

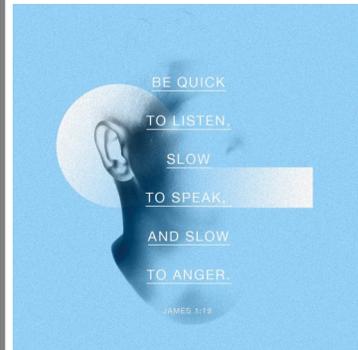


The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

**300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, Pa. 19390
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**Email: office@westgroveumc.org
Website: www.westgroveumc.org**



“This you know, my beloved brethren... everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.” (James 1:19)

Here is some real biblical guidance.

Who are we listening to? What are they saying to us? Where is God in the midst of it all?

Listening is an essential part of being a Christian and letting God lead us in life. Our great challenge today is there are oh so many voices and sounds, mere noise, that often present the danger of distracting us from hearing God and what God has to say to us. It is why it is essential that we make the time to share Sabbath with worship and close fellowship in sharing God’s Word in Bible study together

each week, and devotions and prayer every day.

We are overwhelmed with changes, differing opinions, and severe disagreements around us, to the point where they seem to have a life of their own. The election, the wake of the virus, economic challenges have magnified it all, and we are prayerful this election does not turn into the continued divisiveness and violence of our presidential election in 2020. Now more than ever, our church as individuals and as a fellowship, needs to be centered on Christ and fulfilling how he taught us to live and share friendship and fellowship together. How do we respond to the challenges surrounding us in our world, nation, denomination, and fellowship?

As James writes, our faithful response is by listening; listening to God and one another. We try to listen with God’s ear; what does God hear and see? Such listening requires intentional efforts in spending time together in Christ. God is still speaking through the Holy Spirit. We need to listen and hear God’s voice above our own and the noise around us. For many people it is only a “nice to do” when we only see Jesus as man, ignoring his deeper identity. The more we follow Christ faithfully, the more we understand him and are led to live in the witness of the reality of the Resurrection and the possibilities God creates for us all.

It is so easy to rush to fix people and circumstances we see as broken without listening to God first. Wisdom is shared in the Old Testament, “He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.” (Proverbs 18:13) Listening is the first, essential step. The season before us is a time to celebrate God’s generosity, building trust in grace, and here we need to resist the voices that seem to be seeking to bring us down, mired in division, competition and fighting. At times, those voices are also a reflection of the hearts of those who are hurt or broken, and we are called to respond in faith to listen and understand. Our faith does not teach us to ignore differences and challenges; God helps us be faithful in working through them together as we seek in compassion and empathy to understand one another. God’s love lifts us up to His perspective.

The promise of our faith, in God’s Covenant is the transformation of lives beyond what we expect when we take God’s promises seriously, and live them out fully. Sadly, the world has lost much of its hope, a hope that can only be found in the heart of God. What a joy it is that God continues to share generously and graciously, and calls us to participate fully. “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10-11). There is no life that is beyond the power of God’s redemptive love, and we have been blessed to share.

For much of my life, especially as I have gotten older, and lived through many life events, my focus is less

(Continued from Pastor Tim's message on Page 1)

concerned about getting heaven, getting to heaven and getting something for myself, and more focused on bringing heaven to earth here & now for all people. I try hard to let go of what I want, and focus on what God seeks. I'm far from where I'd like to be; we are all sinners. God provides the teaching, the insight, the creativity, and especially the love, forgiveness, and true friendship we need. Jesus Christ showed and shows us how, and who we are called to share with. Paul taught in Romans 12 to make it personal, laugh with those who laugh, weep with those who weep. Faithfulness is about hearing, developing empathy for others, not in a sentimental way, but with real depth of heart and mind. Faith provides assurances that God is with us: "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry." (Psalm 34:15)

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." (1 John 5:14) God is listening to us, and now we are called to mature and grow into his likeness by attentively, actively listening to him and one another. The Holy Spirit, God is with us helping us live in creative, faithful responses to the challenges we face. May God's assurances lead us in our faithfulness to listen and hear one another and respond to the challenges we face in the grace that God provides. We have many blessings and opportunities to share before us. Please join us. God's blessings to all. – Tim

Our prayer for each other:

I pray that....

you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... you may have the power to comprehend...what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ ...so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. -

Ephesians 3:16-19

Core Values:

- Centered in Jesus' calling to love others and see in every face the face of Christ
- Courageous/safe conversations
- Authenticity & Respect
- Attentive Listeners - not trying to "fix" people
- Framework: Maturing and growing in God's love together (sanctification); guided by the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (scripture; tradition; reason & experience)
- Hear each other's heart/share the journey
- Stop the "flight or fight" response and provide space for connection
- We hope to provide a model for the local church & individuals
- Open-mindedness & outward mindset (seeing the other as fully human)
- Appreciation for diversity in complex perspectives

A Covenant for Our Difficult Conversations

(Written by Rev. Dr. David Woolverton)

As we gather to discern both our personal and corporate direction from the Lord, we are choosing to agree to the following mutual boundaries and expectations:

I will choose to believe that . . .

- ◇ Jesus died for the other person(s) even as Jesus died for me.
- ◇ The Divine Mission of God is more important than anything else (Mark 1:14-15; Matt. 6:33) – so my framework will not be just what’s best or most comfortable for me, but also for the group, and the Church as a whole.
- ◇ I have more to learn from the other person than they from me.
- ◇ An attitude of superiority is antithetical to the gospel (Phil. 2:1-11).
- ◇ God was present and active before I arrived, will be present and active because of and in spite of what I bring, and will be present and active after I’ve gone (Prevenient Grace).
- ◇ Forgiveness is an imperative – and an invitation. An open hand is always better than a closed-fist. (Luke 7:36-50 reminds me to assume that the Holy Spirit is uniquely present in our context to inspire and facilitate both repentance and hope.)
- ◇ My first priority is to become fluent in the language of love (John 13).
- ◇ Power is most effective when it is given away (exemplified by the Cross of Christ) – so I will focus on hearing what’s important from others before being heard about what’s important to me.
- ◇ I will be honest, even when my honesty is painful, but I will strive not to let my honesty intentionally disrespect, demean, or demand.
- ◇ I will honor those at the table of discussion with me, and will work hard at helping them articulate better what they are trying to say / what they are feeling or thinking (even, and especially, when I may disagree with them) – so that we have our discussions with mutual integrity. I will ask them to do the same with me.
- ◇ I will seek to understand, before being understood, by asking questions to clarify.
- ◇ I will not call others names or make broad-based generalized comments that demean, dismiss or disrespect another’s viewpoint.
- ◇ I will pray for those with whom I am in conversation, even as I will ask them to pray for me.

Pastor's Desk

A Full Season In November - We need your participation

Courageous Dialogues

We met on October 24 at Camp Innabah to share our experiences that have impacted our views on sexuality. We hoped for a diverse group that reflects the various points of view and experiences United Methodists have traditionally held. As we met we set some important parameters that are shared here in this newsletter that were meant to help us hear and listen to one another. There is an outline of values, and then a covenant to aspire to, when sharing dialogue. I believe as a church, we also need to apply these to the times when we come together for Sunday School, Bible Study and sharing of all kinds. They are helpful when we have important votes to take, and we used them during our recent meeting about the discernment process.

Additionally, Carol and John McGinley have shared here in this newsletter their reflections of what it was like to be intentional about keeping to a process of listening and actively hearing each other.

Commentary on Courageous Dialogues

by John McGinley

I was excited to see that Pastor Tim was able to develop the Courageous Dialogue sessions and am glad I was able to attend on Monday. I found out that I am not the only one who has opinions on the topic of human sexuality and the LGBTQ+ communities. I think that the main reason I wanted to attend was to see what other believed and wondered how I might respond to those who see things differently. I would say that the openness and peacefulness of the entire session was refreshing and encouraging. I was also concerned if I would be able to keep my mouth shut if others were adamantly opposed to my beliefs. Well, that was never the case in my small group. We were all in complete agreement that our Church shouldn't allow itself get so divided on any one issue, no matter how unsettling it may be, nor should anyone simply walk away if they don't like it.

If I had one disappointment in the day is that there didn't seem to be any "on the other side," so to speak. The Spirit was a guide to all to speak carefully and openly. I felt that we could disagree without being disagreeable. Perhaps other small groups had a different experience than mine, and maybe things will be different at the next two Dialogues. After all, how can we have a meaningful discussion (debate?) if only one side is represented? My hope would be that we, as a congregation, would be unified in our decision to not only remain in the tradition but find ways to be more welcoming to all people regardless of race or orientation.

Courageous Dialogues Dates and Places

November 14 at Pocono Plateau

January 30 at Gretna Glen

Commentary on Courageous Dialogues

by Carol McGinley

On Monday, October 24th I attended Courageous Dialogue at Camp Innabah. I wanted to go to the session because I feel that the United Methodist Church members' various opinions on homosexuality are acting as a wedge to separate us from each other in a destructive way. The night before the dialogue I thought that maybe I shouldn't go because nobody wants to hear what I think about homosexuality and the United Methodist Church. However, I did go and the event was carefully planned and opened with prayer and music. I sat at a round table with four other people, none of whom I knew. At our table, listening and sharing was regulated to help us to get to know each other and appreciate the sharing of our minds and hearts. One was only to speak if they were holding the speaking stick (which was a hand-held cross) and only for a maximum of 4 minutes, which was timed. The lady who sat next to me was the first to speak and her story about her granddaughter touched me deeply, almost to the point of tears. Everyone listened to her attentively and compassionately. The talking stick was passed around and everyone who wanted to share had the opportunity to do so. All comments were polite and compassionate. When it was my turn to share I felt very comfortable expressing my true thoughts and feelings. I found Courageous Dialogue to be a blessed event and hope more people not only share their thoughts and feelings but also listen compassionately to others who may agree or disagree with what they think or say.

I believe from my experience that this method of dialogue is the best way to meet with our fellow church members and any one else who is led to come and share. It is a way forward to better express our own thoughts and feelings and to listen and understand others in a peaceful and compassionate manner. Many of us said that we could feel the presence of Jesus in our group. Yes, it truly was a blessed event.



Worship in November 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.



11 a.m. Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.



November 6 ~ All Saints' Sunday (Daylight Savings Time Ends!)

We will celebrate communion as we remember those who have gone before us and that our lives are but for a short time. It is a huge blessing that God has promised us that there is more to creation than we can imagine. It is an exceptional blessing to live in the assurance that God is always with us through whatever we face, especially as we remember those who have gone before us. Our scripture is from Luke 6:20-31, with additional selected passages of hope.

November 13 ~ Consecration of Time & Talent

We all have a vital need for service, and a need to serve, share from our hearts to build community and fellowship with God in Christ. It is a great joy embodying Christ to others, one of life's greatest blessings. How sad it is when a person is kept from sharing their gifts and talents.



deserves our first allegiance and commitments. Jeremiah 23:1-6 shares a vision of returning home from exile, and Luke shares how unexpected the rule of Jesus may be for some, yet his teaching, guidance, and presence in our lives provides our home in life.

Stewardship November 27 ~ First Sunday In Advent, Consecration of Finances



A special guest speaker will be offering the message as we grow to understand the joy of giving and setting our priorities where God calls us to share. We think of how God did not hold back his own Son, and as he shared the true treasures of life, we are called to open our hearts.



December 4 ~ Baptism & Communion

We look forward to the baptism of Logan Crowder, son of Jon and Liz Crowder, and we are likely to also share communion that day too, as Advent and the preparation for receiving Christ in new ways continues to open our hearts.



Giving Thanks November 20 ~ Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday

When we follow the wrong priorities and leaders, it is as if we are enslaving ourselves to tyrants. It sounds strange to Americans today, yet Christ is our King. God



In the Evening – We will host our Christmas Music Concert



Jenner's Pond Residents:

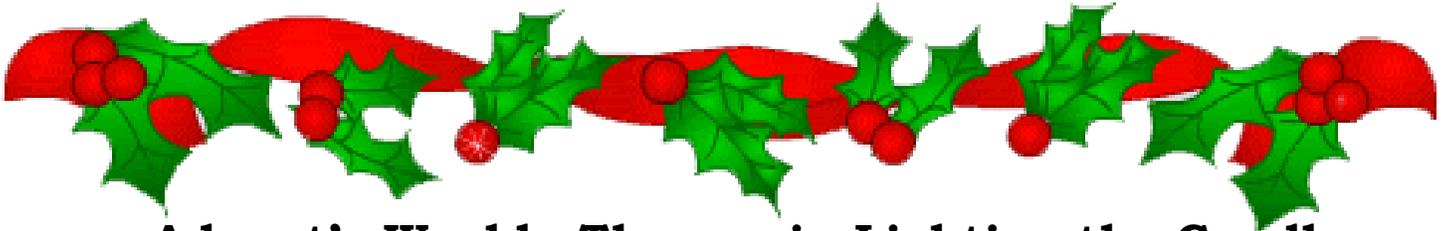
Join us for worship on
November 13th at 11 am

On your closed circuit TV and in-person
in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

Join Us IN Worship

We look forward to seeing you in worship!

We have a new time for our Blended Worship which is 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is prior to worship at 9:45 a.m. Our children are attending Sunday School at, and Children's Worship and the Nursery is ready for our littlest ones, who also always welcomed to stay in the service if the parents prefer!



Advent's Weekly Themes in Lighting the Candles

November 27 – Hope – Isaiah 60:2-3

December 4 – Christ the Way – Mark 1:4

December 11 – Christ Our Joy – Isaiah 35:10

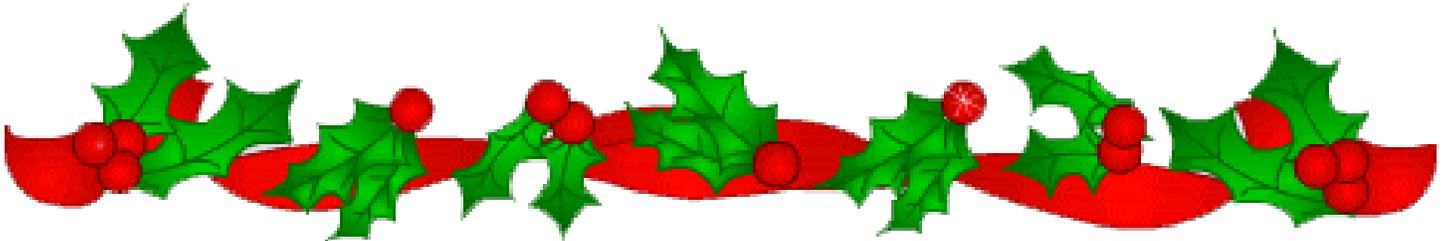
December 18 – Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6-7

Christmas Eve Plans

6PM Family Worship

8PM Contemporary Christmas Worship

10PM Traditional Worship, Intimacy in Christ



Road Sign Changer Volunteer

The sign on Guernsey Road at the end of the driveway needs to be updated with information occasionally. We are thankful for Fred Sullivan, who cared for it for many years, but it's time for someone else to step up and volunteer. The letters are all sorted and all you have to do is put in a little time every so often to update information we share with the community.

With the holiday season approaching and the many activities and events associated with it, it would be wonderful to share this news via our sign with the community at large. Contact Donna in the office if you are interested.





Mark your calendars!

***Annual Christmas Music Celebration
Sunday, December 4th ~ 6:30 p.m.***

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us! Bring your family and invite your friends! Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m. allows all ages to join in the festivities.

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

Stay after for delicious, homemade Christmas cookies and cider. Invite your friends and family to get in the Christmas spirit!

**If you would like to perform in this special event with a solo, duet, small group, instrumental, dance, etc., please let Betsy Smith know by Sunday, November 27.
musicmomva@aol.com**

Stewardship

Time
Talent
Treasure

Consecration Sundays Time & Talent; Financial Offering

In November, we will celebrate God's blessings to us, first in a **Consecration Sunday of our Time and Talents to be held on November 13th during worship.** Everyone has something to share. Frequently, our time and talents are the greatest gift we can offer.

On Sunday, November 27th, we will host a Consecration Sunday of Financial Giving.

Everyone is asked to prayerfully fill out a commitment card, naming as best we can, our financial commitment to our fellowship for 2023. We share this commitment as an offering to God, a personal response to our relationships with Him, and as one of many ways we faithfully fulfill our Covenant. It is important that we consider what God has done for us, and these gifts as part of our discipleship. On a practical side, every year, we use our commitments to help realistically plan for the work ahead. A letter will be sent in the next week or so, explaining our efforts and inviting your participation in our ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness during such challenging times.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 6th



From the earliest days in the church, community has gathered to remember those who have gone onto the glory. On All Saints' Day, the church remembers those who have died in the previous year. This cherished tradition has been important in this congregation for many years.

We remember beloved members of the church, special loved ones of our families, and those for whom we have performed funeral and memorial services. Our remembrance includes pictures, the tolling of the bell, and the lighting of the candles. You may be remembering a loved one this year. We would like to give thanks to God for their life in our All Saints Day service on November 7th .

Please make sure that the office has the name of your loved one, a picture of your loved one, in addition to their date of birth and date of death, by October 31st. It is our privilege to remember those who moved onto the church triumphant, even as we hold the tenderness of loss.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

With Pastor Jim

Mondays, November 28. December 5, 12, 19

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a Bible study entitled **BACKGROUND AND EVENTS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.** It will be a four week study involving both the Old and New

Testaments. The weekly studies are entitled:

- 1) **OT Prophecies about Jesus**
- 2) **God's Covenant with Us**
- 3) **Birth of Jesus Foretold**
- 4) **The Birth of Jesus.**

This study will be held in the sanctuary on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM, beginning November 28th and continuing on December 5th, 12th and the 19th. We will use masks and social distancing. Your presence along with your Bible will help us gain more understanding about Christ and His incarnation and the importance to each of us as believers in Jesus. See Pastor Jim if you have any questions.



Faithlinks Class

This Sunday School class has a history of looking at difficult issues together. From what I have heard, it has meant a gathering of people from a variety of backgrounds coming together to appreciate each other's experiences and perspectives in our relationships with God. This season, they are using a book by Adam Hamilton as the starting point to facilitate the dialogue. I can tell you while I have appreciated Rev. Hamilton's work and his willingness to approach difficult issues, I don't always see life and faith the way he does. There are places where I resonate with

him and others where I do not. It's important when we reach such differences that we understand the why in it, and still see the other person as loved by God. Our prayers are with Faithlinks and all of our small groups, Sunday School classes, and bible studies. And I pray we not hold back from participating; it has been too easy at times to avoid each other when God leads us to engage and share faithfully.

Pastor Tim

**PASTOR
VISIT**



Is there someone who would like a visit? A joy of ministry is offering communion and times for fellowship and prayer, and I look forward to offering it as I have throughout the time I have shared in ministry. Please give me a call if you know of someone. 484.720.8626

Retired Active People



RAP gathered on Friday, October 14 at noon. We were pleased to welcome Mark Lanyon, a local resident of West Grove, who presented highlights from his book, "Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Chester County." His book was available for purchase and he autographed them.

Thank you to everyone who provided a dessert and was available to help with our setup and clean up. We are not able to continue our monthly time together without your help.

Please join us this month on Friday, November 11 at noon. We always meet at West Grove UMC in the sanctuary on the second Friday of each month. This month we welcome Lisa Glass, a local EMT who will present tips on staying safe.



Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends for a relaxed afternoon of fellowship and a program. Bring your bagged lunch. Desserts and beverages are provided. Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or sar57@verizon.net so that we have a ballpark number for our setup.

We look forward to a covered dish luncheon in December as we gather to welcome the Christmas season with music by the Providence Brass Band.

Food Bank Update

Thanksgiving - Sharing the Bounty



higher dollar amount cards to the larger families. **Gift cards** may be placed in the marked container in the lobby, placed in the offering plate in an enveloped marked Food Pantry or placed in Joan Leaman's mail slot. Thanks for your generosity!

Joan Leaman, Coordinator

This year we will be receiving complete Thanksgiving meals from the Chester County Food Bank to give to the families that come to our church food pantry. We were thinking it would be nice to include a gift card with each family meal. Instead of donating food items this **Thanksgiving, we are suggesting, for those who want to contribute, providing gift card(s) to Walmart, Wawa, Giant or Acme.** Any denomination is fine as we will give the

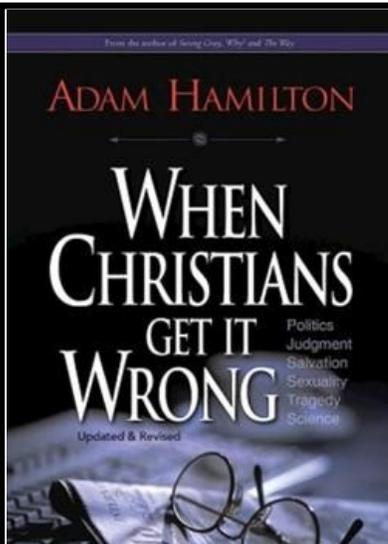




FOOD PANTRY ADVENT CALENDAR

We encourage you to celebrate this advent season by caring for those dealing with food insecurity in our community. You might want to collect a food item daily or perhaps, if that is a bit much, do it every other day. Certainly, you can substitute other items you think would be appreciated. You are welcome to bring the donations to the church on Christmas Eve or another, more convenient time. As always, if the church is not open, donations may be placed in the shopping cart outside the front doors. We are so grateful for your caring actions and ask that, as you collect your food, you also lift up the families in prayer.

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| December 1 – box of cereal | December 15 – package of pasta |
| December 2 – peanut butter | December 16 – canned tomatoes |
| December 3 – jar of jelly | December 17 – box of crackers |
| December 4 – canned green beans | December 18 – canned mandarin oranges |
| December 5 – canned tomato soup | December 19 – canned black beans |
| December 6 – jar of applesauce | December 20 – canned carrots |
| December 7 – jar of salsa | December 21 – canned chicken noodle soup |
| December 8 – canned corn | December 22 – package of corn tortillas |
| December 9 – package of rice | December 23 – pasta sauce |
| December 10 – canned tuna | December 24 – granola bars |
| December 11 – canned peaches | |
| December 12 – bag of dried pinto beans | |
| December 13 – canned mixed vegetables | |



“When Christians Get It Wrong”. (A study by Adam Hamilton)

You are invited to an exciting new study on Sunday at 9:45am. The study is entitled “When Christians Get It Wrong”. (A study by Adam Hamilton). We meet in the conference room.

We are a Walk-in class. All are welcome! You do not have to prepare ahead. (we do have books if you prefer to read ahead) Our curriculum is formatted so we have a 15 minutes video by Adam

Hamilton followed by class discussion. These are the chapters we will be studying!

*When Christians are Unchristian
Christians, Science, and Politics*

When speaking of other Religions

When Bad things happen

In Dealing with Homosexuality

When Christians Get It Right

We hope you feel free to join us for one or more sessions.

Questions: call Caryl Stuhrke at (302) 239-1743

Berkshire Hathaway and Fox Roach Realtors Annual Food Drive

A Big Thank You!

We are very grateful to our friends at Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach Realtors for collecting an ENORMOUS amount of food from the community to help supply our pantry. An overflowing two tables full of an assortment of foods and goodies were delivered to benefit the food pantry distributions!

Thank you, Carolyn Bratton (a member of our church), for suggesting West Grove UMC as the recipient of the donations again this year!



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

“Having the Heart of Gratitude”

THANK YOU. Two words that have seemed to disappear in our vocabulary. I'm trusting they are still in your daily walk of life. We think of November as the month of sharing our Thanksgiving with family and friends and being thankful to God for His many blessings.

As much as we may say, “Thank you,” we probably don't say it as often as we should. When we don't offer our thanks, for the blessings we receive from others, what does this suggest? It suggests we are taking blessings and favors for granted. It suggests we think people are obligated to pass the salt and pepper, to open and hold the door, or compliment us for what we do. To take it to a higher level we are in a greater risk when we feel that God is obligated to bless us without returning thanks and praise to Him.

This is a selfish mindset to have when it comes to our relationship with others and especially with God. For every kindness offered to us, every grace and favor we enjoy in our life, ultimately comes from God. When our family or friends extends grace or a favor, we are thanking God indirectly, when we directly thank them. The opposite is also true. When we fail to thank someone from our heart, for things they give or do for us,



we are indirectly failing to thank God. For all we receive, that is, *“every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...”* (James 1:17)

Jesus healed ten lepers having a disease that kept them from living and fellowshiping with family and others. When people would come near, they would cry out “Unclean! Unclean”. We could relate to this during the covid virus, for we were not to go near anybody because we may be unclean. When the ten lepers were healed by Jesus, only one, only one returned thanks to Him. And Jesus asked, *“Where are the other nine?”* How do people relate today about giving thanks? Are they part of the nine? Or are they like the one who came to offer his thanks to Jesus?

If we are thankful for the love, grace and forgiveness given to us by God, let us offer our thanks like the one leper and may we extend the same thanks to others in our life. Let us develop a heart that gives and shows our gratitude. As we walk with Jesus and as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily walk, God the Father, will bless us and He will make us a blessing to others. The Apostle Paul offers this advice in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*
 Pastor Jim.



Luther House Christmas Mission

Please join us on December 11th in the Kitchen to assemble bags for Luther House. The bags will include homemade cookies and individually wrapped Christmas candies. Please bring you favorite homemade cookies or a bag of candy and your lunch to keep you going until all the bags are packed and ready to be delivered on the 12th.

Missions Outreach – Kenya Africa



I would like to share a couple of updates about our Africa Outreach Missions.

The Sonshine Vocational Education Center in Usueni is experiencing significant growth; much of that growth is young women who are acquiring skills that will enable them to develop and properly manage their own small businesses in order to help support their families.

Funds were raised to purchase an additional 12 acres of land surrounding the existing school. Four acres will be used for future classrooms, dormitories, administration buildings, etc. The additional eight acres will be used to develop a new Agriculture Curriculum that will teach scientific, environmentally friendly methods of growing food. And of course, the additional crops will offset the school's food budget with fresh, healthy, safe food!

Kenya does not have a winter season; the Equator runs through the middle of Kenya. However, they do have a "wet and dry season," Now that the school has a fresh water well, they will be able to irrigate their crops during the dry season; this will significantly enhance crop production.

Wanting their fresh water well to also be a blessing to the surrounding community, they are building a "Water Kiosk" that will allow their neighbors to bring their 5-gal jugs and fill them with fresh, clean, healthy water for their families. They will only charge a few Kenyan Schillings per jug (mere pennies). And their neighbors will no longer have to walk a mile each way for muddy, parasite infested water from the Tana River. Plus, they will no longer have to compete with the Crocs and Hippos!



Another exciting development is a young man named David Kitheka Mbuvi, who is an orphan from the town of Mwingi. He is now attending Medical School at the United Methodist University in Nairobi, Kenya. When he graduates, he wants to go back to Mwingi and help the people who helped him. He and I are now Friends on Facebook. I will keep you updated on his progress!

Michael W. Duvall

Missions Team Member

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

The JULIET s will be meeting **Saturday, November 12th** in the church parking lot at 9am. Anyone is welcome to bring a chair and join the conversation. **(In the event of inclement weather, the group will move to the church lobby)**

Questions? Contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



The UM Men, at their Oct. 22 breakfast gathering, decided to support 2022 HOLIDAY TOY & GIFT DRIVE for the Methodist Home for Children, Methodist Services of Philadelphia.

Attached is the flyer of the suggested gifts that may be donate in support for the children at Christmas time.

All gifts need to be delivered to the church no later than Dec. 4th
All gifts to be unwrapped. Pastor Jim or Mike DuVall can answer any questions you may have.



2022 Holiday Toy & Gift Drive Bring Joy to a Child or a Family!

THANK YOU FOR DONATING ONLY NEW & UNWRAPPED GIFTS

Young Children: Infants & Toddlers

Board Books	Toddler Toys
Mr. Potato Head	Peg Puzzles
Push & Ride-on Toys	Bibs, Diapers & Wipes

Pre-School: Ages 3-5 Years

Age-Appropriate Books	Mr/Ms Potato Head
Age-Appropriate Toys	Safe Blocks
Art Supplies (<i>Paints, Finger Paints, Markers</i>)	Playdough, Fun Foam, Kinetic Sand
Craft Supplies (<i>Ribbon, Yarn, Fabric, etc</i>)	Trucks, Cars, Active Toys
Dolls (<i>African American, Latino, Other</i>)	Wooden Puzzles
Dress Up Clothing & Accessories	Learning Games

Elementary School: Ages 6-10 Years

Action Figures	Legos & 30 - 50 Piece Puzzles
Age-Appropriate Books	Sports Equipment & Team Apparel
Art Supplies & Craft Supplies	Trucks, Train Sets &
Dolls (<i>African American, Latino, etc.</i>)	Car Racing Sets

Middle School: Ages 11-14 Years

Age-Appropriate Books	Bi-Lingual Books & Games
Art Supplies & Craft Supplies	Science Kits & Robotic Sets
Beauty & Grooming Items	Sports Equipment & Team Apparel
Jewelry	Video Games & Gaming Systems

High School: Ages 15-18 Years

Age-Appropriate Books	Gift Cards
Art Supplies & Craft Supplies	Sports Equipment
Beauty & Grooming Items	Video Games &
Jewelry	Gaming Systems

Young Adult: Ages 18-24 Years

Pillows & Twin Comforters	Twin Bed Sheets & Mattress Protectors
Towel Sets & Washcloths	Shower Curtains & Liners
Dish Cloths	Dish Sets & Pots/Pans
Board Games & Journals	Small Room Trash Cans

Adults in Our Programs

Books	Jewelry
Beauty & Grooming Items	Personal Care Baskets
Hats & Scarves	Watches



- ✓ Our families treasure Gift Cards of any value from Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Best Buy & Old Navy. Please mark the amount of the Gift Card on the envelope!
- ✓ Many of our programs serve young children and families who would also benefit from donations of **NEW** car seats, bouncy seats, high chairs, boxes of disposable diapers (all sizes), and other baby care items.
- ✓ We also appreciate receiving wrapping paper, gift bags and bows.
- ✓ For more info, please contact Carole Boughter, Director of Development, Methodist Services at cboughter@methodistservices.org or 215.877.1925 ext.104 or visit www.methodistservices.org



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Middle school & High school Youth Group
Every Sunday

Middle school: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

High School: 4:15-5:30 p.m.



Youth Summer Service Week
June 18-24, 2023
Cleveland, OH



This summer, we are heading west of West Grove! We will be working with Next Step Ministries in the greater Cleveland area, assisting in home repairs and working with community organizations that provide services to people in the area.

There will be a brief information meeting on **Sunday, November 13 at 3:45 p.m.** It will be the ending part of middle school youth group and the beginning part of high school youth group.

Students who are entering 8th grade (next fall) through graduating seniors in 2023 are able to attend. If you have any initial questions feel free to contact Melanie Hartley. We look forward to a great trip!



Fall campfire & night games

November 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Rescheduled from October

Our fall activity will be a campfire and game night is next week! we'll have s'mores and outdoor night games! This is a combined middle school and high school event. Come dressed to play outside and bring your favorite lawn chair!



Children's Sunday school

Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Room 12

Our Sunday school curriculum uses the Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM), which teaches one story over multiple weeks using different methods of learning, like art, science, storytelling, cooking, etc. We have wonderful volunteers who build relationships with the children and help bring fun and understanding of the bible and the Christian faith.

Sunday school class is open for children in grades K-6, with grades being split into groups as needed.

Contact Melanie Hartley for information or questions about Sunday school. We would love to have you with us!



All Worship Sunday

Sunday, November 6th, 11:00 a.m. service



All worship Sundays mean children remain in worship for the entire service as we celebrate the sacrament of Communion together. Look for the blue cart with worship bags for children, filled with fun things to keep them engaged during worship!

Children's Worship

November 13th, 20th, and 27th

during the 11:00 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.



CMO PRESCHOOL



Welcome to
Preschool

Another month of Preschool is behind us, and a great month it was! The children all seem to be adjusted to their school routines and I love seeing all of the smiling faces every day.

It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know all of the children and their families over the course of the past two months. Learning and playing are in full swing and the beautiful and creative artwork that has been decorating our hallway is spectacular.

As I pop into classrooms each day, I am greeted with happy sights and sounds of the children and their teachers enjoying each other. Our students have learned about all things fall throughout the month of October and leaves, pumpkins, farms and apples were popular themes throughout the school.

Our Field Trip to Milburn Orchards was a perfect way to cap off the month of October. The Preschool held the Consignment Sale on Friday, October 21st and Saturday, October 22nd. Some proceeds from the sale will benefit the Preschool Program!

Thank you for your continued support in our program.

Abbie Gruscavage
CMO Director



CMO & PRESCHOOL PIZZA FUNDRAISER

**TWO PIZZA
TUESDAY
FUNDRAISER**

WHO DOESN'T ENJOY A NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING

EACH KIT INCLUDES TWO PIZZAS
Kits can be picked up on Tuesday at
noon or picked up Wednesday

Two Pizza
Kit for
\$15.00

Pay by Cash
or Check the
Friday before
the event

We are partnering with Pasquale's Pizza in New London and are offering a Pizza Kit as a Fundraiser for Preschool.

Included in the kit is: Dough for two 14" pizzas, pizza sauce, mozzarella, and oregano. You bake at your convenience. A portion of each sale will go directly to the Preschool!

We are offering the kit on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. You can place an order by giving your money (\$15.00 cash or check made out to WGUMC-CMO) by the Friday prior to the 1st or 3rd Tuesday.

If you have any questions on dates, etc., please call Abbie at 610-806-5393.

Kits will be at school and ready to be handed out by NOON on Tuesdays. CMO families can pick up their kit at 12:00 on Tuesday, or the next day your child is at school. Any kit not picked up on Tuesday will be promptly refrigerated until you are able to get it.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Preschool. We appreciate you.

TRUSTEES IN ACTION!

Our Trustee's have been busy over the past month. Here is just a small sample of what we have been up to. The Mighty Writers concrete walkway is complete and the outside refrigeration unit is in place. This will allow them, in conjunction with the Chester County Food Bank, to offer additional items to those in need in the community. You may have noticed the handrail to the stage which will offer stability to all. Grounds clean-up: the dying ornamental plum tree has been taken down, and the crepe myrtles will be trimmed this fall. We have contracted to have the roofs replaced as they are nearing the end of the life expectancy, and this will address several leaks. A tentative start date of January 2023, but of course weather dependent. As always, please reach out to a trustee if you have any questions, ideas, or are willing to help with our projects.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY!



Get a jump start on your holiday shopping by shopping on Amazon Smile!

Every purchase you make earns the church a donation.

And it is EASY! Type in **smile.amazon.com** in your Internet browser, choose West Grove United Methodist Church as your charity and then shop away! It is all the same stuff, no fees. Tell your family and friends too! It's that easy.

A percentage of your spending dollars will be credited to the church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PLEASE NOTE

The Church office will be closed on November 23 and 25 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families.

HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES



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

Hearing assistive devices are located in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

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



Thank you!

Dear Friends at West Grove United Methodist Church, I want to thank each of you who donated items for our Community New Garment. Today was the day we distributed all the donations to our six agencies. It was kind of your daily Vacation Bible School to remember our program.

We collected a total of 7371 items. Each of you had a part in bringing help to many in need. Thanks for being a part of our outreach.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Steele

President



Do you receive the weekly Constant Contact emails from the church? 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!

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.**

Kim O’Neill who worked so hard to take down the dead plum tree out front.

Angel from the Mighty Writers, his co-workers, and Kim O’Neill for pouring and building the cement walkway in the back of the building.

Gene Aucott, Mark Simonds and all the trustees for their work prior to the pouring making the walkway possible.

Fran Miller who has been working hard to make sure all documents are in order to be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary policy.

Food Pantry Volunteers who are a committed group of wonderful people who, each week, ensure that groceries are distributed to our neighbors in need.

The United Methodist Women who worked tirelessly to ensure we had a successful rummage sale!

Priscilla Barkman and Paulette Bryan for coordinating the Advent Bag distribution for this year!

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Chuck Dunn	11/03	Jayna Bruno	11/16
Henry Bechtel	11/03	Bonnie Wolfe	11/17
Marc Simmons	11/05	Gillian Chase	11/18
Pastor Jim Mundell	11/06	Dee Crawford	11/18
Jamie Hocking	11/07	Mel Leaman	11/18
Heather Wolfe	11/09	Holly Stewart	11/18
Chris Bruno	11/09	Aaron Boyd	11/18
Abby Herman	11/10	Ben LeSturgeon	11/20
Grace Reisinger	11/10	Lynne Strawhecker	11/21
Lauren Reisinger	11/10	Betty Mundell	11/22
George Anderson	11/11	Tom Warfel	11/22
Dick Chambers	11/11	Darlene Murphy	11/23
Jacob McMinn	11/11	Justin Lytle	11/24
Carol Sweet	11/11	Alyssa Lytle	11/24
Brian Barrett	11/13	Emily Lytle	11/24
David Covington	11/14	Kelly Hendrickson	11/24



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



An Open Table: How United Methodists Understand Communion

During a Confirmation Class, the pastor asked a group of mostly 13 and 14-year-old students to name some things Christians—and specifically United Methodists—do that most other people do not. One of the girls raised her hand and said with a smile, “We dunk our bread in grape juice.” Yes, that is different. The sacrament of Holy Communion is such a common occurrence in the landscape of our worship that its uncommon richness sometimes gets lost.

One Sacrament, Several Names

The Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, and the Eucharist are all names for this sacrament celebrated by United Methodists. Each of these names highlights an aspect of this act of worship.

According to *“This Holy Mystery”*, the United Methodist Church’s official document on communion, “The Lord’s Supper reminds us that Jesus Christ is the host and that we participate at Christ’s invitation.” Jesus invites us to take part in the special meal he ate with his disciples the night before his crucifixion, and other meals he shared in homes and on hillsides.

“The term Holy Communion invites us to focus on the self-giving of the Holy God which makes the sacrament an occasion of grace, and on the holiness of our communion with God and one another,” *“This Holy Mystery”* continues.

Finally, “Eucharist, from the Greek word for thanksgiving, reminds us that the sacrament is thanksgiving to God for the gifts of creation and salvation.”

The Services of Word and Table in the front of *The United Methodist Hymnal* lead us in celebrating the fullness of the sacrament.

Invitation

Our communion liturgy begins with words spoken on Jesus’ behalf inviting “all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.”

There are no conditions for church membership or completion of a class required.

The baptized present are all invited, even if they belong to a different church. Those not baptized are not barred from receiving, but “should be counseled and nurtured toward baptism as soon as possible,” *“This Holy Mystery”* advises.

In addition, there is no minimum age. Even baptized infants are invited. The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources with Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, explains, “To whatever degree they’re able to participate in the Great Thanksgiving—even if that’s simply being held in their mother’s arms while they sleep—they are there. They are part of what we are all doing together, so they are welcome to receive.”

Confession, Pardon, and Peace

During the next part of the service, we prepare ourselves to offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving by repenting of sin and seeking to live in peace with one another.

After praying a prayer of confession, we share words of pardon that remind us of the grace freely available to all who repent, “In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!”

The Peace then follows, where we offer one another signs of reconciliation and love, affirming our desire to live as a reconciled community in Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

During the next part of the service, the pastor leads the congregation in a prayer called The Great Thanksgiving.

“Our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving is The Great Thanksgiving,” Burton-Edwards teaches. “That’s why it’s essential that the people participate actively in this.”

We join in the ancient tradition of sacrifice by offering God our praise and thanksgiving for the wondrous gift of salvation (see Psalm 141).

We offer ourselves and our gifts of bread and wine to God with thanksgiving. Then we ask for the Holy Spirit to be poured upon us and these gifts, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ, nourishing us, who have been redeemed by his blood, to be the body of Christ in the world.

We conclude praising the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—before uniting our voices in the Lord’s Prayer.

Then the bread is broken, and the body and blood of Christ are given to those who come to receive.

Prayer After Receiving

Holy Communion brings together our worship and our work in the world.

“Communion is our meal,” Burton-Edwards explains, “It is our feeding. We need that sustenance and we need it regularly.”

In the prayer after receiving, we affirm this. We pray, “Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

All this is God’s gift to us.

Burton-Edwards continues, “We are fed with the body of Christ by the Father and empowered by the Spirit to live as Christ’s body in the world.”

Dipping bread into juice may seem a little odd, but it is an important sign of our life as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Burton-Edwards summarizes, “What we’re doing in the Eucharist is a double thing. When we receive ‘the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood,’ we are remembering. At the same time, we are also re-membered, put back together again. We pray that we may be ‘one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.’ God’s work of making us one and uniting us with Christ, with each other and in our witness and life in the world—is the ordinary way by which God feeds us, sustains us, and empowers us to live as Christians in the world.”

(By Joe Iovino. Taken from UMC.org. Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications.)

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

Contemporary Music Director

- Select and prepare music for Sunday morning contemporary worship service
- Lead and direct group of volunteer musicians and singers
- Lead weekly praise band rehearsal in preparation for Sunday service
- Part-time position
- For details, contact West Grove United Methodist Church (610) 869-9334

Handbell Choir Director

- Select and prepare music for minimum 2 octave bell choir
- Provide bell choir Prelude and Offertory for Sunday worship service once a month
- Lead weekly bell choir rehearsal
- Part-time position
- For details, contact West Grove United Methodist Church



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

Abbie Gruscavage—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
Janice Bowers - Interim Financial Secretary
Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair

Michael Duvall—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
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