



# The Wesleyan Star

May 2020

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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West Grove, Pa. 19390  
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*"Living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade,  
I say to the LORD, "You are my refuge, my stronghold!  
You are my God—the one I trust!" Psalm 91: 1-2*



*When each of my children were younger, they would put a blanket over their heads and hide. They would never go very far. They would often be right next to me or Steve, but they would be hiding with the blanket over their head. They knew as long as they were near their parents, they were safe, even if they were nervous or unsettled about something going on. Trust buds like primroses. This is sacred space.*

*On occasion, tents have popped up in our home. You might be familiar with this kind of tent: the kind that need kitchen chairs and bedspreads, pillows and stuffed animals, flashlights and snacks to be proper blanket tents or pillow forts. Often, books and games find their ways into these tents as well. These shelters are places you must be allowed into. One does not barge into a pillow fort. You are invited in. Trust is the currency and passcode. This is sacred space.*

*In January, I doubt we imagined that much of humanity would have tented at home. In January, the idea of resting in the presence of God for weeks on end, potentially months was something that only monastics did. In the seventh week of quarantine, we find ourselves with the blanket over our heads, makings pillow forts.*

*In times like this, we find ourselves turning to the ones that we trust most. We find ourselves turning towards our spouses and friends, family and leaders, clergy and wise ones. We ground ourselves in our trust in God. The psalmist reminds us that God has always been trustworthy. In the same way my children drew near almost instinctively; so are we drawn to God by prevenient grace. Our trust widens ours connection and compassion.*

*Many of us ask, how many days will there be like this? But, just as important to ask: How shall we send these days?*

*As those who might seek the refuge of God's presence:*

*We drawn near to God.*

*We walk.*

*We notice the creation around and us and give thanks to the Creator.*

*We focus on the most important tasks—feeding people, keeping one another safe, being healthy.*

*We trust that God will see us through.*

*Praying for each of you for more time of pillow forts and blanket tents than fear, until we can gather again.*



*In God's Love, Pastor Monica*



## May Worship at West Grove UMC

Join us as we worship together by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing in God's way, and serving God's world.



9:30 Live Cast Worship

**Sermon Series: In the meantime: Resurrection is Good News!**

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

*Know God through awe and wonder.*

**Sermon:** "Awe"

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35

Psalm 66:8-20

**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

**Janice Bowers Preaching**

*Faith is all that is needed to approach our Holy God.*

**Sermon:** "Faith"

**Scripture:** John 21:1-14

Hebrews 11:1-7

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

*Embrace the disciplines of a disciple to go onward loving and caring for others.*

**Sermon:** "Onward"

**Scripture:** John 21:15-19, Ephesians 1:15-23

**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

*Worship Jesus as the ascended Lord.*

**Sermon:** "Up!"

**Scripture:** Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

*Welcome the Holy Spirit into where you are.*

**5th Sunday Coin Collection Sunday**

**Benefits:**

**Sermon:** "Come"

*Worship*  
WITH US ONLINE

Please go to [Facebook.com/westgroveumc](https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc) and scroll down for our worship service at each of the times below. You do not need to have Facebook to participate. If you do not have internet capabilities, you can also have audio of church through the phone with ZOOM. Please call at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings **Please use this phone number: 1 (929)**

**436 2866 and enter meeting id# 572-438-033. Password is 30019390**



**Jenner's Pond Residents:**

Join us for worship on  
**May 10th at 11 am**  
On your closed circuit  
Jenner's Pond TV

Led by Pastor Jim

Join us by tuning in on the Closed Circuit TV at Jenner's Pond.



**Engaging  
Communities  
for Christ**

Fellowship Hour and Other Gatherings are suspended during this time of shelter in place. We pray you might have virtual fellowship with one another as you call, text, Zoom, FaceTime, direct message, Snap, or otherwise connect virtually with your siblings in Christ.

## Pastor's Desk



### We need your help! Don't tell mom!

Send a picture of your mother or someone who has been like a mother to you by May 7<sup>th</sup> to [pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org).

Join us in worship on May 10<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate all those who have mothers, are mothers, and are serving in mothering roles. Want to send a special message to someone who has been like a mom to you or your mom? Take a picture of you holding a sign!

Remembering your mom in heaven? Let's share those pictures and memories together as we give thanks to God.

**PS. We will ask for dad pics soon!**

Do you want to serve in worship while we are physically distancing?

We could use your gifts!

- Greet and welcome people in digital worship
- Record videos for scripture or moments of impact
- Connect with others to virtually pass the peace.
- Operate a camera
- Edit videos
- Prepare Worship PowerPoints

Call, email, text, or message Pastor Monica for more information.

### Annual Conference 2020 will be October 13-14

The 2020 Eastern PA Annual Conference will happen October 13-14, a Tuesday and Wednesday, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. Originally scheduled for June 18-20, the session was postponed because of restrictions against public gatherings due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

The now two-day schedule means a reduced agenda from the usual three-day schedule. The annual Clergy and Laity sessions will meet in the morning, October 13, just prior to the Annual Conference opening worship. Staff will begin event preparations onsite October 12. The Commission on Annual Conference Sessions met March 30 to plan a modified agenda, while the final dates were being negotiated with the Expo Center. Fall dates are hard to acquire now, with so many spring events being rescheduled.

Annual Conference registration fees already paid for June will be refunded, although with conference staff working mostly from home, that process may require weeks to complete. A new fee and registration period for the fall session will be announced soon.

District conferences are now scheduled to convene on Sunday afternoon, October 4. The postponed 2020 General and Jurisdictional conferences are being rescheduled for 2021.

### BOOKS & RESOURCES IN APRIL

- April 5:** Merton, Thomas. *The Wisdom of the Desert*. (New York: New Directions, 1960), 75-76.
- April 19:** Curtice, Kaitlin. *Glory Happening: Finding the Diving in Everyday Places*. Paraclete Press: Brewster, Massachusetts, 2017.  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOe\\_y6KKvS3PdIfb9q9pGug](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOe_y6KKvS3PdIfb9q9pGug)  
<https://hymnary.org/hymn/GG2013/246>
- April 26:** Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*. 1843.  
<https://www.leadertreks.org/repetition-students-cant-learn-something-youve-taught/>



# GROW



## PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING

The prayer ministry team has been praying faithfully every evening since March 15th at 7pm. We invite you to join us in prayer from the comfort and safety of your home. While we are apart, in this time of social distancing, our prayers can bind us in community.



If you would like prayer, you may email me at:

[sbrintonpais1@verizon.net](mailto:sbrintonpais1@verizon.net)

Until the time when we can greet each other face to face, be well, stay safe and wash your hands.



## Prayer Bead Garden

The Prayer Bead Garden was the beautiful backdrop for our Easter Sunrise service. The Beads (pavers) are settling in nicely and the grass is thick and lush.

As you notice the first rays of the sun's light over the eastern horizon, you might have seen the one ray of light on the growing tree. The tree the light settles on is a red split leaf maple, chosen to represent Christ. On each side of the Christ tree is (will be) a white dogwood, representative of the two thieves crucified with Jesus.

As spring turns to summer we hope to be able to complete phase 2 by fall. This involves the planting of the windbreak (sound barrier) on the bypass side of the garden.

When restrictions are lifted, please take a moment to experience the tranquility of the prayer bead garden. Take a while to sit and pray, bench provided. Walk the prayer beads in contemplation as you are able. The garden has been built to be accessible to all.



## BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays

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

**We are not able to gather** for our Wednesday Bible Study at this time, but continue our Lenten Study based on Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk," doing devotions and study on our own with an outline provided.

When we are able to resume meeting, we will continue our study of Isaiah. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Cindy Haley, 484-702-7071 or [chaley@zoominternet.net](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net).

**Our Food Pantry  
is now open the  
every Thursday of  
the month from  
4-6pm.**

**We reach out to our  
community to help  
them through these difficult times.**



# OUR CHURCH IN MISSION

As you are aware, Family Promise operations have adjusted to meet the COVID-19 safety precautions. The rotational church model is on hold and the three families, currently in the program, are being housed in an extended stay hotel in DE. The FP board has plans to relocate them to a rehabilitated motel on Birch St. in Kennett Square, as soon as possible. That setting will provide greater access to county services, jobs and housing opportunities, as well as cut costs incurred by FP. It may also allow FP to accept additional families on the wait list.

The board has also approved a New Rental Assistance service to help local families, to handle the influx of requests for such support. They will also be providing special outreach efforts to past FP families to assess their needs and give extra support. Due to additional funding from various COVID-19 emergency sources, FP will be able to help families, stay housed during this time, that are not part of their program.



Here are some ways our church may continue to support FP during this crisis.

Food supplies are needed for breakfasts and lunches. Suggestions include breakfast bars, yogurt, cereal, milk, bread, lunch meats, peanut butter and jelly, microwavable foods and paper products.

You may call the FP Day Center (610-444-0400) to arrange a no-contact drop-off. Financial support is also greatly appreciated.

Our church family has been extremely generous in this regard and has already given \$1,890 since the start of the pandemic.

If you would like to give a monetary donation, please give directly to WGUMC and note that the gift is for Family Promise.

Your ongoing support of Family Promise makes a huge difference in the lives of families struggling to find safe, affordable housing.



**We give thanks to God for the incredible ministry** and mission of our pastor, staff, and volunteers through this pandemic as well as through Holy Week and Easter. We were blessed with incredible worship and opportunities to serve and bless our community.

Please share your pictures of how your family has been worshipping and serving during this time by sending them to

[office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) or

posting on social media and tagging @WestGroveUMC. .



## Food Pantry



Our congregation has stepped-up to the challenge of helping to feed many in our community during this pandemic. We have seen a very significant rise in the number of people coming each Thursday afternoon for our weekly Food Pantry distribution. A few months back, we were serving mostly individuals, but now the need has expanded to families of all sizes. We are finding ourselves helping 30-40 families each week, which means approximately 75-90 bags of food, cleaning and household supplies are being distributed.

There are so many individuals and groups to thank for our shelves staying stocked and being able to meet the weekly needs. The Wickerton Farms development did collections in their neighborhood, supplying us with countless bags of food and supplies. Perhaps you live in a community that might want to consider doing something similar. Groups within the church, as well as outside, have collected food and/or money to purchase necessary items. And of course, families and individuals in our church family have gone above any expectations and generously funded our Food Pantry budget.

We are happy to receive your donations, tangible or monetary, in a variety of ways. Each week a current list of most needed items are included in the bulletin and on our church website. You may bring your donations to the church M-W-F between 9:00 and noon, when Donna Fackler is there to receive your bags. You may also send monetary donations to the church, with a check made payable to the church and indicate Food Pantry in the memo or give an electronic contribution.



We are thrilled to report that our church is now partnering with the Chester County Food Bank and will begin receiving weekly donations from them. We will also be getting FEMA food kits, both meal and snack kits, to give to families and individuals who come for our weekly distribution.



If you have found yourself, in need of food assistance, please don't hesitate to come by on Thursdays from 4:00-6:00. We put the bags directly in the trunks of cars, so no one needs to get out of their car, while we practice social distancing. If you would like to ask for food in a more discrete way, please contact Joan Leaman (484-643-2181) and she will gladly see that you receive some bags. Also, please encourage anyone you know who is having difficulty making ends meet to come out on Thursdays.

Finally, we have relied on the care and willingness of many volunteers to purchase, sort, pack and distribute the bags. We are so appreciative of their support of this ministry. If you would like to consider volunteering, in some capacity, please let Joan Leaman (484-643-2181) know of your interest.

In gratitude for the blessing our church, through you, has been to those facing financial hardship during this very challenging time. May we continue to serve after the example of Christ.

# YOUTH & CHILDREN MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities,  
contact Melanie Hartley

childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

## SUNDAYS

### via Zoom

May 3: 5:30 -7pm

May 10: 5:30 -7pm

May 17: 5:30 -7pm

May 24: 5:30 -7pm

May 31: 5:30 -7pm



## DODGEBALL

### POSTPONED!

Look for updates from Melanie  
via your email!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## VBS SAVE THE DATE

July 20-24, 2020



In the current uncertainty, we continue to be committed to preparing for our VBS. We need volunteers of very kind: group leaders, activity leaders,

decorators, and snack helpers. We continue to plan for the fun the children will have learning about the Armour of God with "Knights of North Castle"! The registration website is open for both VBSers and volunteers! Sign up today!

If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure to let Melanie Hartley know!

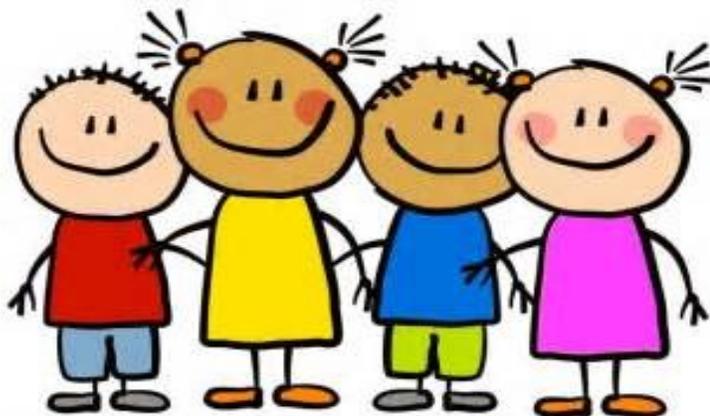
### Registration is open

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/westgroveumc2020>



Please let Amy Castaldi know of your interest in assisting on Sunday mornings with Nursery care. We will re-enter a time of communal worship at some point to be determined and will need the help of volunteers to keep our little ones safe and occupied.

Your generous heart is appreciated!



## CMO Preschool News

As we continue to navigate through this unprecedented time I feel thankful for so much. I am thankful that our children and families are healthy and safe. I am thankful for the preschool teachers who continue to forge ahead and come up with ways to stay connected to our children. I am thankful for the support of the CMO Advisory Team and Pastor Monica as I try to work through making decisions in the best interest of the church and our preschool families.

Although we are unable to meet in person, the CMO and Preschool teachers have done a tremendous job providing for our preschool families. Weekly, the teachers are sending emails with activities, story book suggestions, and words of encouragement. The teachers are also texting, sending and receiving videos from the children, and doing Zoom meetings. I can not tell you how much it makes me smile to see all of my little friends on Zoom. They are so excited to see their friends and teachers!! We also have a closed Facebook page where we share ideas, videos of ourselves reading stories to the children, and even videos of us doing silly songs and dances. We are doing our best to stay connected and positive for our families during this challenging time.

I can not wait until we are able to meet in person so we can celebrate all of our children, especially those going to Kindergarten in the Fall.

I hope you and your families stay healthy and safe during this time and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Tracy McLaughlin, Director

## Virtual CMO CHAPEL TIME

### Chapel time on Facebook live!

Pastor Monica and Melanie are doing chapel time with our CMO friends through the Preschool's facebook page. We share stories, songs and a prayer.

Join us on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.! Say hello to us in the comments if you are watching!

## Sunday School Continues!

Miss Melanie is hosting Sunday school for all children and families! There will be stories, bible lessons and activities that can be done at home. We will be using Zoom. Please email her for more information.

FaithLinks and Journey to Love, Journey to Jesus continue as well.





# STEWARDSHIP



**While we are apart,  
let us continue to offer our tithes, gifts, and offerings.**



There are a couple of ways to give:

1. Please mail in your offerings. We are checking the mail regularly. You can put a stamp on your offering envelope.
2. You can give electronically by setting the church up as one of your vendors on bill pay through your bank, like you do for your electric company or cable company.
3. You can contact Janice Bowers to set up electronic giving through deductions in your account. ([janicesemail2@gmail.com](mailto:janicesemail2@gmail.com))
4. You can click on PayPal on our website. [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

Many of you heard about the Stimulus Bill approved this week for which many of you will qualify. Some of you will deeply need the relief offered, and we thank God for the funds when they are needed most. Let us walk beside you as a church family.

Others of you have already felt the movement of the Holy Spirit to consider that God might be inviting you to share those checks with the church, so that we might share those funds with those most in need through our Food Pantry, our Emergency Assistance Fund, Family Promise, and other avenues we are anticipating at this time.

I give thanks to God for your openness to prayer and God's movement.

## Education Society Grants Provide College Aid

The Eastern PA Conference Education Society will offer grants to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2020-2021 school year. Church members who plan to attend school in fall 2020 should be informed now about these grants and their **deadline: May 11**. See and complete the application.

[https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021\\_01\\_26\\_20.pdf](https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021_01_26_20.pdf)

[https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021\\_01\\_26\\_20.pdf](https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021_01_26_20.pdf)



HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND MINISTRY

If you have questions, contact Pastor Monica ([pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org))

## DREAM BIG

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

Item	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
Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot	1	\$7,000

## Behind the Camera: Preparing for Worship



# Quiet on the Set!



05/01 Kelly Faia  
 05/01 Jay Miller  
 05/03 Luke Reynolds  
 05/04 Kimberly Weingarten  
 05/05 Jeremy Hampton  
 05/05 Margee Michaels  
 05/06 Sandy Deckard  
 05/07 Julie Hughes  
 05/08 Harper Branham  
 05/08 Meika Branham  
 05/09 Dalton Wolfe  
 05/11 Wanda Kreutzfeldt  
 05/12 Rebecca Lestourgeon  
 05/12 Norah Timm  
 05/13 Jack Frost  
 05/15 Olivia Eason  
 05/15 Margaret Rubincan  
 05/16 Brenna Lynne Dunn  
 05/16 Coby van Snik  
 05/17 Barb O'Brien

*Birthdays  
 of the  
 Month*



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05/17 Nolan Timm  
 05/18 Scott Weingarten  
 05/19 Samantha Lingenfelter  
 05/20 Tyler Curtis  
 05/22 Cynthia Hoover  
 05/22 Steve Michaels  
 05/23 Jeff Laird  
 05/24 Peg Cook  
 05/24 Mark Simonds  
 05/24 Barry Wolff  
 05/25 Chanel Figueroa  
 05/26 Cindy Haley  
 05/26 Joshua Hampton  
 05/26 Harper McGhee  
 05/26 Luke Schneider  
 05/27 David Bohnsack  
 05/28 Greg McCummings  
 05/29 Vivian Paisley

Your church family wishes all of you a very happy birthday and a year filled with happiness and blessings!!

# MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship : FaceBook Live <b>Youth Group (Zoom)</b>	4 Tech Team Meet- ing (via Zoom)	5 Trustees Meeting( (via Zoom)	6 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting (Zoom) Finance and Ad Council (via Zoom)	7 <b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b>	8	9
10 9:30 Worship : FaceBook Live <b>Youth Group (Zoom)</b> Worship at Jenner's Pond Service	11	12 Prayer Gathering from home	13 Full Staff Meeting (via Zoom)	14 <b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b>	15	16
17 9:30 Worship : FaceBook Live Youth Group (via Zoom)	18	19 SPRC Meeting (Via Zoom)	20 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting (Zoom)	21 <b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b>	22	23
22 9:30 Worship : FaceBook Live Youth Group (via Zoom)	25 <b>Memorial Day Church Office is Closed</b>	26	27 Staff Meeting (Zoom)	28 <b>Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm</b>	29	30
31 9:30 Worship : FaceBook Live Youth Group (via Zoom)						



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OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



**2020**

*~ 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)

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

Ali Wills- Sexton

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

**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**

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

TBA - 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

TBA - 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, Dick Price

—Ad Council Member at Large

Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair