



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, Pa. 19390
Phone: 610-869-9334

Email: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org

July 2021

**Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain
of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 12:24**



This past week, I heard about someone who had attended a rock concert, their first one since the pandemic ended. It seemed even more incredible than any they had ever been to before. Because of the lifting of the limitations we have all experienced in the past year and a half, it seemed to make the concert experience even more intense. People laughed, cried, sang, shouted, hugged and high-fived like never before. In many ways our culture has had a near death experience; one that can help us understand how precious and sacred our lives really are, and where our priorities are and also need to be. Rock concerts are great; we have even more to celebrate in life, especially as Christians.

Several week ago, Julie and I attended a small gathering of family, because one of our nephews had been engaged several months ago, and this was the first time in a year and a half that we could all be together with him and his fiancé, including Julie's 90+ year old parents, and another nephew and his wife who were married, just this past December. We've been holding back a lot of emotions, and the reality of the danger that we might not see each other again has been suppressed. What I experienced first-hand, and what I have heard from so many people, is just how emotional, over the top a blessing it has been to gather in person, share love, laughter, and hugs can be for us all. Many of us are determined not to let the joys of this insight and dynamic fade, or be lost.

Our confidence grows stronger every week; the number of cases of the virus have fallen every day. We need to be careful that we don't underestimate the energy it will take to rejoin our community, even our loved ones and friends. We also need to be prepared to give, and even make sacrifices in love for others. As Jesus said in the Gospel of John, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. If it dies giving itself up to life it bears much fruit. And so Jesus was providing insight into our lives in faith. We entrust them to God now like never before, and are greatly blessed by what God can do. As much as we may want to take charge and make the most of our decisions and the freedoms entrusted to us, we need to start first with God, and allow God's grace, mercy and love to lead us and lead us all together. It is a great blessing to be serving with all of you. We live in a great community and nation. I pray we can stay focused on the sacred nature of our lives, always. – Tim



July 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 a.m Fully Open Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.

Sermon Series Theme: For our worship in July we have begun a sermon/worship series focused on healing in faith, and will continue through the month. Many people have a variety of impressions and memories about healing in the church. What are our hopes? Our Joys and concerns? How do we effectively minister to one another and our community and world, especially to bring healing?

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Communion Sunday

Independence Day

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Exodus 19:1-11, Mark 6:1-13*

Sermon: "Healing: Stewards of Life, Stewards of Freedom"

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Job 2:9-13, 3:1-5*

Sermon: "Healing: Friends Who Listen in Compassion"

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Mark 5:1-20*

Sermon: "Healing: Community Dynamics at Work—Tell Your Story"

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Jeremiah 15:15-21*

Sermon: "Healing: Claiming An Authentic Relationship With God"



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on

July 11th at 11 am

On your closed circuit TV
and in-person
In Alison Theater

Led by Pastor Jim

Join Us
IN Worship

**The Church is
FULLY OPEN**

**with
NO**

Reservations.

We continue to wear masks and observe social distancing. The

church is disinfected before the service and throughout the week. Regrettably, we cannot offer coffee fellowship yet, but you are encouraged to fellowship after service outdoors.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday for worship!

You are invited to join us for an Adult Bible Study class at 10:30 a.m. led by Pastor Tim.

Pastor's Desk

Play Lists

I don't use a streaming service for music. But I do have a favorites play list I turn to when I look for inspiration. My generation loved and love our rock and roll music. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley once said that unless a song gives God the glory, it is not worth listening to or playing or singing. It's a tough word to say to a Baby Boomer, and many before and after their generation. While it initiated quite a lot of conflict many years ago, more contemporary Christian music has a lot to share with us and we are blessed every week with the mix of songs and hymns we share together. Each has its unique way of lifting up the Gospel, and we have some great musicians who lead us, and great congregation to take part together.

What is on your play list? I'd like to know!

When bringing forth creation, I believe God did more than just spoke it into existence. There is no doubt in many of our hearts and minds that *God was singing*. It is such a creative way to express ourselves, and after all, we are made in God's image. Music touches something we need; its expression brings our hearts out into the open and unites us like nothing else. From grammar school days through adulthood, I enjoyed listening to groups like Chicago, Journey, Steve Miller, Heart, and most all rhythm and blues. I often found myself wanting to change the lyrics to reflect our faith and the friendship God leads us to share. The great guitarist, Stevie Ray Vaughn is a favorite of mine, and battled addiction throughout his adult life. Many of his songs have message of grace in them, teaching real life lessons that he paid a heavy price to learn. Today we have a great library of songs to choose from. Are there ones that stand out for you? Here is a play list of contemporary Christian songs



for you to check out (most are on You Tube), and please let us know some of yours:

“I’m Not tired Yet!” and “When I Rose Early This Morning” by the Mississippi Mass Choir; Run to the Father, by Cody Carnes; Good, Good Father, by Chris Tomlin; Another In the Fire, by Hillsong United; Jericho, by Andrew Ripp; With Lifted Hands, by Ryan Stevenson; Evidence, by Baldwin; Heaven On Earth, by Stars Go Dim; Speak Life, by Toby Mack; Less Like Me, by Zack Williams; Blessings, by Laura Story; Wake Up Sleeper, by Austin French; Turn Graves Into Gardens, by Brandon

Lake; also by Koryn Hawthorne (the acoustic version); The Father’s House, by Cory Asbury; Rise UP (Lazarus), by Cain; Jeremy Camp (several): – Word of Life; The Same Power; Out of my Hands; Dead Man Walking; Big Daddy Weave: – This Is What We Live for; also Redeemed; & My Story – Crowder: Come as you are; How He Loves; Forgiven; Sidewalk Prophets: Live Like That; Keep Making Me; Help Me Find It ; It’s Good (Love’s Not Safe) (No lyrics in video); This Is Not Good Bye; Come to the Table – For King & Country: God Only Knows; We all need God’s love

I’ve used some of them in calls to worship and prayers. Some are great for us to sing along, others are best expressed by a soloist or special group. I’m hopeful about our future in worship together, and pray what we share together is the deep heart of faith and friendship in the Presence of God. In the next month, I hope you weigh in on some of your favorites, and let me know if any of these touch your heart. As Jesus pointed out to Nicodemus in John 3, the Holy Spirit is a personal, powerful, creative force in life. The Holy Spirit is incredible like the wind, as no one knows where He comes from our where he Goes. God reminds us of the miracles we are living every day, as every day is a sacred, holy miracle entrusted to us all.

You do not have or own a body, you are a body, you have being. We are made in the image of God. A first step in claiming our identity is to see who God is and how we are interconnected with the God of being. “I am that I am!” is how God describes God’s self to us; it is who He told Moses to say who he is when anyone asks.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Graduation Class of 2021

High School

Sydney Curtis

Avon Grove High School. She will be attending East Carolina University (Undecided Major).

Megan Gula

Avon Grove High School

Michelle Jane LeSturgeon

Avon Grove High School. She will be attending Bloomsburg University in the fall to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Lauren O'Neill

Avon Grove High School. She will be attending Penn State University with a Major in Business. Lauren was a two sport varsity athlete (cross country and softball) and captain on both teams. She attended DCCC both her junior and senior years earning 15 college credits that will be applied to her PSU degree. She will graduate in the top 10% of her class.

College

Dylan Curtis

Shippensburg University, BA in Exercise Science with a Minor in Coaching. He will continue at Shippensburg University in the fall to pursue a MA in Organizational Development and Leadership. He will play his final year of college football and will be a graduate assistant for the Recreation Center as a coordinator of the Club Sports Program. He is also going to be an assistant coach for the SU softball team.

Elizabeth Lusavage

Elizabethtown College with a major in Biology and a minor in Studio Arts. She will be attending Salus University in August for Optometry school.

Rachelle Schneider

Penn State University



Youth Summer Service Week



We give a great thanks to our youth who have been working hard in service this week. They did a lot of work around the church and it shows; they also went to Mission Central to help put together packages for emergency and relief efforts; helped a small UM church in Montgomery County, Otterbein UMC, with a big clean up effort, and helped the Mighty Writers with their distribution. They are an incredible group of young adults who worked well together and had a lot of fun doing it, as they share devotions and down to earth expressions of faith. Our thanks to all who helped make it possible, Scott Steele and Amy Simonds were top-notch volunteers, but especially to Melanie and Gary Hartley for their devotion and leadership.



We welcome Maira Tena as our new sexton. She began in May and we are very grateful for her service to the church! Please greet and welcome her as you see her caring well for our facilities.

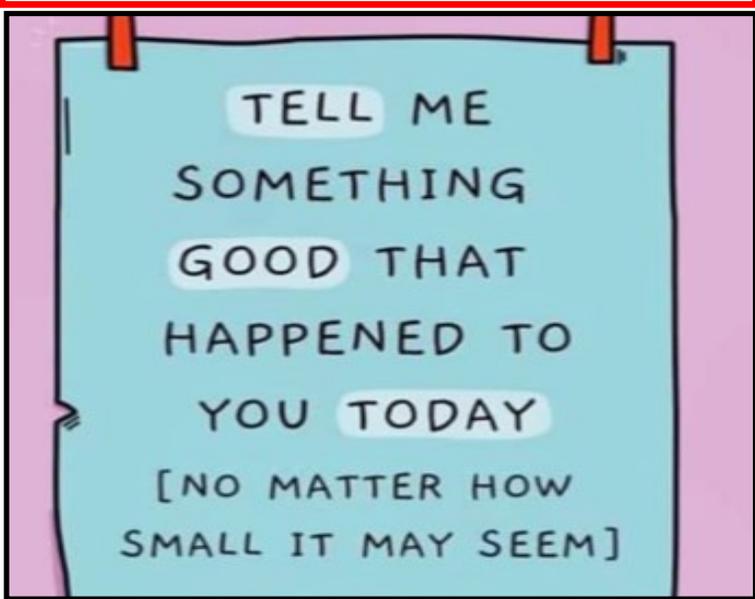
Office closed on July 5 in observance of the July 4th holiday.
Donna on vacation July 2nd



Church Picnic Idea

As we plan more ways to fellowship together over the summer, we would like to know if you would be interested in having a church picnic (day to be determined). Weather permitting, we hope to have a slip-n-slide for all to enjoy, the playground for children of all ages, the parking lot to skateboard, ride bikes or play other games. You would bring your own lawn chair and providing free food ideas are being bandied about.

Please share your interest for this "All Ages" way to connect and fellowship by contacting Melanie Hartley (chilyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org) Pastor Tim (pastor@westgroveumc.org) or Donna Fackler (office@westgroveumc.org).





Vacation Bible School
“Knights of the North Castle
July 19-23, 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Registration information & instructions

Registration for Church members/families is opened on Friday, May 21! Registration to the wider community opens on June 2nd.

[Click Here To Register](#)

We are thrilled to be bringing VBS back to the church this year! We will be operating VBS in smaller numbers than usual this year to help ensure the safety and health of children and volunteers. We will have 3 *Pre-K groups of 5 children each. *We are only accepting Pre-K 4-year-olds this summer. We will have 30 spaces available for children in grades K-6. If we find that we are able to accommodate more children it will be communicated.

Go to our VBS website, <https://westgroveumc.mycokesburyvbs.com> to register.

About the Program

At Knights of North Castle VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King’s Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God’s mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening assembly time, the Knights make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Castle Callouts to equip your Knights for an active life with God. Your Knights will discover a Banner Verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The children will expand on what they’ve discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring wonders at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Knights will hear about our mission project as their response to a call for action!

Contact Melanie Hartley with questions and for information.

POCONO PLATEAU CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

God's Place Apart... Transforming Lives

eNewsletter

SUMMER CAMP HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS NEEDED

Summer camp has many challenges this year as a result of the pandemic. A major challenge is the loss of camp nurses who are unable to attend camp this summer.

The camp is in need of "nurses" (R.N. / M.D / D.O. / EMT) for the weeks of August 1-7 and August 8-14. If you are unable to volunteer for an entire week, serving for a partial week will still be of great assistance. To find out more information, please contact Teri Hackman at 570-676-3665 or teri@poconoplateau.org.

Without proper healthcare providers, campers will be turned away from their week of camp. Every empty bed is a lost ministry opportunity. Please consider volunteering! Thank you!

Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

Phone: 570.676.3665 | Fax: 570.676.9388

Email: camp@poconoplateau.org | Website: www.poconoplateau.org

Hearing Assistive Devices

Do you sometimes miss what's been said in worship?

Do you want to make sure you get every word?

We give thanks to God the technology we have in the sanctuary that can help everyone hear.

Head back to sound booth in the sanctuary and ask one of sound booth technicians about our hearing assistive devices. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.



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

Pastoral
Care
MINISTRIES



Please let Pastor Tim, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a

Pastor's visit or care.

We would love to support you and your family with a visit.

If you desire to receive communion and cannot come to the church, please call Pastor Tim and he will be happy to arrange a time to for you to receive communion

amazon**smile**



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

An Easy Way to Donate by Using Amazon Smile!

Seriously, read this!

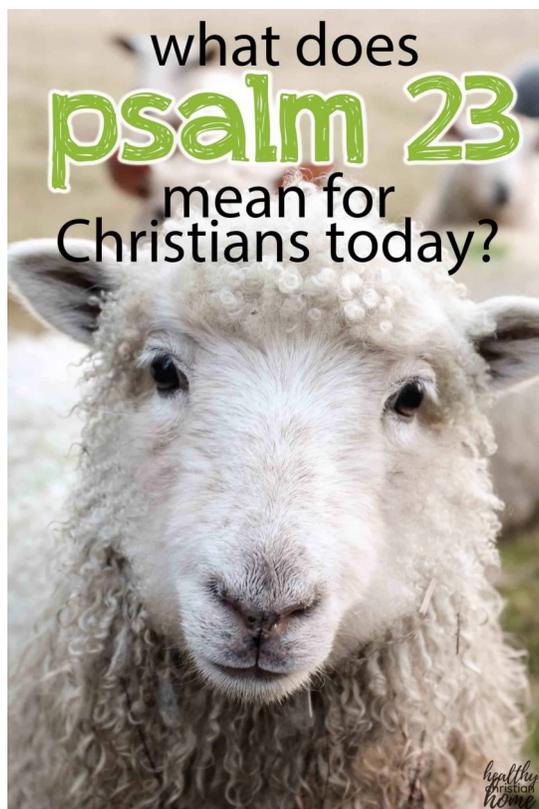
It's a bookmark on my computer both at home and church. Once you select West Grove United Methodist Church the first time you sign up, you just log on as usual each time after that. I

use my bookmark as a reminder to **always login under Smile**. It's a no brainer way of helping the church. Most of us shop on Amazon. Just think of how much good could be done if all of us used Smile and encouraged our friends and family to do the same. Those small amounts add up! It could pay an electric bill for the church each year if we all participated.

Every purchase you make earns the church a donation.

And it is EASY! It doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation! Type in smile.amazon.com in your browser, choose West Grove United Methodist Church as your charity and then shop away! It is all the same stuff, no fees.

Please join up! Donna Fackler, Church Administrator



The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that he is my source and not my job.

He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning,

I still will not stop — for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through. He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check. His retirement plan beats every 401k there is!

When it's all said and done,

I'll be working for Him a whole lot

longer and for that,

I BLESS HIS NAME!!

Author Unknown

PRAYER BEAD GARDEN FUNDRAISING

The Prayer Bead Garden has been a long time coming to fruition. It started with a bead and a prayer, became a passion in the hearts of many members in the congregation, was taken on as a mission by Susan Paisley and, after many, many months, grew into a garden. It still has a long way to go to become the vision in the plan. It is all landscaping now.

The committee needs to purchase a white dogwood tree and a line of Green Giant Arborvitae, each about 8 to 10 feet tall. This will hopefully provide a buffer between the Garden and Route 1 Bypass.

Please be generous with your donations to complete this wonderful place of prayer and meditation.



Updates will follow in the coming weeks. If you would like to make a donation, please be sure to **designate *Prayer Bead Garden* in the memo section of your check** or note it on the envelope. Please contact Susan Paisley with your questions.

Open Grow Serve



OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUT!

We have a wonderful congregation who follow our Mission Statement of “Open, Grow, Serve”. You see many of them serving each Sunday, working in the tech booth, greeting and ushering. Here are a few people you might not have seen around the church, but work quietly behind the scenes. If you would like a “shout out” about someone/something you saw that should be recognized, email the office at office@westgroveumc.org.

- ◇ Linda Shiplet drops off a flower decoration each week for our altar.
- ◇ Dave Talley takes the time each Sunday to set all the thermostats in the church so any groups or staff will be comfortable, not to mention all the handyman stuff he does.
- ◇ Ralph Curtiss made sure our cross out front was draped over the Lenten and Easter season.
- ◇ Pastor Tim is always out there planting flowers, weeding, and watering to keep the church beautiful.
- ◇ Tim Mullen travels to Exton each week to pick up fresh fruits and veggies for the Food Pantry distribution.
- ◇ All of the volunteers for the Food Pantry who pack, distribute, greet and make things work.
- ◇ No names, but several people drop by faithfully each week to leave donation in the shopping cart.
- ◇ Cindy Haley who has been working on the Time and Talents in the Servant Keeper database to ensure those who want to help in various ways can be contacted.
- ◇ Gene Aucott who seems to always be fixing things around here.
- ◇ A shout out to our youth in mission who worked on the church grounds weeding, power washing and hauling debris.
- ◇ All the folks who donated food and supplies for the Youth Mission Week.



Fall Rummage Sale

SAVE-THE-DATE

Friday, October 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Start saving all the household goods, furniture, clothing and other treasures to donate.

Donations accepted at the church beginning Sunday, September 26



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

Do you feel like you don't know what's going on at the church? Well, if you are not receiving the weekly Constant Contact emails from the church, you very well may be missing out on a lot! We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition and a Sunday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including a link to the week's bulletin. If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash. **A lot of information is shared in these two weekly emails and we often publish special editions of timely information you may be interested in.** This monthly newsletter is also shared via CC. If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, **email Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator, at office@westgroveumc.org or call the office at 610-869-9334.** I will be happy to add you to the list!



BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Kris LeSturgeon 02
 Tom Eason 09
 Barb Lytle 09
 Jeffery Mullen 09
 Roger White 09
 Gene Aucott 11
 Janis Schrader 13
 Richard Saller 14
 Aiden DiRamio 15
 Ann Figueroa 15
 Joan Saller 15
 Megan Dilworth 17
 Brady Castaldi 18



Francis Capuano 19
 Janelle Hadly 19
 Kevin Barrett 20
 Elizabeth Gula 21
 Jacob Rinehimer 21
 Buddy Winters 22
 Cora Boyd 23
 Josh Fulton 25
 Pat Heist 28
 Nate Howard 29
 Scott Steele 29
 Mya Ditzel 31

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



What's going on at West Grove UMC?

There is much going on at church! Food pantry, Mighty Writers food and essentials distributions, CMO Preschool, Zoom and in-person meetings, a Bible study and music practices to name a few. Your church calendar is reviewed daily and updated with the latest events and meetings. Please refer to our website to get information, updates, calendar events, etc.

www.westgroveumc.org



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 office@westgroveumc.org

www.westgroveumc.org



2021

~ 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 Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor

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

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

Office@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Interim Director
Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director
cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Maira Tena—Sexton

sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Cindy Haley, chaley@zoominternet.net

Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

TBA - Finance Chair

Peter Mullen - Treasurer

Heather McCummings - Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC 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

Valerie Kapp-Benner and Jean Kilmartin - Missions Co-Chairs

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Hannah McCummings—Youth Delegate to AC

Pastor Tim - Committee on Lay Leadership

Karen Hruz and Cindy Haley—Co-Lay Leader

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

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Betty Mundell, Dick Price

—Ad Council Member at Large

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair