community and our neighbors, excitement is in the air as we seek to serve God. From the Association of Religious Data Archives, I received this assessment of five hopeful signs for United States Congregations, consider if these signs are here[3]:

- More caring ministries: Congregations and their members are more active outside the sanctuary walls. Between time and gifts, churches are supporting their communities.

- Climbing the academic ladder: Worshipers with a college degree rose from 38 percent to 47 percent. "In the past, the pastor was often the most educated person in the room – but not anymore." And that matters. This creates high expectations about worship, decision making and congregational efficiency.
- Keeping up with the technological times: Over three-quarters of churches have website and use email to communicate prayers, events, devotional messages, post sermons, and list opportunities for service.
- More diverse leadership The diversity of leadership in churches is growing, where 28 percent of pastors are women, up from 20 percent in 2001. Research finds female pastors are more satisfied in their ministry and are strong in welcoming new people. Two in five pastors of growing churches are women.
- Happy people in the pews: Eighty-seven percent of worshipers said they were satisfied with their spiritual life. More than three in four say they always or usually experience a sense of God's presence, inspiration and joy in worship. Ninety percent said it helps with everyday living.

Signs of hope are springing up all around us with the daffodils and crocuses. Let us give thanks to God and continue to do God's work here in this place.

Risen Christ, We praise you for your presence around us and the signs of hope that you offer us. We thank you for the future with hope that you promise us. Help us to see your way and do your will. We ask this in your blessed name, Amen.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



(1)<http://dashes.com/anil/2013/02/the-world-is-getting-better-quickly.html>

(2)<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/03/04/173258954/scientists-report-first-cure-of-hiv-in-a-child-say-its-a-game-changer>

(3)<http://blogs.thearda.com/trend/featured/five-hopeful-signs-for-us-congregations/>



# May Worship at West Grove UMC



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

*Services at 8:30 a.m. (Contemporary) and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional)*

## Native American Ministries Sunday Sunday, May 5, 2019

**All Worship Sunday**

**Communion Sunday, \*Emergency Aid**

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

**Scripture:** Psalm 10:14, 17-18a;  
Psalm 18: 6, 16;  
Psalm 121:1-2

**Sermon:** Half Truth:  
God helps those who help themselves

Where is God calling you  
to be a part of someone else's story?

## Mother's Day Sunday, May 12 2019

**Scripture:** I Corinthians 10:12-13; Psalm 46

**Sermon:** Half Truth: God Wouldn't Give You More  
than You Can Handle

Come here the testimonies of God's presence.



## Sunday, May 19, 2019 Memory Bells

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:17-20; Deuteronomy  
23:12-14

**Sermon:** Half truth: God Said, I Believe,  
That Settles It

Ever wonder why we stand for only the Gospel  
lesson? Join us as we learn from Jesus' way.

## Sunday, May 26, 2019

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:1-5; Luke 18: 10-14

**Sermon:** Half Truth: Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

Where is God calling us to choose love over  
judgment?



**Jenner's Pond Residents:**

Join us for worship is on **May 12** at 11 am  
in the **Alison Theater**.  
Led by **Pastor Jim**

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!  
**Our next collection is May 5.**

## MAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: FaithLinks Class



Due to the increase in food allergies among the general population, as well as our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if there are nuts in them (including coconuts). Thank you.

# Pastor's Desk

## SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN

As we look forward, our leadership has spent the past several months discerning and envisioning the future of our church. We have been analyzing the needs of our vital congregation and surrounding community, reviewing our current ministries, and working to outline a specific vision for what lies ahead. Through this process, we hope to set the stage for a vibrant new chapter of mission and ministry here at West Grove UMC.

Before moving ahead with any plans, we walk together in ministry, and it is important for me as lead pastor to discern with you, the congregation, and get your feedback. Since I cannot possibly do that on my own, over the upcoming months our consultants, Richie and Rachel Musser from Kirby-Smith Associates, will be conducting a Feasibility Study to ask for your feedback on the vision that has been crafted. It was our delight

on Palm Sunday to welcome Richie and Rachel Musser in worship.

We are asking that each household fill out the brief survey turn it in at the church by May 10. For your convenience, you can fill out the survey online at [bit.ly/westgroveumcsurvey](http://bit.ly/westgroveumcsurvey). We truly want and need your feedback, so please complete the survey when you are able. Richie and Rachel will be asking additional questions during the personal interview. This interview is just a casual discussion to get in-depth feedback that a multiple-choice survey cannot possibly give.

After almost five years of ministry together, I give thanks to God for the people of West Grove. Your faithfulness and prayers, support and engagement are incredible blessings as we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith, and serving our community and world in His name.

*In God's Love, Pastor Monica*

## MOTHER'S DAY

*Prayer by Walter Brueggemann*

We are children of many mothers,  
some of us grateful and glad,  
some of cynical and defeated,  
all of us living lives that are pure gift  
from you and for you.

As we give thanks for our mothers,  
so we think of children whom you treasure  
and invite close in.

for newborn babies arriving in these restless days,

for children loved and lose awhile-  
Joshua, Charles, Michael, Sophia,  
and a world of others,

for children born feeble and troubled  
and loved in their need

for children infused with napalm and  
shrapnel and hate and fire

for children know the sharp edge of  
Pharaoh and Herod,

and a thousand other uneasy men of force.

In the midst of this parade of innocence,  
we submit all the treasured children  
of the world to you,

that they may prosper,

and that we may become more fully  
your daughter and son,

children of your commandments,  
recipients of your gifts,  
bearers of your hope.

You have said, "let the little children come"

Here we are - yours...

that we may receive your nurture  
and your discipline.

## PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

*"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."*

*(1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

Holy and Gracious God, we give you thanks for the life that you have bestowed upon each of us. We pause on this day to thank you for all of those who have been a part of our lives. We lift our hearts as we remember those whose lives are now in you. We remember all those whose lives are now in you.

For our dear family and friends, whose hands we can no longer hold, but whose love is with us forever, we pray your peace.

For all those who sacrifice themselves and gave their lives for the sake of others, we pray your peace.

For all those who make decisions and lead others, we pray your wisdom and guidance.

May we be committed to ushering in the kingdom of heaven here on earth where fear is dispelled, nations are made one, and love triumphs over all. Come, Lord Jesus, come, that we might fully know and be your people, we pray, Amen.

## BOOKS MENTIONED IN SERMONS

- *Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ* by Eugene Peterson
- *The Last Week: What the Gospel Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in*
- *Jerusalem*, by Marcus Borg, and John Dominic Crossan
- *Whistling in the Dark* by Frederick Buechner
- *Intimacy with God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer* by Thomas Keating





# GROW



## 2019 EPA Laity Academy



August 2 – 4 at Eastern University

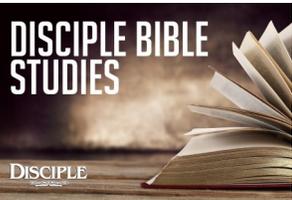
## 2019 EPA CONFERENCE LAITY ACADEMY

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch...." "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." –Luke 5:4, 10b*

Are you prepared to navigate the deep waters? Our lives and ministries are constantly bombarded by the waves that distract us from our commitment to Christ. When you are asked to cast your net and fish for disciples, do you know where to start? Do you know what to say?

Come join us at the 2019 EPA Conference Laity Academy, August 2-4, on the scenic campus of Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa., for an exciting weekend of classes, fellowship, worship, entertainment, food and service. Learn how you can Gather Disciples and Grow your Ministries. There are many more new classes this year including topics in Ministering to an Aging Congregation, Working With Conflict: Making the Most of Diversity, and more to be announced.

Watch for registration details. Sign up to be notified when the registration is open! If you have any questions contact Rick Wrisley, Laity Academy Dean, [atrickwrisley@verizon.net](mailto:atrickwrisley@verizon.net).



## DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Disciple Bible Study is 34-week course in which participants read and study the Bible in committed groups for the purpose of learning and

transformation. The studies are for adults of all ages and experience levels and provide an excellent way to build or to build upon a biblical foundation for your faith.

The first class in the Disciple series, Becoming Disciples through Bible Study, surveys both the Old and New Testaments. In this course, participants deepen their awareness of the whole biblical story and have the opportunity to discuss and learn more about how God calls us to respond to that story today.

Other Disciple classes focus on smaller sections of the Bible over the course of the year and may be taken in any order. Each group is led by a trained facilitator who has not only the knowledge and experience to lead Disciple, but the heart to share in a journey of growth with others who want to know more about the Bible and its applications to life.

Disciple is one of the strongest in-depth group Bible studies available and includes daily preparation of about 30-45 minutes, and a weekly group study session of about two hours. Consider a Disciple Bible Study class this year as part of your spiritual growth. Step forward to be informed, transformed, and heart-warmed on your own journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Step out in faith! Register to begin this journey. Sign up in the Lobby.

## ALDRSGATE DAY

On Wednesday, May 24, 1738, John Wesley experienced his "heart strangely warmed." This Aldersgate experience was crucial for his own life and became a touchstone for the Wesleyan movement.

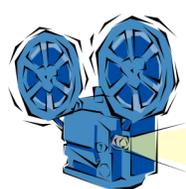
Almighty God, in a time of great need you raised up your servants John and Charles Wesley, and by your Spirit inspired them to kindle a flame of sacred love which leaped and ran, an inextinguishable blaze.

Grant that all those whose hearts have been warmed at these altar fires, being continually refreshed by your grace, may be so devoted to the increase of scriptural holiness throughout the land that in this our time of great need, your will may fully and effectively be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(FRED D. GEALY, U.S.A., 20TH CENT., ALT.)

## SUMMER WORSHIP

### Mark your calendar!



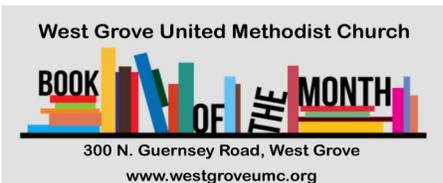
Summer worship in July and August at 9:45 with movies and music.

In July, join us as we explore the gospel in film.

In August, you wouldn't want to miss our songs of faith!

Come for worship with all of your church family!





Are you interested in reading and discussing what others are reading? Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:45 p.m. to discuss a newer title. We'll meet in Room 3. See Pastor Monica for more information.

This month we are reading *"Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places"* by Kaitlin Curtice. The fullness and wisdom of life often comes as we travel through life. What does spirituality look like as you fall upward? We will meet on **May 23 at 5:45 p.m.** to discuss it. Join us!

#### Coming Up:

June 27—*"Workin' Our Way Home: The Incredible True Story of a Homeless Ex-Con and a Grieving Millionaire Thrown Together to Save Each Other"* by Ron Hall



## BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays  
2:00-3:00 PM  
Building #1**

The Luther House Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 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.

**We are studying the book of Revelation.** If you have any questions, please see Cindy Haley or call her at 484-702-7071.

We hope you can join us!

## UNITED METHODIST MEN FAMILY EVENING Saturday, June 1



The Lan-Chester UMM will have the families of the member Churches join together at Christiana Fire Hall on Friday, June 1, 2019. Each Church will be providing two musical presentations for the whole family to enjoy. A meal will be prepared by the Fire Company. The cost is \$12.50 (ages 13 and up), \$6 (ages 6-12) and free for ages 5 and under. The meal will be served at 6:45 pm. so plan to arrive between 6:00 pm. & 6:30 pm. to give your family & friends time to meet other people.

Music will be featured by all of the churches with Mel and Joan Leaman presenting two songs to represent WGUMC.

I hope you will put this on you calendar & plan on coming. It will be a nice time to get to meet & fellowship with families from other Methodist Churches in the area. Starting in May, I will begin contacting you to see if you will be going. Hopefully, You will say YES!

I will need a definite answer by Sun. Afternoon, May 26. You can call: Vernon Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or Email <spartan57@verizon.net>

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Save the Date

**May 19th after the 11:00 Worship Service**



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

Have you been thinking about joining the church? Have you been wanting to learn more about how you could get plugged in here at West Grove UMC?

Join us on Saturday, May 19th after the 11:00 a.m. worship service to learn about the church and becoming a member. No obligation. Enjoy a cup of coffee, drink some tea, hear about the church. I look forward to seeing you there!

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



# SERVE



## VBS 2019 To Mars and Beyond! July 15-19

Summer will be here in the blink of an eye! Melanie and Joan are very excited about this coming year's theme for VBS: To Mars and Beyond from Cokesbury. Each day has a new story featuring a character who by the power of God was able to do an important job and experience God in a new way. Our stories for the week feature Daniel, Esther, Jesus and the parable of the good Samaritan.

Registration is now open! To register, visit <https://tmap.cokesburyvbs.com/westgroveumc2019/>.

## FAMILY PROMISE

May 5-12

**Volunteers needed!**



Family Promise<sup>®</sup>  
of Southern Chester County

WGUMC is hosting Family Promise again this month. Our families always enjoy a comfortable and hospitable week when they stay with us. Please come help us and enjoy serving in this fulfilling ministry.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the lobby for food donations needed that week. Thanks for your donations of food or money to purchase food.

## West Grove UMC Worship with Twin Pines Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.



We gather at Twin Pines at 2:00 p.m. and enjoy a time of worship and praise, sing favorite hymns and visit with the friends that come to the service.

You are all invited to join us! The adage of “the more the merrier” is very **true** in this case. The residents are thrilled to have us come to worship and fellowship with them.

**We hope to see you next Sunday at 2 p.m.!**

## PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING

The Prayer Ministry team meets the **second Tuesday of every month** for a time of sharing, praying and mutual care. Our Focus: We pray for the needs of prayer ministry, each other, the congregation, the nation and the world.

We, the Prayer Ministry team are not a perfect people, "saints", but real people who have each been on a journey at various times in our lives.

**We welcome you to join us at our next meeting on May 14 at 6:30** in the sanctuary/prayer room.

Personal requests are kept confidential and may be placed in the prayer request box in the back of the sanctuary. If you are going through a difficult time and want to stop in just to receive personal prayer during the monthly Tuesday prayer gathering timeframe (6:30-7:30) we welcome you as well.....no need to stay.

If you're curious, but not sure, feel free to visit a couple times to see if this ministry is a good fit for you. No one is expected to pray audibly.



### LOVE GARDENING? BE A COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGER

The Trustees are looking for an interested individual(s) to manage or supervise the Community Garden Plots. Responsibilities would be keeping the Trustees informed of progress & needs, assignment of plots to individual or groups, checking to make make sure "gardeners" plant in timely fashion, water, weed, & harvest their plots. You do not need to "garden a plot yourself but can if you so choose. You may use the guidelines & instructions of a former manager or create your own plan of action.

Know someone that would be perfect? Contact Vernon Ramberger; 610-869-863 / [spartan57@verizon.net](mailto:spartan57@verizon.net).



## UMW FAITH CIRCLE

Faith circle ladies are taking a break and will not meet until September. We will resume meeting the third week of September.

During this year, we created costumes for the Live Nativity and we also made several pillow cases for Family Promise. Our continuing project is/will be walker bags and wheelchair bags. We welcome any folks interested in joining us.

New folks are welcome! Contact Chris Curtiss for more information. Sewing skills are not necessary.



Interested? Contact West Grove UMC:  
(610) 869-9334 / [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org).

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

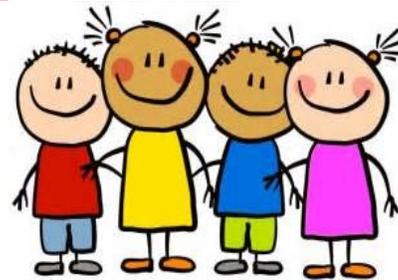
We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

**We are in need of additional volunteers, especially during the 11:00 am 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 610-468-4321.



# CMO PRESCHOOL



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

April has been a very busy month for us. The children have been learning about Easter, are anticipating the arrival of our ladybug larvae and caterpillars, and are looking forward to our Art Gala. Just like our little caterpillars will grow into beautiful butterflies, our children have grown so much this year. It is amazing to see the transformation of each little one as they come in September, maybe feeling a little nervous and anxious to now seeing them walking in to preschool with confidence. Children are truly a gift and we all feel so blessed that our families are willing to share their children with us. Our year will end with the children singing some of their favorite songs for their families.

We do still have just a few openings in some of our classes. If you or someone you know may be

## CMO CHAPEL TIME with Miss Melanie & Pastor Monica May Theme—Live in the World

Our friends will take learnings to live in the world.

Song—"I've Got the Joy"

### Week 1—Everyone Has Gifts

Books:

*"Good People Everywhere"*

by Lynea Gillen

(younger & older)

### Week 2—Use Your Gifts

Book:

*"Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Gift"*

by Emily Pearson (younger & older)

### Week 3—End of Year Celebration

Book:

*"When God Made You"*

by Matthew Paul Turner (younger & older)



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities, contact Melanie Hartley  
[childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

We've contemplated during Lent, mourned on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and rejoiced for resurrection. So now what? Once Easter is over, do we still find joy in the resurrection? do we live as believers in resurrection? what does it even mean to see the world in this way?

### YOUTH DODGEBALL May 10 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All youth, grades 6-12 are invited to join us for dodgeball. Students just need \$3 for pizza and a signed waiver form. Invite a friend and we hope to see you on the 12th for a fun night!

### YOUTH GROUP Sunday nights 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All 7-12 grade students are invited.  
 There's games, snacks and great discussion!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

### Children & Youth Sunday School Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Road to Emmaus  
 April 28- June 2

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to a number of his disciples and followers. But they weren't always aware of it. In this unit, we will explore the story of the walk on the road to Emmaus, and how to spot the signs of Jesus at work all around us.

### Children's Sunday School



Sunday school is available for children ages Pre-K (3's & 4's) through grade 12.

## CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmands began their journey in faith towards Confirmation in September. They were on retreat April 5th - 7th at Gretna Glen in Lebanon.

We are looking forward to the Confirmation on Pentecost, June 9th.



## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & ALL WORSHIP SUNDAYS

All Worship & Communion  
 Sunday - May 5

Children will have activity packets and other things to use during the worship service. Please look for details in your Children's Ministry emails.



Not on the email list? Contact Melanie Hartley. For information on all children's worship, activities and youth ministry, contact Melanie Hartley  
[childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)



# FUN & FITNESS



Retired Active People



## RETIRED ACTIVE PEOPLE (R.A.P.)

**May 10**  
**12:00-3:00 p.m.**

RAP met on Friday, April 12 and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship. Thank you Sara Ann and Vernon for leading our April gathering. Following lunch, Melanie Weiler from Kennett Area



Community Services presented information in regard to the services provided by KACS in Southern Chester County which includes over 200 households in the West Grove area. In addition, she provided information about the Bridges Out of Poverty initiative – a.k.a. – The Southern Chester County Opportunity Network.

RAP's next gathering and the last until September is Friday, May 10 at noon and will be co-led by Caryl and Dick Stuhrke and Cindy and Mike Haley. Please join us for a covered dish luncheon to celebrate the end of this year's meetings and activities.

Our video and sound technician, Keith Schneider, will present a Longwood Gardens "Tour." Invite your friends and join us for a wonderful program.



## 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.

For more information, visit [www.gretnaglen.org](http://www.gretnaglen.org)



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

## R.O.M.E.O. Retired Older Men Eating Out

**May 30**  
**12:00-1:30 p.m.**

If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEOLUNCH. 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.

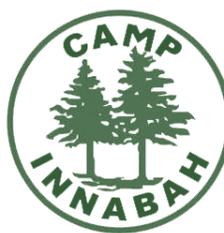
## J.U.L.I.E.T.

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



**The Juliets will not meet this month due to  
the closing of the Café.**

**Look for updates in the bulletin and on our website  
as they search for new place to meet!**



## Registration is now open!

Innabah is excited to celebrate our 90th year of camping ministry this year! Located in beautiful Chester County on 179

acres, Innabah Camp and Retreat Center offers a wide range of camping and retreat opportunities.

At Innabah, our mission is to provide experiences that last a lifetime in an environment where campers and guests can make new friends, challenge themselves, and explore and grow in their faith. In addition to continuing our long standing camp traditions, we are excited to offer many new summer camp sessions and activities for the 2019 camping season.

For more information, visit [www.innabah.org](http://www.innabah.org)

# STEWARDSHIP



Good News! The refinancing of our church mortgage was approved by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Loan Fund of the United Methodist Church. The new mortgage will be issued at a very favorable interest rate with a loan term over 15 years providing significant annual savings.

We are also off to a positive financial start for 2019. The first quarter financial statements reflect more than \$9,000 excess income over expenses. This

outcome partially results from an advance payment of an annual gift. Also, expenses for the quarter were below budget largely due to the resolution of our Finance team to defer our United Methodist connectional apportionment payments. The resolution requires the Finance team to review our financial status quarterly and determine whether we are in a position to make up any of the deferred apportionments. Although there are financial uncertainties ahead for the remaining quarters of the year, the Finance team recently resolved to pay a portion of this year's deferred apportionments to show our intent and good faith in meeting our connectional commitment with the larger United Methodist Church.

Our 2019 budget reflects a \$61,000 deficit largely due to the inclusion of full apportionment payments and it is our hope and our goal to reduce, and eventually eliminate, this deficit through careful management of our expenses and through the successful outcome of our recently announced Sustainability Campaign. This Campaign will address our daily operational needs as well as our short- term and long-term capital requirements to maintain our worship facility. We urge all members to participate and provide feedback when contacted by Kirby-Smith Associates who are conducting the Feasibility Study for the Campaign.

If anyone has questions or concerns about our financial status, please feel free to contact any member of the Finance team.

## 5th SUNDAY COIN COLLECTION

We collected \$328 for Mpsa Medical Skills in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A Joyful Noise Thank YOU!



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

Item	Qty	Approx Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!)	2	\$4,000
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$50,000
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms—FULFILLED!	25	\$500
2 laptops (1 for Director of Children and Youth Ministry, 1 for Volunteer Office with docking station)	2	\$1,500

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANK YOUS

*The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, May 28.*



## GRANTS TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS

April 29 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 2019-2020 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 29 to May 13 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered.

Applications are available in the lobby of the church. Pastor Monica will be happy to walk you through the process including necessary signatures.

Dear Pastor Monica,

The Easter Sunrise service was lovely and happily inclusive of all generations. It set a joyful tone for the rest of my day. I wanted to particularly thank you for coming across the parking lot to greet me after the service. It made me feel valued and welcomed. We have newly moved to Cochranville and I have a home church but we did not have a Sunrise service—my favorite service of the entire church year. God willing, I will look to West Grove UMC for this lovely service for years to come.

May God richly bless you and your church,  
Deb Wein

## HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES

We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.



**Hearing assistive devices are located in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.** They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you. We give thanks to God the technology we have in the sanctuary that can help **everyone** hear.

## THANK YOU

Thank you so very much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers for Administrative Professionals Day! It was such a sweet surprise. It is a blessing to serve WGUMC every day.

With deepest appreciation for your thoughtfulness,  
Donna Fackler

## GRADUATES

### Congratulations!

If you are celebrating the graduation of a high school, college, technical school, masters, or other educational milestone, we want to celebrate with you and offer blessing!

In worship on June 16th, we will be celebrating our graduates at both services. Please share with Melanie Hartley by June 12th, so we can plan appropriately.



## AVON GROVE MINISTERIUM SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are graduating from High School this year from Avon Grove High School or Avon Grove Charter School and considering a helping profession in any post secondary school educational experience, consider applying for the Avon Grove Ministerium Scholarship. See your guidance counselor's office for scholarship application.

## PRAYER ROOM

Need prayer?

Our prayer room is open each Sunday after worship for anyone seeking prayer.



# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE NEWS

## Clergy and Laity Training

### *Churches as First Responders to the Military and Veteran Population*



Council for Relationships' Operation Home and Healing provides: counseling and behavioral health education for service members, Veterans, and their families.

Training for *Churches as First Responders to the Military and Veteran Population* includes:

- Training in recognizing military or Veteran congregant families facing problems
- Understanding military culture and its impact on families
- Identifying pastoral roles in ministering to congregants with Moral Injury.

Saturday May 11, 2019  
9:00am - 12:00pm

Register by May 6, 2019

\$10 per person

FUMC Phoenixville  
865 Main St,  
Phoenixville, PA

Register at:

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/405986>

Sponsored by: EPAUMC Connectional Ministries, Committee on Disabilities Concerns

Presented by:

COUNCIL FOR  
*Relationships*

**Will Barnes**, D.Min, MFT, Clinical Fellow and approved AAMFT supervisor, CH, COL, Ret.

**Wanda Sevey**, MDiv, LMFT Director of Clinical Training: Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy for Clergy

"I appreciated the workshop for several reasons. It broadened my understanding of the trauma of many military personnel and the way that trauma impacts their family. It gave practical steps for engaging military, veterans, and their families. Most of all, though, the workshop helped me realize that, while trained counselors should treat the medical aspects of PTSD, clergy can and should address the moral injury resulting from their service. Moral injuries arise when people question how the trauma they have experienced in war impacts their understanding of and relationship with God."  
Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith, Director Connectional Ministries, Peninsula Delaware Conference

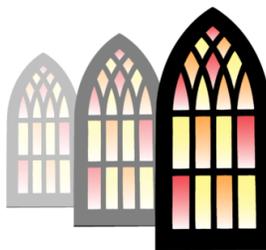
# SAVE THE DATE

# DISTRICT CONFERENCE

# May 5th Lima UMC

# SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 13th-15th  
Oaks, PA



# tell to the coming generation

psalm 78:4



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE  
The United Methodist Church

# UMC: GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

## **NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY - AUGUST 11**

*By Lladale Carey Web content producer, United Methodist Communications*

The Rev. Roy Hilburn, from the Waccamaw Siouan tribe, has been the minister of Coharie United Methodist Church in Clinton, North Carolina, for eight years. The church's name comes from one of the local tribes and a river that is less than a mile from the church. The Coharie tribe is one of eight state-recognized tribes in North Carolina.

When Hilburn came to Coharie, there were only eight members. However, with the adoption of The United Methodist Church's mission statement — "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" — he was able to increase the membership to 50.

With the UMC mission in mind, Hilburn created a mission statement tailor-made for his congregation called "R.E.A.C.H."

"What we do with R.E.A.C.H. is we want to Restore lives with the proclamation of the word; Exalt God in praise and worship; Actively seek the lost; be Compassionate towards others; and Help those in need," Hilburn says.

Hilburn has seen the benefits of embracing this concept for his congregation.

"The folks are on fire and actively seeking the lost. When we hear of needs in the community, we are compassionate to those needs. And we're always looking to help those who are hurting around us," he says.

Coharie is a Native American church, but their worship services are diverse, welcoming any and every one — African Americans, Hispanics, Caucasians and, of course, Native Americans.

Coharie is a typical United Methodist church with food and fellowship events. They believe that fellowship is important and that it is missing in many congregations today. As a Native American church, family is a focus. With family comes tradition and a value system unlike many non-Native congregations.

"The Coharie congregation believes in nurturing its children and youth. They plan many activities to help strengthen their children's involvement in the church.

Hilburn wants to encourage the church to continue to support the Native American Ministries Special Sunday offering. Each designated conference uses part of this offering to help Native Americans in their educational pursuits.

One of six church wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh, new ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

## **PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY- JUNE 16TH**

*By Cindy Solomon*

The murders of nine people attending a Wednesday night Bible study at AME Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2015, was a wake-up call to Vinings United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Looking outside their own doors convinced them they had to become involved in ministry to local crime victims. When they hosted a memorial/healing service in 2016, more than 250 people impacted by homicide attended.

Vinings Church applied for and received a grant from the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society to support the work of the Crime Victims Advocacy Council (CVAC), a ministry of the North Georgia Conference.

Each year on the first Sunday after Pentecost, thousands of United Methodist congregations worldwide collect a special offering for peace with Justice Sunday. Their gifts enable United Methodists to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice throughout the world.

The funds given allow grants to be awarded to churches,

annual and central conferences advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of ministries and programs.

The Vinings church used its grant to help fund the 2016 memorial/healing service. Church members lead prayers with surviving family members. The grant helped defray costs for program bulletins, candles and candle holders, a memorial wall listing the names of 300 murder victims, and booths containing information about crime victims' rights, legal help for civil justice and preparing victim claims.

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist church, Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society.

When you give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, you give The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for global peace and justice.

# MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting Luther House Bible Study	2	3	4 Daily Reflections Women's Retreat
5 Family Promise All Worship Communion & Emergency Aid Sunday District Conference Twin Pines	6 Family Promise Knit Wits SOS Ladies	7 Family Promise Tech Team Meeting Trustees Meeting	8 Family Promise Full Staff Meeting Luther House Bible Study	9 Family Promise	10 Family Promise RAP Youth Dodgeball	11 Family Promise Daily Reflections JULIETs
12 Family Promise Mother's Day KidsSing Jenner's Pond Worship	13 Knit Wits SOS Ladies	14 Prayer Gathering	15 Luther House Bible Study RAP Outing Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting	16	17	18 Daily Reflections
19 Coffee Fellowship Memory Bells	20 Knit Wits SOS Ladies	21 Finance Meeting Ad Council Meeting	22 CMO Year End Celebration Luther House Bible Study	23 Book of the Month	24	25 Daily Reflections
26 RMH Meal	27 Memorial Day – Office Closed Knit Wits SOS Ladies UMM Meeting	28 Missions Meeting SPRC Meeting	29 Luther House Bible Study	30 ROMEOS	31	



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

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

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



**2019**

*~ 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 Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,  
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

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

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director  
[Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Childyouthdirector@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

Marc Simmons - Finance Chair

Scott Steele - Treasurer

Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Interim Chair

Steve May—Tech Team Leader

Dick Stuhrke—Scouting Coordinator

Melanie Hartley - 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

Susan Paisley -

Delegate to Annual Conference

Pastor Monica - Committee on Lay Leadership

OPEN - U.M.W. President

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large

Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator