



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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December 2019



"Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ. So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ." Matthew 1: 16-17

Mulligan. Do-Over. Try Again. Second Chance.

Have you ever wanted to just climb under the table and hide after you did something or something happened to you?

Over 55% of people who do not come to church say that is why they do not come. They find churches to be judgmental. 55% of people in our area say that churches and church people are too judgmental. They would like to have a second chance at life. They would like to experiment and try it out.

Our God has a lot to say about this. God's grace goes before God. God's grace is prevenient - before we think about God, God has already thought about us in love.

The first 17 verses of Matthew many people skip over. They read right over all of the begats and "fathers of" until they get to when they read 'this is how the birth of Jesus happened.' Boy, are they missing out!

Now, I know the names might give you pause in pronunciation. I know it might seem like genealogy, when you can barely keep straight your own family. But I want to tell you, the first seventeen verses of Matthew are a study in second (and third) chances. God is always giving people lots of opportunities to be a part of the family of God. This family tree is full of those who could have left out.

When you are studying the first chapter in the book of Matthew, you get a glimpse into characters

like Abraham and Issac, David, and Solomon. You also have the opportunity to reflect on Bathsheba, whose husband was murdered, and Ruth, a migrant who cared for her mother in law, Rahab, a cunning businesswoman who cared for her family and Tamar, clever woman who taught her father-in-law to fulfill his obligations. These characters are integral parts of the salvific history of Jesus Christ.

Good news isn't good news, unless it is good news for everyone! And the birth of Jesus is good news for absolutely everyone! Jesus was born so that everyone could know God and God's way!

Some people have felt excluded by the church for their own actions. Others have not felt connected to church because of church actions. Be a part of welcoming your brothers and sisters back home to God in relationship as well as to church.

This Advent and Christmas, who can you share that we are a church of second and third chances? We offer to people as many chances as God gives. We invite our brothers and sisters to come home to God. We encourage them to find themselves at home in Jesus the Christ.

Join us on December 5th as we hand out our hot cocoa and lead caroling at the West Grove town center at the Christmas Tree lighting. We are delighted to have received a United Methodist Communications grant to assist us in this effort. We are utilizing the grant funds in the UnWrap Christmas effort. Help us invite our community to come home to West Grove UMC for Christmas.

Let the light of Christ's love shine through you to invite others back home.

In God's Love, *Pastor Monica*



December 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)

Sermon Series: "Second Chances"



Sunday, December 1, 2019
Communion Sunday and Emergency Aid
First Sunday of Advent

*Food Pantry Day is the first Sunday of each month

Sermon: Second Chance for Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5, Matthew 24: 36-44

God is a God of multiple second chances. Where is God calling you to reconciliation and peace for a second chance?

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Second Chances for Prickly People

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 1:1-17

We all need second chances. Forgive me when I'm prickly. Just like I forgive those who are prickly.

Sunday, December 15, 2019
Memory Bells
Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Second Chances for Joy

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5: 18, Psalm 100

Melanie Hartley, preaching

In the midst of the hustle of the season, where are you finding joy in times and places where it is least expected?

Friday, December 20, 2019
Blue Christmas 6:30 pm

Sermon: Second Chance for Hope

Scripture: Psalm 121, Isaiah 40: 1, 25-31

When Christmas does not yet feel hopeful, where can I turn?

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Second Chance for the unexpected

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25, Isaiah 7: 10-16

God often surprises us! In this season of coming, where is God surprising you?

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve

Wiggly Giggly - Noon

Family - 6pm

Jenners Pond—7:15 p.m.

Contemporary - 8pm

Traditional w/ Candlelight and Holy Communion - 11pm

Sermon: Come Home

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2: 1-20

God leaves the light on and invites us home. Come home for Christmas.

Sunday, December 29th, 2019
First Sunday of Christmas

Sermon: Third Chance

Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship is on **December 8th at 11 am**
 and for **Christmas Eve Service at 7:15 pm** 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 December 1st.



DECEMBER COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: The Congregation!

Bring your Christmas Cookies to share at our December fellowship! 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



This is a year of rest for our Live Nativity.

Please prayerfully consider how you might be called to reimagine our Live Nativity for next year.

After the Annunciation

by Madeline L'Engle

This is the irrational season when love blooms bright and wild.

Had Mary been filled with reason there'd have been no room for the child.

Ever wonder why we set up nativities? In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.



Here is a prayer as you set up your nativity:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this anger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever, Amen.

Prayer for Advent

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Like Mary, who says Yes to your promise, and farmers in hope for their crops, we welcome your good news in peace: your grace that will upend our world, we receive with patience and hope. Your justice that brings down the mighty, that feeds the hungry and poor, we welcome, and ask for your courage. In peace, we say Yes to your peace. In peace, we welcome the miracle: may your life unfold within us in light. The desert will blossom, the blind will see, and we will return from our exile to be one with each other again. Like Mary, who says Yes to your promise, in peace, we say Yes to your peace. Amen.

Prepare A Blessing for Advent

Strange how one word will so hollow you out.
But this word has been in the wilderness for months.
Years.

This word is what remained after everything else was worn away by sand and stone.
It is what withstood the glaring of sun by day, the weeping loneliness of the moon at night.

Now it comes to you racing out of the wild, eyes blazing



and waving its arms, its voice ragged with desert but piercing and loud as it speaks itself again and again:

Prepare, prepare.

It may feel like the word is leveling you,

emptying you as it asks you to give up what you have known. It is impolite and hardly tame, but when it falls upon your lips you will wonder at the sweetness,

like honey that finds its way into the hunger you had not known was there.

—Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace

BOOKS & MOVIES MENTIONED IN SERMONS IN OCTOBER 11/3/19:

http://www.sermonsfromseattle.com/all_saints_what_is_a_saint.htm

Archives of Phoenixville UMC shared by Rev. R. Mark Young.

11/17/19

https://ggsc.berkeley.edu/images/uploads/GGSC-JTF_White_Paper-Gratitude-FINAL.pdf?_ga=2.53327916.545211946.1573983081-1446641428.1571800832

11/24/19

<https://source.wustl.edu/2006/07/discovering-why-study-groups-are-more-effective/>

<https://adaa.org/about-adaa/press-room/facts-statistics>
Ephesians 1:21-23, The Message.

Ilia Delio, *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love* (Orbis Books: 2013), 24-25.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Christ, Cosmology, and Consciousness* (Center for Action and Contemplation: 2010), MP3 download.





Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 8th ~ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us!

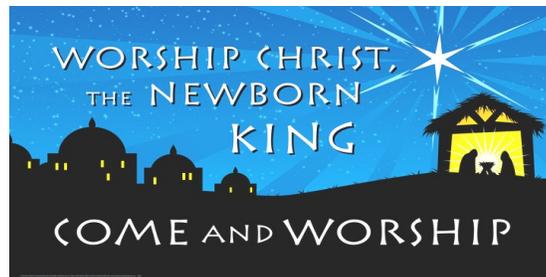
Bring your family and invite your friends!

Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m. allows **all ages** to join in the festivities.

Welcome the Advent Season with music by the Chancel Choir, Memory Bells Handbell Choir, PraiseWorks Band, special musical numbers by our talented friends and, of course, a carol sing-along.

Stay after for delicious, homemade Christmas cookies and cider!

Invite your friends and family to get in the Christmas spirit!



Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24th

Children's

12:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Children's Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

6:00 p.m. Family service

with a pick-up Christmas Pageant and music by our Memory Bells Handbell Choir

Jenner's Pond

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Service

with music by our PraiseWorks Band

11:00 p.m. Traditional Service

with music by our Chancel Choir and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

We hope you join us as we celebrate the season!



THE UNITED METHODIST MEN TOY DRIVE is about to start and we hope WGUMC will take part. We need to deliver un-wrapped gifts to the Parkesburg Church **by Sunday, December 1st at Noon**. They will be delivered to the Methodist Home in Philadelphia on December 3, leaving Parkesburg at 10AM. We are invited to go and share in taking these gifts to the Home.

Below is the list of gift suggestions that they are asking for. It also includes shoes, socks, and underwear. A full list with ages is available in the lobby on the bulletin board. Please feel free to take one with you as you do your holiday shopping!

Ages range from Infants and Toddlers, Pre-School, Elementary School, Middle School, High School and Adults

Toddler toys and puzzles
Peg Puzzles
Bibs, Diapers and Wipes
Mr. Potato Head
Safe Blocks
Playdough, Fun Foam
Kinetic Sand

Wooden Puzzles
Movie Tickets
Sports equipment
Team apparel
Trucks, Train Sets
Car Racing sets
Science and Robotic Kits
Video Games
Gaming systems
Jewelry
Personal Care Baskets
Books

Hats, Scarves, Gloves
Watches
Beauty and Grooming Items
Arts & Crafts Supplies
Bi-Lingual Books & Games
Legos
Action Figures
Leaning Games
Dress up Clothing & Accessories
Gift Cards

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 20th

6:30 p.m.

As we prepare for Christmas, some of us might not feel the joy of the season. Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, divorce, separation, or physical, emotional, spiritual pain. Perhaps, the news that fills our media weighs heavily on your shoulders.



Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts, is welcome to join us for our Blue Christmas service.

The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls.

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



Advent
Bags

homebound

Advent Bags for Our Homebound

Thank you to all who generously donated gifts for this year's Advent Bags for our homebound and to all who lovingly delivered those gifts.

20 bags were filled with 25 gifts each, scripture attached to each gift telling the story of Christ's birth, and each numbered 1-25. For the days leading up to Christmas, our can open a gift each day and know they are loved, cared for and cherished by this church family.

With appreciation, The United Methodist Women

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. **Please stop by the lobby information table and pick up an order form or use the form below.** Each plant will be in a 6" pot and will be red with 4 to 5 blooms.

The cost is \$6.50 each.

The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 16** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in **Christmas Eve bulletins**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 30 after the 11:00 a.m. service. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form



Your Name: _____

No. of Plants _____ x **\$6.50** each = \$ _____ Total

(Please make checks payable to WGUMC with memo for "Poinsettias")

Check one: In Honor of: In Memory of: In Celebration of:



FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE: Bring your cards for your church friends between 12/1/19-1/5/20. We are setting up a wonderful display of "Mailboxes" between the kitchen and choir room where you can deposit your cards. Just look for the initial letter of the recipient's last name and put them in there. Looking for cards to you? Just go to

the box with the initial letter of your last name and find your cards! This is an easy and fun way to share the Christmas spirit with all of friends at church! A big Thank You to Karen Hruz for setting this up for us!





GROW



PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING



The Prayer Ministry team meets the **second Tuesday of every month** for a time of sharing, praying and mutual care. **We welcome you to join us at our next meeting on December 10 at 6:30 p.m.** 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'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.



BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays
2:00-3:00 PM, Bldg. #1**

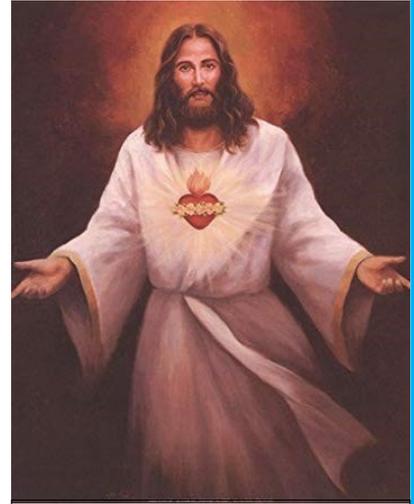
The Luther House Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 pm in Bldg. #1.

The group is taking a break from their study of Isaiah for an Advent Study entitled, "The Weary World Rejoices" by Life-way Women.

If you have any questions, please see Cindy Haley or call her at 484-702-7071. We hope you can join us!

"Journey to Jesus, Journey to Love"

We will be offering "Journey to Jesus, Journey to Love," which is a spiritual experience to help you become more in tune with your inner self, deepen your relationship with Jesus, and become more aware of his passionate love for you and others.



Artist T. C. Chiu

"Journey to Jesus, Journey to Love" will be offered **on Sundays beginning February 2 to March 1 from 10:00 to 10:45 AM.**



Care Givers Support Group December 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

To all those, caring for loved ones; spouses, children, grandchildren, significant others, this is a safe place to take time for yourself to voice (vent, if that is your need) those things you feel others do not understand.

We will laugh, we will cry, we will care for each other.

We will meet every third Wednesday of the month in room 4.

The United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women have been quite busy! Their Fall rummage sale netted \$2,230.95! The funds raised by their rummage sale supports many in the community and worldwide. They were able to make generous donations to the District UMW, Garage Youth Center, Family Promise, WGUMC Food Pantry, Methodist Services, Ministerium Scholarship, Camp Innabah Scholarship, UMCOR and the Community New Garment Association. They will be coordinating the assembly and delivery of the

Advent Bags as well!

They have received several thank you notes that they would like to share:
Dear West Grove UMC, On Behalf of the Methodist Services, we sincerely thank you for your donation of \$250.00 We deeply appreciate your generosity and dedication to supporting children, youth and family in Easter Pennsylvania. Your gift makes it possible for Methodist Services to offer a joyous Christmas for the children we serve. Anne Rice-Burgess MSCP, MFT, President and CEO

To each of you in the United Methodist Women's Group, On behalf of the Community New Garment Association, I want to thank you for your gift.

We had a very good Collection and Distribution on Monday and Tuesday. 5,170 items were donated and/or purchased with the cash gifts we received (UMW \$100.00). Sincerely, Kathryn F. Steele, President

West Grove UMC, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift of \$250 to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be — Thank you! Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist Church, providing disaster response...Grace and Peace, Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary



Jenner's Pond Chorus' Christmas Carol Program

The annual **JP Chorus' Christmas Program** will be on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7:15 P.M.** The JP Chorus will be presenting the program to open up the Christmas season. Come out and help us sing the carols and listen as our Chorus sings seasonal songs. All are invited to come and take part in singing the Carols.



Thank you to : Linda Shiplet, Connie Simcox, Caryl Stuhrke, Sandy Carmichael, Linda Peirson and Kay Yates. They did a superb job cleaning the kitchen as it is readied for the annual inspection. Please

be sure to take extra care in keeping the kitchen clean!

8.4% of our neighbors are Food insecure. Maybe you are one of them.

Our Food Pantry is now open the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4-6pm.



MISSIONS AND MINISTRY



CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE

Please visit our Christmas Gift Tree in the Lobby starting Sunday, November 24th.

On the tree, there will be gift tags for families and individuals from our community in need. The tag will note the child's gender, age and requested item. Some might just have the gender and age and you can pick out a surprise Christmas present! We will be providing gifts to children in the school district, residents at Twin Pines, and additional local families in need.

Wrapped gifts, with the gift tag attached, **need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 8th to ensure they can be delivered in time.**

Questions? Please contact Joan Leaman at jmleaman@comcast.net.

COAT DRIVE

November 3-
December 1



In collaboration with ABVM and to care for our community, we are collecting coats in support of the Avon Grove Christmas Basket Program. For the second year, we will supply the coats to bring a little

Christmas spirit to your neighbors in need. Please add your coats to the rack in the lobby through the beginning of December.



Questions? Please contact Janice Bowers at janicesemail2@gmail.com



LUTHER HOUSE COOKIES AND CRAFTS Sunday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Last year, we had our first *Luther House Cookie Bake and Craft Make* event and were able to deliver cookies and a small gift to all four Luther House residents! We are looking forward to bringing the same Christmas joy again this year. Would you please **sign-up to donate Christmas cookies** this year? There is a **sign-up sheet in the lobby**. Cookies (and crafts from all the crafters) are due by Sunday, December 8th at 12:30 pm. Right after the service, all are invited to join in on the fun of putting all the packages together! The **delivery date** for sharing the cookies and crafts with the residents is on **Monday, December 9 at 10 a.m.** If you are interested in helping Janice Bowers with the delivery, please contact her at 610-444-8470 or janicesemail2@gmail.com



The Garage Youth Center's Annual Holiday Auction Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 7-10pm at the Kennett Square Garage located at **115 S. Union St. Kennett Square, PA 19348**. Some

highlights of the auction include trips, experience opportunities, gift certificates, baskets, bundles, and more!

100% of the proceeds will go to support their after-school tutoring, mentoring, community service, enrichment, life skills and workforce development programs. Events such as the Holiday Auction make it possible for The Garage to continue to serve at-risk youth with quality, year-round programs which encourage them to grow and thrive.

Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at <http://2019garageholidayauction.eventbrite.com>

To learn more about The Garage or the upcoming Holiday Auction, please visit www.garageyouthcenter.org or contact Kristin Proto at 610-444-6464

YOUTH MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities,
contact Melanie Hartley
childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

YOUTH
GROUP

SCHEDULE

December 1:
Movie Night, 5:30-
8:00 p.m.

December 8:
Christmas concert,
no youth group

December 15 & 22: youth group, 5:30-
7:00 p.m.

December 29: Christmas break, no youth
group

Dodgeball!

Youth Dodgeball
Night
Friday, December
13th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Bring your friends!!!
And \$3.00 for pizza!



Parents Nite Out

December 7, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support the youth
mission trip!

Details on the children's ministry page.

Mission Trip 2020

June 14-20

Boston, Massachusetts

Summer will be here before you know it, and
our summer mission trip will be heading to
Boston!

Any students entering grade 8 through
graduating seniors are invited to join! For
information about the trip, including cost and
important dates is available- contact Melanie
Hartley.



Spring Retreat 2020 March 6-8, 2020

There is still time to sign up!
We are gearing up for a
weekend away to have fun,
hang out, and experience
prayer.

See Melanie for more
information!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



December 8 & 15

KidSing will participate in the Advent music night on Dec. 8 at 6:30. They will perform "Go Tell It On The Mountain" with Praise Works!

They will also sing "I Will Bring My Worship" on Sunday, Dec. 15 at both services.

If you have any questions contact Melanie!

I S A A H 7 :1 4	A N O U N C E M E N T	Savior Christ Messiah	M a t t h e w 1 :2 3	Y e s h u a 1 :2 3	God will save	I m m e n s e n s i b l e G o d w i t h u s	G R E A T L I G H T Y P R I N C E O F P E A C E	M W O N D E R F U L C O U N S E L O R E V E R L A S T I N G F A T H E R P R I N C E O F P E A C E
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Children & Youth Sunday School
Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

**WoRM Unit: Isaiah's Promises,
Jesus Fulfilled**

December 1- December 22

Our Sunday school unit for Advent will explore the prophecies and promises of the coming Messiah. Students will learn about the names of Jesus and how the signs of the Messiah were foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 7, 2019

5:00-8:00 P.M.

Children ages PreK 4 - Grade 6

Enjoy a night to yourself while giving back to our youth group students! Students and adult leaders will lead children through different activities throughout the evening.

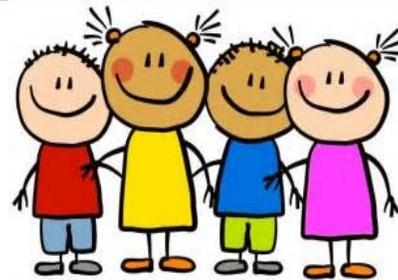
All proceeds go towards the youth mission trip to Boston, Mass. in June 2020.

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Find this event through West Grove UMC's facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc/>  
you can find the registration form under the "tickets" link.

Register by Wednesday, December 4

Contact Melanie Hartley with questions or concerns  
610-869-9334

# CMO PRESCHOOL



## CMO and Preschool News for December

December is such a fun month for our preschool children. They will be busy preparing for Christmas. The joy and excitement in their faces is priceless during this time of year as they learn about this special day. The children will be learning about Jesus and his birth, making special presents for their parents, and enjoying hearing so many Christmas stories. Our Christmas Celebration will help us get even more into the Christmas spirit. At the celebration, the children enjoy hearing the story of Christmas told by Pastor Monica and Miss Melanie, sing Christmas songs for their parents, and we are hopeful that we will have a message from a special someone!

We are already planning for next school year. We will host an Open House at the end of January and our registration for the 2020-2021 school year will be the beginning of February. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Tracy McLaughlin, Director



**CMO  
CHAPEL  
TIME  
with Melanie  
Hartley and  
Pastor  
Monica**

Chapel time is in full swing and we have read lots of stories about being thankful! The kids love to guess what is going to happen in our stories, but their favorite thing to do is sing! This month we clapped our hands and stomped our feet when we felt thankful and there was a lot of thankfulness in the room!

## **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 8:30 am service. If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at [aahass17@hotmail.com](mailto:aahass17@hotmail.com) or 610-468-4321.



# FUN & FITNESS



Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

**December 13  
12:00-3:00 PM**

In November, the Stuhrkes hosted our gathering. Thank you Dick and Caryl. We also thank Pastor Jim and Betty Mundell for sharing beautiful pictures from their trip around the world.

RAP's next gathering is **Friday, December 13, 2019 at noon**. Come and dine with us as we share a **potluck lunch and celebrate the Christmas season**. Paulette Bryan and Janet Gregg will be our hosts.

We are delighted, once again, to share the musical talents of the Providence Brass Quintet plus One, featuring members Eric Perkins, Debbie Schneider and Dick Stuhrke on Trumpet, Rob Hazel on the French Horn, Jake Schneider on Trombone and Frank Metzger on the Tuba. We are so excited to have them entertain us with a selection of sacred and secular Christmas pieces and a time to sing-a-long.

Psalm 98:4-6 says, "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!" (ESV)



If you are interested in helping with the setup and/or cleanup, please let Paulette or Janet know that you are willing to help. Don't forget your covered dish, invite a friend or two, and come to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship with us. Everyone is welcome!

Luke 2:11-13, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God..." (ESV)

Come, and make a joyful noise with us as we celebrate the Birthday of our King!

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

## *Save the Date!*

The Juliets, a group of women who just like eating together, will meet at the Creekside Diner, 717 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square on **Saturday, December 14th** at 9:00 a.m. They meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship and laughter! Join us!





# STEWARDSHIP



## WEST GROVE UMC FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our church financial condition has been stable through the ten months ended October 31, 2019; although, for the month of October, we incurred a cash shortfall. In October, we received income of \$23,431 and incurred \$37,980 of expenses resulting in an excess of expenses over cash received in the amount of \$14,549. This was primarily due to a lower four week offering, along with the CMO payroll reimbursement which was deposited in November.



For the year-to-date ten month period ended October 31, 2019, we received total income of \$326,229 and incurred total expenses of \$318,484 resulting in an excess of cash received over expenses in the amount of \$7,745. Our 2019 apportionments were \$27,004 in arrears as of October 31. At our recent Finance Meeting, we reviewed our overall financial condition and agreed to pay \$13,484 (three months apportionments) toward this arrearage. As a result, we will be paid up through July. We have made significant progress in meeting our apportionments obligation and we will meet again in December to determine how much additional we can pay by year end.

Marc Simmons, Chair of the Finance Committee

We give thanks to God for the faithfulness of our congregation and all of those who have provided their commitments card as a part of their spiritual discipline of giving. As Janice shared with us when she preached on



### ***Seeking and Following God's Plan: Our Future with Hope***

November 10th, "To be regular in our giving is to establish a pattern of giving and to follow that pattern. In 1:Corinthians 16:2, Paul described regular as "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come." For Paul, this was weekly. In our day, to be regular in giving means that whenever you receive income, and however you receive income, you give according to your predetermined plan." If you have not had a chance to share your commitment

card with the church, please send it in. Your commitment card is a benefit to you in your practice of giving and the church in our planning. The Finance and Administrative Council will be determining a budgeting

plan for 2020 in December.

Our Strategic Planning Team has been meeting since this summer. This team came together out of your request for a desire to hear where we are headed as a church, understand what our needs are, and your responses to the survey from Kirby-Smith Associates. We thank you for your wisdom. The strategic plan is slated to be shared with the congregation at the beginning of January. Please look for details.



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    |
| Carpet in Room 14 (FULFILLED)                             | 1   | \$500       |
| Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot | 1   | \$7,000     |

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Church Office is closed on Tuesday, December 24 at Noon, Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day and on Friday, December 26, so that the staff may spend time over the holiday with our families.**

## 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.

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Our Facebook page is a great resource for keeping up-to-date on what is going on here at church. Be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook and check-in" when you are here!



## PRAYER ROOM

Need prayer?

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



**When shopping for the upcoming holiday season, don't forget to use AMAZON SMILE.**



You go to your same login except choose Amazon Smile and support West Grove United Methodist Church. You still get the same deals, but a percentage of your spending is donated by Amazon to your designated non-profit! So, don't forget to log in to **SMILE** before you shop!!



amazon.com



Best Selection of Retailer Brands and Products

LANDS'END



Order gift cards for over 750 of the most popular brands, from groceries to coffee to entertainment to gas.



STARBUCKS



Over 300 brands are available immediately with our eGift card products, and over 100 are reloadable.

## SCRIP SCRIPTS

**Many of us purchase gift cards to use as gifts not just during the holidays, but year round!**

**Shop With Scrip is an easy way to patronize your favorite merchants and raise money for WGUMC.**

For every dollar you spend, merchants will rebate WGUMC from 1% to 20% (and sometimes even more during special promotions). Order forms are in the Narthex. Simply place your order form and a check made payable to WGUMC in Gene Aucott's mailbox in the mailroom. Contact Gene to get on his reminder email list!

Questions? Contact Gene Aucott  
gene.aucott@comcast.net / 610-869-7355.



Dear friends,

Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be —Thank you!

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need.

May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

Supporting:

UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery: \$100

Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa: \$900

UMCOR where most needed: \$1430

Amounts as of 10/15/19



La Comunidad Hispana (LCH)

LCH Pediatric Team

is Moving to West Grove

To better serve the children in our community, our pediatric services will be moving out to West Grove alongside our Dental Center and Women's Health Center as a full-service pediatric office, including integrated mental health services and social assistance for families.

We have an amazing team of providers that can't wait to settle in to their new space. Stay tuned for details on our winter open house celebration in 2020!

## WORLD AIDS DAY Sunday, December 1, 2019

Communities make the difference!

THE CHURCH CAN ENGAGE IN MANY WAYS

THE AIDS PANDEMIC IS NOT YET OVER

People of every age group have been affected by HIV and AIDS, but in many places, the pandemic is developing a young person's face.

The Abundant Health Initiative supports small projects reaching young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the United States. "Stigma keeps many of us from being tested and treated. ... Rejection keeps us hidden. ... To lose our community is to lose our life."

STOP STIGMA! On one World AIDS Day, staff at Kissy United Methodist Hospital joined a march through Sierra Leone's capital to promote awareness about the rising rates of HIV infection, especially among young people. The turnout was high, and participants found testing points along the way. The mayor encouraged people to embrace those living with HIV. "Stigma must stop," he said. "When stigma is reduced, there will surely be a reduction of HIV transmission."

FOR MORE ... Information:

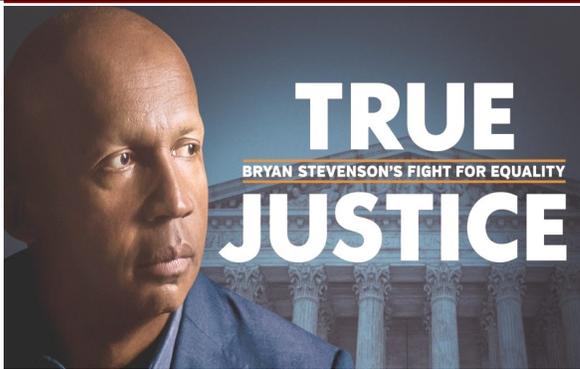
UMC Abundant Health at [umcabundanthealth.org](http://umcabundanthealth.org)

Review revised Social Principles

Revising the denomination's Social Principles has included the work of nearly 100 people during a seven-year process. The result is a version that is more theologically rooted, succinct and globally relevant. General Conference 2020 will determine if the revisions will become official teachings - [www.umcjustice.org/sp2020](http://www.umcjustice.org/sp2020).



# EASTERN PA CONFERENCE NEWS



True Justice: Seeking Equal Justice for People and Communities of Color Learn more about this event and about the film True Justice at [www.epaumc.org/ministry/prison/truejustice](http://www.epaumc.org/ministry/prison/truejustice). (Snow Date: February 29)

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at Cedarville United Methodist Church, 1092 Laurelwood Rd, Pottstown, PA. Cost: \$10. Lunch included. CEUs certification requested. Please register online by February 1, 2020.

Join us in viewing together the compelling HBO documentary film True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality about the lifesaving, life-changing crusade of Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is a dedicated public defense attorney and the founder and Executive Director of the groundbreaking Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality examines his personal journey, as he labors to bring justice to wrongfully convicted and disadvantaged prison inmates. The film weaves together his own story, those of his clients, and a history of injustice and complicity in our justice system. As Stevenson reveals a troubling narrative of racial inequality still prevalent in this country, he challenges us to seek the truth, confront it and work towards reconciliation. After we view this powerful film, we will hear from a panel of vital, visionary leaders seeking ways to foster racial justice in the criminal justice system. And then we will gather in groups to learn more and determine how we can live out our faith—how we can “do justice and love mercy—by joining Stevenson's fight in a national campaign that seeks true justice for people and communities of color. Topics for Discussion and Action Planning: • The Legal System and Returning Citizens • The School to Prison Pipeline • Unconscious Racial Bias against People of Color • Communities of Color: Impact of Mass Incarceration Come join this diverse, dynamic gathering of advocates, as we learn to seek True Justice together. This event is co-sponsored by the Eastern PA Conference's Prison Ministries & Restorative Justice Team and Commission on Religion & Race.

## Powell to retire as DCM, with Taylor-Storm as successor



Bishop Peggy

Johnson announced the retirement of the Rev. Anita Powell as Eastern PA Conference Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) and the appointment of the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm as her successor, effective July 1, 2020. Taylor-Storm is currently Superintendent of the South District and was recently Dean of the Cabinet.

Bishop Johnson praised Powell's service and accomplishments as DCM the past two years. She was previously Superintendent of the former Central District in 2011-2017, after planting Church of the Open Door as a new church start in Kennett Square in 2001.

“Dr. Powell has built successful relationships across this annual conference, our jurisdiction and the general church during her tenure,” she said. “She has encouraged cooperation and communication among the ministries under her charge and demonstrated humility coupled with mindful problem-solving in all her work. We wish her and her dear husband, Marvin, the very best.”

“God has truly blessed me with the privilege of serving the church and conference as a pastor, district superintendent and Director of Connectional Ministries,” said Powell. “Being in ministry with clergy, congregations, Conference staff, and committees has been a highlight in my life, stretching and challenging me, while also bringing me much meaning and joy. I will especially remember the relationships I have formed, and the many situations which have informed and formed me. To all of you, I am deeply grateful.”

Taylor-Storm became Superintendent of the former Southeast District in 2014, after serving as pastor of St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge. She previously served White Haven UMC. Her introduction to ministry was as a Global Ministries Mission Intern serving at a community center in San Marcos, Texas.

“Rev. Taylor-Storm has demonstrated the power of the connection through her work in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the South District raised funds to build and develop a pediatric clinic, an eye clinic, and a life skills program,” wrote Bishop Johnson in her announcement. “She looks forward to bringing a missional focus to the work of the DCM and seeks to encourage churches to join together in rebuilding communities, making disciples and offering the hope of the Gospel.”

“I have seen firsthand the reason why the connectional church matters and what the body of Christ is capable of when we serve in mission together,” Taylor-Storm wrote in an acknowledgment letter to her district, as she recalled the ministry strides made during her five-year tenure. “Together, we have worked to seek God's vision for abundant life for all people, from here on the South District, to the Democratic Republic of Congo.”

Bishop Johnson invites recommendations of eligible clergy to consider for the position of Superintendent of the South District, effective July 1, 2020. Suggestions should be emailed only to [newdsepa@gmail.com](mailto:newdsepa@gmail.com).

## "Tear Down This Wall"

### A Pastoral Letter By Bishop Peggy Johnson

This week is the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany. This wall was erected after the second World War and it divided East and West Berlin.

During The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops fall meeting our bishops from Germany testified about the jubilation and amazement felt when the wall came down. People were able to move about freely from one side to the other. Not a single shot was fired.

Humanity is well-acquainted with walls, not only physical walls but the walls of difference that are found in hearts and minds. We are quick to erect attitudinal walls around our differences and our beliefs.

Walls create alienation, separation, fear, distrust and violence. Such a wall stops ministry dead in its tracks, and it is never the will of God. God sent Jesus to deal with walls. Ephesians 2:14 says "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."

#### **A wall of separation in the UMC**

United Methodists are well-acquainted with a wall of separation about the marriage and ordination of members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our Book of Discipline states that all people are of sacred worth, but it includes a wall concerning the practice of homosexuality being "contrary to Christian teaching."

At the 2019 General Conference the traditional prohibition against the practice of homosexuality was maintained, same gender marriages continued to be banned, and it was expanded to include more enforcement and a broader scope of what defines homosexuality. There were also more additions to the process of filing complaints against people who engage in practices found in the list of "chargeable offenses." Being a self-avowed and practicing homosexual and performing a same-gender wedding are on that list. The added measures will be effective on January 1, 2020.

I write this pastoral letter to the flock of God in the Eastern Pennsylvania and the Peninsula-Delaware conferences, my beloved Philadelphia Area. It is a passionate plea that you do not engage in filing complaints around the issue of homosexuality. It simply exacerbates the painful, formidable wall that stands between people of good will who have different hearts.

#### **Homosexuality complaints and trials do harm**

Complaints and trials do an enormous amount of harm to everyone. Our baptism vows call us to "resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." Nothing good can come from this battering. We can never legislate a heart.

As your bishop I am bound to receive and process complaints, but I do not believe it is helpful to engage in church trials. So, I will not refer any such complaints for a church trial. I say this not out of a sense of rebellion against the rules in our Book of Discipline but out of my pastor's heart that wishes to defend the people of our conferences against this destructive, divisive and expensive process.

The complaint paragraphs in the UM Book of Discipline call for a resolution that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities and that can bring healing to all parties. Instead of filing a complaint, I suggest that those who have experienced harm begin with a conversation.

Engage people with whom you disagree. Hear their

hearts and engage in humble inquiry about a person's life story and perspective. Explain where the harm is and craft a peace plan. And most importantly, pray with each other!

#### **Power of prayer to tear down walls, build a just peace**

When I visited Germany last year and toured the former site of the Berlin Wall, our guide said that the Communist government was "no match for prayer and our candlelight vigils." The power of the risen Lord is available for us to tear down our walls, but we need to have the humble will to work at it and pray for it.

Is this not what Paul meant in Romans 12:18 when he said, "As far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all"? I humbly suggest that you engage in these steps before sending a complaint to my office.

We are living in a "liminal" (transitional) time as we prepare for the May 5-15, 2020, General Conference. At that conference delegates will consider how we as a denomination can maximize our witness and craft a form of unity that brings a new wind of hope for all people.

Catch sight of God's vision of a church that is busy making disciples of Jesus Christ, a church that is engaging in ministry and mission, a church striving for equality and equity for all people.

We can only get there as we employ with grace all of the giftedness of the Body of Christ, not just one "side" or the other. Dividing our church would cut off some of our needed giftedness. We can only accomplish this vibrant ministry as we take down the walls in our hearts and "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

I close this letter with two verses of a hymn that was sung in Germany during the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. It spread like wildfire around the churches, both East and West, as people yearned for freedom and unity. May it be a song in all of our hearts as well:

Have faith in God's new pathways, walk on in this new day.

God hopes you'll be a blessing for all upon the way.

The one who in the days gone by breathed life in us and hope,

Will lead us to the place where God wants and needs us most.

Have faith in God who shows us new paths that lead to life.

It's God who comes to meet us, the future is in God's hand.

Who follows God is full of hope, now and forevermore.

The door for us is open, the land is bright and free.

\*"Tear down this wall" was the appeal U.S. President Ronald Reagan made in his Berlin Wall speech in West Berlin, Germany, on June 12, 1987.

Humbly submitted, Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

***As we prayerfully seek God's way,  
please feel free to seek Pastor Monica  
out with questions about this letter  
and General Conference 2020. Pastor  
Monica is a part of our Conference  
delegation.***

# DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

| Sun                                                                                                                                    | Mon                                                  | Tue                                                                                                                                       | Wed                                                                 | Thu                                                                       | Fri                                                                                      | Sat                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br><b>1st Sunday in Advent</b><br>All Worship<br>Sunday<br><b>Youth Movie Night</b>                                                  | 2<br>Knit Wits<br>Tech Team                          | 3<br>Trustees Meeting                                                                                                                     | 4<br>Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting                                       | 5<br>UnWrap Christmas                                                     | 6<br>Girl Scout Over-nite                                                                | 7<br>Girl Scout Over-nite<br>Daily Reflections Group<br>Parents Nite Out |
| <b>Christmas Giving Tree November 24 through December 8! Pick up your tag today.</b>                                                   |                                                      |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                     |                                                                           |                                                                                          |                                                                          |
| 8<br><b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b><br>Worship at Jenner's Pond<br><b>LH Cookie &amp; Craft</b><br><br><b>Christmas Music Celebration</b> | 9<br>Knit Wits<br><b>LH Gift Delivery</b>            | 10<br>Finance Meeting<br>Ad Council Meeting                                                                                               | 11                                                                  | 12<br><b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b>                                   | 13<br>Hebrews Bible Study at Jenner's Pond<br>R.A.P.<br>Youth Dodgeball                  | 14<br>J.U.L.I.E.T.S<br>Daily Reflections Group                           |
| 15<br><b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b><br>Memory Bells<br>Youth Group                                                                       | 16<br>Knit Wits                                      | 17<br>Prayer Gathering                                                                                                                    | 18<br>Full Staff Meeting                                            | 19                                                                        | 20<br>Hebrews Bible Study at Jenner's Pond<br><br><b>Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30pm</b> | 21<br>Daily Reflections Group                                            |
| 22<br><b>4th Sunday in Advent</b>                                                                                                      | 23<br>Knit Wits                                      | <b>24 Christmas Eve Services</b><br>Noon-Wiggly Giggly<br>6p Family Serv.<br>7:15p Jenner's Pond<br>8:30p Contemporary<br>11p Traditional | 25<br><b>Merry Christmas! Church Office is closed</b>               | 26<br><b>Church Office is closed</b><br><b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b> | 27<br>Church office is open 9am-1pm                                                      | 28<br>Daily Reflections Group                                            |
| 29<br>5th Sunday Coin Collection for the Ronald McDonald House                                                                         | 30<br>Church office is open 9am-1pm<br><br>Knit Wits | 31<br>Church office is open 9am-1pm                                                                                                       | Jan. 1<br><b>Church Office is closed.</b><br><b>Happy New Year!</b> |                                                                           |                                                                                          |                                                                          |



**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)



*~ 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

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

Ali Wills- Sexton

[sexton@westgroveumc.org](mailto:sexton@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

**Christ Servant Ministers**

Janice Bowers, [janicesemail2@gmail.com](mailto:janicesemail2@gmail.com)

Cindy Haley, [chaley@zoominternet.net](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net)

Karen Hruz, [khruz@hotmail.com](mailto:khruz@hotmail.com)

Peter Mullen, [psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto:psmullen@petermullen.com)

**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

Melanie Hartley - 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 & Janice Bowers -

Delegates to Annual Conference

Pastor Monica - Committee on Lay Leadership

Open—Lay Leader

Cindy Haley & Fran Miller - U.M.W. Co-Presidents

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large

Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

Janice Bowers - Emergency Assistance Team Chair