



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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August 2022



“Carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God’s love.”

(Jude 20, The Message)

When people ask, “teach me how to pray,” one great response is to be at the church at 9:30 a.m. in the morning for worship. For that is where we learn how to pray. Prayer is strongest when we are responding to what God has said. When the worshipping congregation after hearing the Word read and preached, and then celebrating it, especially through the sacraments, is the place where we learn how to pray and continue to practice prayer. It is at the center of Christian life and from there, we go into the world, into retreats and into public places from mountain, beaches, and cities to continue to pray. (From reflections in, The Contemplative Pastor, by Eugene Peterson.)

We reflected on prayer in a recent worship service, asking is the Lord’s Prayer better named as the disciples’ prayer? For Jesus taught them how to pray, both in Matthew and in Luke 11. We worry, especially when we don’t get the answers that we want, am I doing this right? And perhaps where we stray is focusing then on the technique, instead of the relationships and what prayer really is. For generations, thousands of years, Jewish people have had a practice of praying the Amidah, prayer of 19 blessings, prayed three times a day. God is set as our first priority. Early Christians wove the practice into their approach to living out faith too.

As we lifted up in worship, listening to Luke 11, it is a miracle that God truly listens to us. Many times when we feel God is not, it is often because we have not been listening ourselves as we have ignored our relations with God and each other, and our hearts. It is vital that we focus on God who we pray to, and the people of our lives, including ourselves in who we are praying about. Jesus is more interested in providing an invitation before presenting an explanation. In presenting prayer, Jesus helps transform our relationships and views of God, and our fathers and mothers. He provides a source of support and love when our earthly families fail us, and reach their limitations. He offers relationships center on love, not fear. And there is also accountability and focus for us.

So again, I highlight several points that I have learned about prayer:

- We can *not* do what life requires of us *without* prayer.

We face too many distractions; too many overwhelming demands, including how to prioritize them.

- God is faithful, reassuring, seeks the best for us.

Problems of the world are caused by human beings abusing freedom and not willing to

recognize it and live it, and make the most of it.

- When we pray to God we are practicing what we find difficult to say to other people, things we hesitate saying to others that need to be shared out of love.
- With a confidence of beloved people of God, we learn to exercise our hearts and minds in ways that bring realignment of our minds and hearts with God towards the real events of life and living with each other.
- There are many, many places and ways to pray, the main focus is to approach God authentically, personally; God is everywhere; even a sigh can be a prayer.

So I invite you to **put faith into action** in life, and **join us in worship each week**, and for a **Bible study on Prayer on Mondays** this August, starting August 8 at 6:30 PM, and join us in September for Pastor Jim's Bible study on the Holy Spirit. Some additional encouragements I share are:

- Rewrite your favorite song into a prayer; And pray the songs we sing!
- Or rewrite a song you are having a hard time with.

Make your songs, & our songs into prayers – Prayers of praise in the full range of faith.

- As we write prayers using hymns & songs that touch & express our hearts.

And then we add our thoughts to such prayers we begin faithfully rewriting the songs personally.

- Write out your story & offer it as a prayer; how does God see & hear our journeys of life – Seeking patience

Jesus does not teach us how to pray so much as reform our prayers. God initiates and shares fully, freely, deeply out of his love for us. It really is a miracle that we can even approach God, let alone trust God to listen & respond in love! May we all grow in the ways we pray in the Holy Spirit with great trust in God's creativity in love.

Bible Study on Prayer Offered In August

Mondays, starting August 8th at 6:30 PM, and then August 15, 22, and 29.

Pastor Tim



Worship in August 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.

We have quite a lot we are all dealing with in our lives today, and we are prayerful that our worship will help empower us to live more closely with God and one another, as we celebrate assurances of God's love in the midst of the world's chaos. As people return to greater activity in life, we especially want to be mindful of our hospitality, and assertively share our fellowship, making it easier for others who are new to us to join in and take part in ministry. Commitments are another focus, as many people are reevaluating life and priorities. We know that God has made a Covenant with us, sacred and holy promises, and it is our first priority to discern how to respond. I hear many people asking the question, "What am I here for?" At the center of our lives and worship is prayer.

August Themes & Plans

August 7 – We will celebrate Communion together as we look at Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16. These passages lift up how important it is to live by faith and have Christ in our hearts. In the midst of the world's chaos, it is a message we need to take into our lives. Are there people who you have known who were examples of people who lived by faith? Would you help us with our worship and share their story with me? Please Send it to me by e-mail to pastor@westgroveumc.org

August 14 –Isaiah 5:1-7 Isaiah writes about the disobedience of Israel and how it is like a vineyard where only the worst tasting, most sour of grapes grow. What does it mean to have a life bear such fruit of (wild) grapes of wrath; sour to the taste? God wants us to face life by faith and confront the problems around us and not avoid the sacrifices we need to make to give strength to others. After his initial resistance, Isaiah didn't avoid conflict nor justice that might come from it; Israel did & went down the broken road away from God. We can learn from their example.

These scripture passages are reinforced by Luke 12:49-56 – Where we hear TOUGH words of Jesus that teach: Don't avoid the truth, deal with it; have integrity. While some people may have a vision of Jesus as meek and mild, Jesus said he came to bring division, with a great focus to do what is right and best. To do so, he was not meek & mild

August 21 – God's Empowerment to Fulfill Our Blessings

We will look at Jeremiah 1:4-10 – It addresses our calling and feelings of inadequacy God can help empower, must empower, leads to real transformation & maturity. Jeremiah sees himself as, "Only a boy," and not capable of doing what God is calling him to do; the tasks seem . We may often feel the same emotions when we sense who God wants us to be and what we need to do. In response to Jeremiah's openness, God responds, "Do NOT be afraid, I AM with you." And so we take assurance that God is with us in the challenges and multiplies the joys and blessings we share too. As we approach our real efforts to restore our ministries and offer two worship services and engaging Sunday school, we are likely to feel our limitations and God can help us overcome our concerns, fears, and reluctance.

Another recommended text for August 21 is Luke 13:10-17, when Jesus needed to take on difficult people and circumstance faithfully, persistently. They challenged him for healing a crippled woman as he set her free from her confinement to a handicap on the Sabbath. Jesus redefines or clarifies our priorities in faith, priorities were always there all along with God. Jesus helps to redefine our sense of purpose, and our purpose in faith's practices; there is no constriction to God's love and possibilities.

August Themes & Plans (Continued)

In our call to worship or opening prayer, we are likely to hear the encouragement that Hebrews 12:18-29 provides: Do not reject God's grace, come closer to God and live in the creative opportunities God provides!

August 28 – Preparing for God's Hospitality

A recommended text is from Jeremiah 2:4-13 where God asks, "What is wrong?" Why did your ancestors betray me, and chase after what was worthless? We come to know and understand that the sacred, faithfulness of God is like no other. For the others are defiled, unreliable and cause us to be scared, fearfully avoiding what is most important to us all.

We are very likely to look at scripture from Luke 14:1, 7-14 as it helps us understand how God leads us to live hospitality in real ways in a humble, unassuming natural ways that result when we accept God's love for us in grace. Jesus teaches about humility and hospitality, and real places of honor. The real places of honor in life are when we live, having the heart of God in our hearts. As Christians we are not striving for being in control, in charge, or the alpha in the group. Embodying God's grace is "Our Real focus." It all comes together when we seek a personal relationship with God and reach towards having the heart of God in ours. We also can let go of what is superficial, we are not striving for being in control, in charge, the alpha. "Our Real focus" is in Christ.

On September 4, Labor Day weekend, Pastor Jim will offer the message. And wow! Summer is about over! We pray this is a great month, safe and full of good health for everyone.



A Return to Two Services!

We have a lot of details to work through to fulfill our great hope that in September we will again offer two services. The 8:30 a.m. service will be a Contemporary service with the PraiseWorks Band. At 9:45 a.m. we will offer Sunday School for all ages. Our Traditional Service with the Chancel Choir will be offered at 11:00 a.m.

We anticipate starting on September 25, and we are hopeful it will make it easier for our members to engage in worship. We will need your faithfulness and commitment to attend and share your heart and hospitality in fellowship together.



Charge Conference Annual Charge Conference Saturday, October 1st Hosted by WGUMC

Please mark your calendar that all are invited to join us for our Annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Rev. Evelyn Kent-Clark on October 1. We will combine with several other United Methodist churches in our area, meeting here at our church for a time of worship and sharing as we care for the administrative needs of our fellowships. All are invited to attend.

Church Covenant: Part Two



How do we show love to the people in our lives? One way is through the promises we make together. In sacred, holy terms we call them covenants; God has made a Covenant in love with us; God initiated it out of God's love for us, and we respond as we receive, accept and share it, returning and offering it forward. God's Covenant is not shallow like a contract; it is a sacred trust and promise of the heart that integrates the whole being, God and us.

In preparing for a great a marriage, many couples thoughtfully establish a covenant with each other to help envision their lives together as a family. We know from experience in setting out to fulfill promises that we will falter, yet we still, out of love, try our best. And so it is with our faith and the covenant, the promise we make with God and each other. Last month I shared half of a church covenant that is based on one a friend has shared with his churches. It has helped the church staff and members stay focused on the very real blessings we share together in Christ in ministry. Several people gave me realistic feedback, expressing how challenging it is. It's true, it is challenging. Most important things in life are challenging, especially in faith. The call of God in Christ is not always easy; it is a huge blessing to share, made possible only by God's mercy and grace.

So I encourage you to consider how God is calling you to personally grow and mature and examine in prayer how you will strive to fulfill our efforts in ministry. We take steps to fulfill God's vision for our lives. I invite you to consider how God is leading you and all of us to step forward. For July we shared the first part: (abbreviated in some places)

A Membership Covenant

In joining West Grove United Methodist Church, you are joining a **Movement** of the Holy Spirit. We are a people on a **Mission** who unite together in fellowship as a Fellowship in **Community**, as believers in Jesus Christ in order to impact West Grove-Avondale, the region, and the world. It is not like any other organizational membership. Membership in the Church is based upon a "holy covenant." A holy covenant is a sacred promise or agreement that God has initiated with us, as we commit ourselves to His greater plans and purpose. When you join the Church, you actually choose to give up your rights and privileges for the sake of the greater cause of advancing God's mission in community; you begin to live out the teachings and values of Jesus in how you treat others, rather than anticipating how you expect to be treated. Your partnership on this journey is a partnership that we all count on. God works through us most powerfully when we work together in God's covenant. In John 13:4, Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, love one another as I have loved you." We build our covenant membership at West Grove United Methodist Church around these foundational expectations:

I make a commitment to:

1. **Love God** – with all my heart, mind, soul & strength; love others as Christ loves us. **I will...**
 - **Gather Regularly to Worship with Fellow Believers** –
 - **Uphold My Covenants** – with God, in my marriage, for my family, with my fellow believers –
 - **Seek God, Not My Preferences.** I will not make worship or church or my spiritual growth all about my preferences, my style of music, my expectations...
2. **Love & Encourage Other Believers** – treating them the way I would want them to treat my loved ones. **I will... ..**

- **Become Involved in a fellowship group** – a small group of fellow believers, for the purpose of growing and maturing in our relationship with Jesus, sharing life together, and supporting one another as we seek to live out our faith in Christ. Growing in my faith and in my relationships with other believers is important to me.
- **Avoid Gossip.** Gossip is one of the most destructive forces in a local church. I choose in advance not to be a part of it, *no matter what*. I commit to guarding the reputations of my pastors, the West Grove UMC’s staff and leaders and my fellow congregation members. I will interrupt and stop conversations that are gossip-oriented. Gossipers are people who are hurt and hurting (whether they realize it or not). I lovingly will redirect them to the people with whom they have issue, and I will refuse to participate in conversations that hurt the reputations of others.
- **Handle Conflicts and Disagreements from a Biblical Perspective.** I will not always agree with my fellow believers, but I do need to love, honor, and respect them.

Part II:

3. Love and Serve Others Within My Arenas of Influence – in order to live out Jesus’ commandment to love sacrificially, intentionally, and assertively. **I will...**

- **Engage in Volunteer Service** – within the ministries of the congregation, in the community, or both. This could be serving as an usher, a greeter, a leader of a fellowship group for adults, for children or for youth, assisting with Vacation Bible School, serving on a short-term mission trip, assisting at our Food Pantry, or one of the many opportunities of service offered through our church or the communities of Avondale-West Grove, the region or the world. I will serve others for God’s glory in Jesus’ Name.
- **Live in Mission to my community** – praying for my neighbors and neighborhood, looking for ways that I may be of help to those in need, offering acts of kindness when I’m able... so that my life can be a witness to what I believe about Jesus, and the Light of Christ through me can bring hope to those in need.
- **Give in proportion to how God has blessed me.** The Bible teaches that the “minimum standard” of giving is the “Tithe” (giving 10% of our income to the General Operations Fund of the local church). I will believe and trust that God is my Provider – and that giving generously enables me to partner with God in impacting individual lives, our community and our world for Jesus Christ. I believe generosity is the heart of God.

4. Invite, Connect With, and Grow – in order to share with others the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. **I will...**

- **Invite others to join me on the faith journey.** It may start as an invitation to a cup of coffee, a meal, to my community group, to an event, or to joining me in worshipping the Lord on Sunday morning; our vision is to be invitational and fully welcome people so that they too one day might have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- **Connect people and connect with people.** I want to create an environment with my attitude, in my home, at West Grove UMC, and in my community that is warm, welcoming and engaging. I commit to looking for people that I do not know yet, introducing myself to them, and then introducing them to others that I do know. I will take relationship connections very seriously and joyfully.
- **Build the House of God.** I will join my fellow believers in “building the House of God” – which means that I will take seriously my role in witnessing to those who don’t yet know Jesus Christ. I will not make anyone else the scapegoat for my evangelistic weakness.

Pastor's Desk

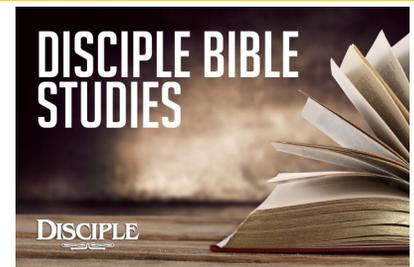


Confirmation Plans

This month Melanie and Tim are putting together plans for holding a confirmation class this school year. We invite our youth grades 7 and up to join us in understanding what it means to be a Christian and make our commitment to Christ and being part of our fellowship. In order to truly be in Christ we need to be engaged with others in faith; we learn and grow and mature with each other. While it can be challenging to grow in new ways with one another, it is one of life's greatest blessings.

Disciple Bible Study Offered

How much of the Bible have you been blessed to read over the years? A time of devotions is often on our "to-do" lists, and yet often seems elusive for many people. In Disciple Bible Study participants spend about a half hour every day reading several chapters in the Bible; they then meet together once a week for about two hours at the church to view a short video and share what they have read in more detail. It is a time of strengthening our practice of devotions and living in great fellowship together while listening and hearing a more complete way to relate with God together, blessed by sharing with others in God's Word. We cover 85% of the Bible in 36 weeks, a couple of chapters every day, as we meet every week, viewing a summary video and sharing what we heard from God. Great friendships over a dozen times in the past 30 years. Learn more, speak with Tim; sign up! Email Tim at pastor@westgroveumc.org



Adult Sunday School

We have been blessed to offer adult Sunday School throughout the whole year, and we continue to offer a class focused on "Songs In the Bible," hosted every week in the library. We are planning on restarting the Men's Class, and also Faithlinks as we search and find appropriate materials since the Faithlinks materials are not being produced. We would also like to create some additional classes with a variety of materials for the great diversity of people who are part of our fellowship.



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL/YOUTH
MINISTRY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

The church has **big plans** for children and youth ministries starting in September. These plans include Children's Worship, **Three separate Sunday School classes** for our children and youth from K to 12th grade and also **two youth groups for our Jr. High and High School Students**. We all want to see the church grow and this is where you come in! To have all of these wonderful offerings we need volunteers for Children's Worship and Sunday School classes and also just being the second adult in the room during our youth groups. All the church is asking is for you to volunteer one hour a month. **(JUST ONE HOUR)** All of the materials you need including scripts, instructions, and supplies are all set up for you! Can you spare an hour a month to help the children and youth of our church know God better? We hope so! Please reach out to our Youth Minister, Melanie Hartley, if you have an hour a month to spare!



Grill Time!

During vacation Bible school week, we had a great time on Wednesday evening with the return of a tradition of hosting a time of fellowship in offering grilled hot dogs (sorry, some got burned!) and hamburgers. We had a great selection of covered dishes and desserts to share, and we stayed for great conversation and games; 9-square was a lot of fun with our group. We even came up with an added rule to help our younger members take part and have fun. Backgammon and Parcheesi are always available too. We hope you will join us in the future as we will host at least one or two times this August and continue through the months ahead. **Look for dates and times in your bulletins and constant contact emails!**



Ice Cream Social will Return!

Julie and I had great fun hosting an ice cream social at the end of last summer in September, and we look forward to doing the same this year. We'll soon begin to ask you, once again, for your favorite flavor. We can't promise every one, but we did a pretty good job last year of finding all the flavors, or at least a reasonable substitute. When we share the date, we hope you will mark it on your calendar and join us in a great time of fellowship.

VBS Thank You!



What a great joy we had in vacation Bible school this year. It was great to share friendship, fun in fellowship without masks and in the simple joy and creativity God provides. We established some great memories and experiences with our children, and we are hopeful in looking forward to the coming year of Sunday School and fellowship. Our big thanks to all who helped make it such a blessing. People of all ages helped provide a special week for the children.

Quarterly Thank You & Offering Report

Our quarterly thank you and offering report has been mailed. We thank you for your patience as we caught up from missing last quarter's report to combine the two together. Our procedure is to send it out every three months, as we double check our records for you to compare with yours. Many times through the course of the year, glitches happen; there are so many ways to share, by check or electronically, we need to confirm what has happened as mail gets delayed or other disruptions occur. We want to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us and give our thanks to you for your faithfulness. If there are any discrepancies, please contact the office and either Janice or Tim will contact you.



Finance Committee Needs

We want to express our thanks to Janice Bowers for helping us, once again, as she serves London Grove UMC and attends seminary, she will also be helping to record our offering and compose the quarterly reports. Would you like to help? We can use your help as one more of our offering counters on Sunday, and also someone to take over as Financial Secretary. We also continue to need a Finance Chair to help coordinate our efforts in ministry. Please contact Tim or Donna if you are interested in learning more.



PASTOR JIM'S BIBLE STUDY TO RESUME

Pastor Jim will offer a new Bible Study on the Holy Spirit. It will be held on

Monday nights

beginning September 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. To many Christians the Holy Spirit may seem to be a mystery. Our objective is to explore the key Bible passages about the Holy Spirit, from Genesis to Revelation. It is designed to help us grow in our relationship with the Spirit, and to understand what a believer needs to know about the Spirit to learn to walk with Him. This study is for all people, whether you are a new Christian or a long-time believer, or one who wants to know more about the Holy Spirit. We trust you will join us for this study; bring your Bible and note taking material.

Contact Pastor Jim if you have any questions.



WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men are planning to hold a monthly breakfast at the church. We are planning to have a time of scripture sharing and a speaker.

More information we be available at a later date as we plan to begin in September. All men and teenage lads are invited to attend. Contact Pastor Jim with your questions.

Food Pantry Update

Our food pantry has been blessed by an abundance of generosity from our church family and the community. Several families have been donating fresh eggs collected from their hens so we regularly give a dozen, or two, each week to the families that come to our pantry. We have also received cat and dog food that is really appreciated by several of the families with pets. A woman from our community has been crocheting dish cloths to be given out. One week we were given about a dozen Wawa gift cards to help our families with gas for their cars. Acme market in Avondale has been giving us their day-old bakery goods, so each Thursday morning, one of our newer members, Nancy Reck Wise and (sometimes) her son, Scott, go to Acme to pick-up the baked goods. When they return to the church, they set-up tables and display the items for the families to select from when they visit our pantry. Our volunteers are amazing, each doing specific jobs that, together, allow our pantry to run smoothly and efficiently. Thanks for your part in this community outreach.



Bridge of Hope Update

Our church's Bridge of Hope Neighboring group has completed their training and have been assigned a family. We look forward to developing some meaningful relationships with this mother and her two elementary age children. Currently, the mother is looking to get into the work force after having to leave her previous job to care for her children during the pandemic. She lost her housing during that same period and is looking for an affordable apartment with at least two bedrooms. If you know of any possible leads, please talk to someone in our group. Our group is comprised of Valerie Kapp-Benner, Peggy Watkins, Cindy Hayley, Sharon Nesbitt, Mel and Joan Leaman. We also covet your prayers as we built relationships and work along-side this family to find greater stability and independence.

West Grove United Methodist Church

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610~869~9334

Semi~Annual Rummage Sale



Friday, October 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

**Donations accepted at the church from Sunday, October 2nd
through Thursday, October 6th.**

**On Saturday, there is a special bargain because you may fill
a brown paper grocery sack for only \$3.00!!**

**Left-over items are donated to Mission Santa Maria. The
United Methodist Women who sponsor this sale, use the
proceeds to fund various missions in the church and the
wider community.**

Retired Active People



RAP Fall Kick-Off

RAP (Retired Active Persons) will resume our monthly gatherings in September, as we kick-off an exciting year of programs and end in May 2023 celebrating our 25th Anniversary. We are so grateful for all our volunteers that help make our monthly meetings interesting and delicious.

We look forward to seeing everyone on **Friday, September 9, 2022 at noon** in the church sanctuary. Please join us for fellowship and lots

of fun. Bring your bagged lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. Sara Ann Ramberger will be our program leader for the afternoon. Ray McKay, one of our faithful members will present the program entitled, "Traditional Country Music for Beginners."

The RAP committee met in May and have lined up some new programs for the coming year. We are also very excited to end our program year in May with a special celebration of RAP's 25th Anniversary. The following is a brief outline of our first few programs:

October 14, 2022 – Mike Duvall will continue sharing his mission time in Kenya, Nairobi.

November 11, 2022 – Lisa Glass, EMT will present tips for staying safe.

December 9, 2022 – We welcome back the Providence Brass Band and will plan a potluck lunch to celebrate the holidays.

January 13, 2023 – Tom Yarnall will present a program entitled, "Walking the Thin Blue Line" (highlighting his time as a policeman in West Chester.)

February 10, 2023 - Jeanette Bergstrom will entertain us with "An Introduction to the Harp."

March 10, 2023 - Charles Shattuck, Nesting and Migrating Spring Birds

Again, thank you to everyone who helps make our gatherings possible. We welcome help with Setup and Cleanup, if you are able to lend a hand. We hope to see everyone back as we resume our regular monthly schedule, September through May, the second Friday of each month at noon.

Please invite your friends to join us. Everyone is welcome!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



August Activities:

August 11: Dodgeball & game night 6:00-8:00 p.m.

August 25: Dodgeball & game night 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth Summer Service Week

We had such a wonderful week in Massachusetts. We had fourteen students with us, a mix of high school and middle school, some who have done service week in the past and for some, it was the first time. Everyone worked hard and stepped up to the plate and embraced new experiences. Each student embraced the people of the community and graciously accepting their warmth and generosity.

I think that the best thing to come out of the week was hearing their understanding of who God is and who they are. We had a number of conversations about the nature of God and how God loves us. We also talked often about what it means to love ourselves because Jesus asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we don't love ourselves, then how can we love our neighbor? But loving ourselves comes from accepting the love, grace, and mercy that God has for us; allowing ourselves to be vulnerable and open to what is offered to us, and modeling that vulnerability in our relationships with others. Watching our students open up to one another, to us as leaders, and be open to hearing about the love of God was the true mark of a wonderful week.

Thank you again for your prayers and support, and for embracing our youth. It means so much to me and to the students and families of our youth group family.

Melanie



MISSION TRIP

All Worship Sunday: Sunday, August 7, 9:30 a.m. service

Children's Worship is back!

August 14, 21, 28 during the 9:30 a.m. worship service

Children's worship is offered during the worship service for children in grades K-4. Children will have the opportunity to learn the scripture lesson of the day as well as worship practices of the church, and the church seasons. Children will begin in the worship service with their families and be dismissed to follow our volunteer leader to Room 12 after the Moment For All Ages.

Vacation Bible School 2022

What a week we had together on Adventure Island! Our island explorers were successful in their quest to find the five infinity lanterns of faith, love, hope, joy, and trust. Most importantly, they learned that the light of the infinity lanterns never goes out, just like the light of Jesus that lives in their hearts.

We had 61 children from our church and community with us having a blast making crafts, playing games, and conducting science experiments! We heard Bible stories about the creation of the world, Moses and the burning bush, and Mary finding the empty tomb of Jesus. We sang songs, danced and had fun with friends. The joy and love of God was present in every room and in every heart!

I am so thankful for the wonderful youth and adult volunteers who helped make our week a wonderful experience for the children and for the adults. I am thankful for our congregation who embraces and welcomes children into our community to learn more about who God is. I am thankful for everyone who prayed, donated food and decorations and helped us celebrate a wonderful week. Thank you, thank you, thank you!





Welcome to
Preschool

Our Children's Morning Out and Preschool

The summer days have been a time for the teachers to rejuvenate and plan for the new preschool year ahead which is quickly approaching. We are looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and welcoming our new families at our Sneak-a-Peek that will be held at the beginning of September. The children will then be welcomed to their first class just after Labor Day. **I do still have just a few openings in some of our classes**, so please share the preschool information and my email with anyone you know who may be interested in joining the fun. **We are always on the lookout for substitute teachers, too.** If you enjoy working with children and

want to be a part of our preschool program, please reach out to me and I can tell you more about becoming a substitute teacher for us at cmo@westgroveumc.org. Wishing everyone a wonderful end of summer and start of a new school year ahead!

CMO Scholarship Information

The CMO & Preschool is happy to offer full and partial scholarships to families in need who would like their child to attend our Preschool. It is so important, especially in these challenging times, to be able to support and assist families in our community. We have already awarded 2 scholarships for this upcoming year and have several more applications for the CMO

Advisory Board to discuss this summer. As a mission of the WGUMC, your generosity and support of our scholarship program can help provide an opportunity for early childhood learning and foundational skills. We are so grateful that together we can open the doors to allow our littlest learners to play, learn and grow here at the CMO.



Fall Children's Consignment Sale



The Children's Morning Out program will be holding the **Fall/Winter Children's Clothing, Toy and Equipment Consignment Sale on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22.** Find the outgrown children's clothes, toys and baby equipment that you need or sell what you aren't using anymore! This is a great way to make some extra money and support the CMO

program. More details to come! We also gladly accepted any donated children's items if you do not want to consign them yourself. The proceeds from the sale go directly to support the CMO & Preschool scholarships offered for this year.

Heather Smalley, Director cmo@westgroveumc.org **610-806-5393**

PASTOR JIM'S
CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN
 helping us to live the Christian life
 August 2022

**8 Powerful
 Promises of God
 from Psalm 91**

**Suggestion: read Psalm
 91 before continuing.**

**“He who dwells in the
 shelter of the Most High
 will rest in the shadow
 of the Almighty.”**



*name. He will call on me, and I
 will answer him; I will be with him
 in trouble, I will deliver him and
 honor him. With long life I will
 satisfy him and show him my
 salvation.”*

Here are the eight promises that
 God gives to those who love Him
 and honor His name:

- **"I will rescue him..."** (deliver, cause to escape)
- **"I will protect him..."** (set him on a high place)
- **"I will answer him..."** (respond to, speak)
- **"I will be with him in trouble..."** (in afflictions, in distress)
- **"I will deliver him..."** (rescue, to bring into safety)
- **"and honor him..."** (to make rich, strong, heavy with honor)
- **"With long life will I satisfy him..."** (to have abundance in the journey)
- **"and show him my salvation."** (let him see my deliverance & victory)

There is great blessing as we seek after God and choose to walk in His ways. During great darkness in this world, living in it without His Truth and freedom, would be like wallowing in the pit. The truth is, this world has been in the darkness since sin first entered the earth caused by the enemy's lies.

Yet God's reminders are sure, strong, and true, assuring us that in all we walk through in this journey of life, His call is always to rise above. He reminds us we're not alone. And though He never says that we won't face hard times, He does say, He'll be with us in it, rescuing us, and shining His grace, mercy and love over us. Don't ever doubt it. God works on behalf of those who love Him and honor His name. He is so good to us. We may never fully know, this side of heaven, how very much He has sheltered us from our troubles in this life.

Modified from an unknown author
 Pastor Jim (August 2022)

(Psalm 91:1). When we are in trouble, we are told to dial 9-1-1. Is it any coincidence that this is the 9-1-1 verse? In whatever troubles we face, God is the place of refuge we can run to, He is our safe place or haven.

The word "dwell" used in this verse actually means, "to take up permanent residence in." He reminds us to stay in His presence, for it's a permanent place of living. His Word says if we do that, we will "rest" in the very "shadow of the Almighty."

A reminder for us, that we never walk alone. Pressure and stress can seem as stifling as a hot afternoon summer sun. Yet God whispers His truth, "Walk in my shadow, up close to my side." When we are resting in God's shadow, we will never face the full heat of our difficulties. He shelters from that pain. His shade, His shadow, diminishes what is felt in the intensity of all the heat. We forget that what we need most, God's protection, and the comfort of His presence, are freely available to those who love Him and walk under His covering.

This entire chapter of Psalm 91 is filled with the goodness and power of God. Here we have wonderful words that He faithfully works on behalf of those who love Him. And at the end, God gives us 8 reasons of why we do not have to fear.

He promises in Psalm 91:14-16: "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my

Open Grow Serve



OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

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.**

- ◇ Caryl Stuhrke who decorates and keeps our church beautiful.
- ◇ Gene Aucott and Kim O’Neill who always help with spraying the sanctuary to keep it germ free.
- ◇ Nancy Renk Wise (and sometimes Scott if he is not working) who graciously pick-up day old bread and pastries from the Acme for distribution through the food pantry on Thursday evenings.
- ◇ Karen Hruz and Leigh Ann Krohn who keep our Food Pantry organized and clean.
- ◇ Debbie Schneider who I caught weeding a flower garden in the early morning to avoid the heat.
- ◇ All of the trustees who manage to do so many jobs around the church too numerous to mention!
- ◇ Aiden Seltzer and friends who just showed up (walked and biked) to help the Mighty Writers bag and distribute food.
- ◇ Joan Saller for making Welcome Bags to hand out to our guests.

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Ainsley DiRamio	04	 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Your church family wishes all of you a very happy birthday and a year filled with happiness and blessings!!</p> </div>	Tyler Farr	15	
Audrey Dunn	04		Mason Hendrickson	15	
Jeannie Sullivan	06		Brian Wolff	15	
Lexi Weingarten	06		Reed Smith	16	
Casey Bruno	08		Josh Stevenson	16	
Parker Featherston	08		Charlotte Adams	17	
Laura Minnick	08		Justin Bratton	17	
David Frame	09		Tim Bushnell	18	
Pam Fulton	09		Jessica Wiwel	20	
Sharon Nesbitt	11		Natalie Timm	21	
Larry Smith	11	Carter Capuano	22		
Eileen Bushnell	12	Paulette Bryan	23		
Kristin Reisinger	12	Les Lafferty	24		
Doyle Stuhrke	12	Leigh-Ann Krohn	14	Bob Castaldi	27
Alex Dilworth	14	Lianne Covington	15	Jennifer Smith	28



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

2022

~ 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
9:00 a.m.-2:00 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

OPEN—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
Kim O'Neil and Kim Smith - Co-Trustee Chairs
OPEN - Finance Chair
Valerie Kapp-Benner - Treasurer
OPEN - Financial Secretary
Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair
Steve May—Tech Team Leader
Melanie Hartley - Christian Education
Melanie Hartley - Children's Ministry Team Contact
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—Ad Council Member at Large
Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair
Cindy Haley and Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinators