



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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## December 2022



*“Therefore keep watch, (Stay awake, alert.) because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” (You have no idea what day your Master will show up!) “you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

(Matthew 24:42 & 44)

### **Approaching & Embracing the Miracles**

I don't want to brag, but this past Halloween, I met Buzz Lightyear. I mean, he personally came to my door! I gave him a couple of pieces of candy, and he seemed very happy. His muscles were bigger than I expected; must be all that candy he eats! (Julie says, don't get any ideas!) I hear what she is lovingly telling me; I think his metabolism must be different than mine. He certainly seemed to have a lot more energy at his age than I do at 64. I thought it was great that such a great superhero came to see me *personally*, and was so easily satisfied and grateful for my sharing. If you don't know it, old Buzz is well known for his mission and motivation statement, “To Infinity and Beyond!”

On November 16, I watched the launch of our latest rocket system, taking us on more exploration to the moon. The young woman at NASA describing the launch explained every detail of what was happening as it rose up, and as the rocket lifted proclaimed, “We rise to the moon and beyond!” Advent is a celebration of preparation of the true superhero coming more fully into our lives, as he comes to us all personally. Jesus has the incredible ability to embody God's grace, mercy, and love, as he lives within our hearts. This month we will be sharing passages from Isaiah. “He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths....he will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks.” The promise continues that nations will not train for or seek war anymore.

In Matthew 5, Jesus teaches during the Sermon on the Mount, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” His vision for our lives, leads us to a depth and fullness of living that brings eternal life to us now, today. He is a true superhero in showing us how, by forgiving and loving from the cross; through his patience and teachings. In a world where there is so much anger and hatred, competition and debate, it often feels like there is no room for grace and mercy. It seems any glimmer of God's love is quickly suffocated and buried.

I've never owned a sword and I'm betting most of you have never owned one either. Yet we all have our ways of arguing and disagreeing, and keeping others out, away from us. We can allow God to lead us to beat the swords of envy, competition, and argument into empathy and concern for others. Paul advises Timothy in I Timothy 2 to pray for *all*, this would include even (maybe especially) for our enemies, or people who don't perceive life the way we do. By seeing, hearing, understanding one another through God's heart, our hearts and minds are transformed, expanded and deepened, and we can strive for the maturing of the heart, mind and spirit that God intends for us all. We are no longer afraid or so hesitant about getting to know others more completely. We can live in authentic friendships of respect when we are willing to share the journey, and appreciate one another's variety of experiences.

I pray for us all that Christ will truly come into our hearts in new, exciting ways this season. May we prepare for him, make room and welcome him. For God has, and is seeking us in grace and love, and leads us to share his gifts freely with others. May you be blessed this Christmas, and be a great blessing to others, to infinity and beyond, and especially every day, here and now. – Tim



## Worship in December 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.



8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.



**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4 – Christ Is the Way**  
**Baptism & Communion**  
**Restart Early Service at 8:30**

In Jesus, we learn the Way of life God intends, is for us is to help and encourage one another. We are created to be stewards of life, creation, and especially the human heart and mind. The centering passage for our candle lighting comes from Mark 1:4 We will celebrate communion and also look at passages from Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13 The Way of Christ provides the hope, joy, and wholeness which creates peace in our hearts. We celebrate the baptism of Logan Scott Crowder, and pray his faith is a Way of life he holds in his heart forever.

We need not be so jaded by disappointments and life events, or voices that tell us we are not loveable. In Christ, we come to God in personal ways that helps us rise above false expectations, allowing God to reign in our minds, hearts and throughout our lives. There is a great steadfastness to our faith as we provide encouragement to one another and strengthen and develop hope. As we share communion, we are called to confess our reluctance to draw closer to God and each other, and allow God to lead.



**At 6:30 p.m., we will host our Christmas Music Concert**  
**(See page 10)**



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 11 – Christ Is Our Joy**  
**Early Service 8:30;**  
**Traditional 11AM**

Our scripture for the day's meditation is Isaiah 35:1-10, with an emphasis on verse 10 for the

candle lighting. We are truly joyful because God leads us to an abundance of life in creation.

Faithful people are led into the "wilderness," a place and state of heart and mind where many are afraid to go. God helps us feel at home, for the Holy Spirit's creativity is all around us, and leads us to life's greatest blessings. As Paul prays in Ephesians, "...that God may strengthen you through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith....

and that you being rooted and grounded in love....are able to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love in Christ." We'll share an affirmation from Romans, and also look at Mary's Song in Luke 1:47-55, and her faith in God.

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Sunday December 11**  
**at 7 PM**

We will host a blue Christmas service, a time when we are intentional in our focus on the grief in our lives, to entrust it to God as a way of preparing for Christ coming into our hearts and lives anew this season. We have many sources of grief today, not just from the death of a loved one. God empowers us to understand the miracle of life that we share, and





(Blue Christmas continued) embrace the depth of his heart in whatever events we experience, trusting in his creativity to renew and transform. We invite you to join us for this sacred time of fellowship together.



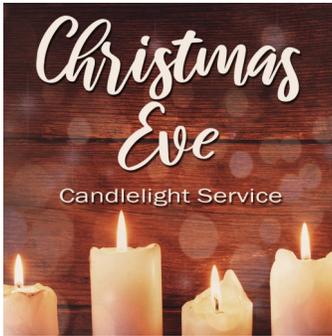
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 18 – Christ Is the Prince of Peace – Early Service 8:30; Traditional 11AM**

The scripture at the candle lighting is from Isaiah 9:6-7. Whenever we read “peace” we are most often hearing about God’s promises to make us whole. We are made whole and brought to a sense of completion best, when we are faithful stewards of what and who God has entrusted to us. It is one of life’s great ironies that many people never quite understand that we are made whole by giving away blessings in a spirit of generosity out of a real love that is beyond mere sentimentality. We are, after all, made in God’s image, and we see him in Christ, seek to see him on others, and try our best to have others see him in us. The scripture for our meditation is from Isaiah 7:10-16,

**Christmas Eve  
Saturday, December 24  
Christ Our Savior Is Born!**

We will offer three candle light services on Christmas Eve:  
**Our Family oriented service will be offered at 6 PM**  
**Our Contemporary service will be held at 8 PM**  
**And a Traditional service at 10 PM**



**Christmas Day  
December 25 – Merry Christmas!  
Christ Our Savior Is Born!  
(One service at 11AM)**

Join us for our celebration, when worship is held on Christmas morning, we seek to be closer to each other in the promises God provides, and allow Christ to be born in new ways into our hearts and lives. We are hopeful of integrating, and weaving together our fellowship time and our worship together in interactive ways. We know many families have their rituals and practices for Christmas morning and honor and respect this precious time. We also want to offer opportunities to join together and lift up our worship and thanks to God for the great gift of Christ, and live in His presence.

# Pastor's Desk

*A Full Season In December - We need your participation*

## DISCIPLE

BECOMING DISCIPLES  
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

### Disciple Bible Study

One of the great joys I have had has been in sharing a great fellowship with others in Disciple Bible study. We have several people who have expressed an interest in sharing in the study, where we read 85% of the Bible in 36 weeks, about 3-4 chapters every day; a daily time of individual devotion of about a half an hour is nurtured. We then come together once a week for about 2 hours to share what we have read and learned, and then look at a video tape that gives us more background on our readings. It's the Word of God interwoven with fellowship with sacred friends, a real Methodist experience of holiness. Please contact me if you have any interest or would like more information. We'd need to determine a day & time to meet. Call and leave a message at the office or e-mail me at [pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)

### Vision for the Restart of Early Service Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

We will again offer an additional early service at 8:30 every Sunday along with the 11AM service. At this time, we are still searching for a praise leader. We are planning an informal, not complicated worship offering the basics of prayer, a message, and a couple of songs using recordings to start. It will not be streamed on the internet. We are hopeful this will help meet many of our members who need the earlier time for a variety of reasons. Would you be able to help us with the sound system? We would appreciate your help.



### Bishop Schol's Letter of Reorganization

Bishop John Schol has sent a letter explaining some of the organizational changes the Conference is making in 2023 in order to make the most of our resources. He serves two conferences and he sees ways efforts in staff deployment and workshops and events can be combined to be more efficient and effective. Some staff can be serving both groups in the programs they create and reach more people with empowering training. Separate Cabinets will be maintained with us having our own district Superintendent serving the same number of churches. The letter is available on the Conference Web site: [Bishop Schol's Letter](#)

### Discernment Meeting Follow Up

I am very grateful for time we shared together in the discernment process, and look forward to a follow up meeting, open to all in the month of January. I'd like to host it sooner, but with the holiday season upon us, it seems the greater wisdom leads us to host it after the new year begins. I am more convinced than ever that sharing our various points of view is central to embodying our faith. Throughout my time in life, and especially in ministry, we grow and mature the most when we are willing to commit ourselves to really listening and seeking to understand in empathy what others are experiencing. Whether conservative or liberal or every position in between it is important we hear more than words and listen to hearts. To some degree we are all



# Pastor's Desk

*A Full Season In December - We need your participation*

are challenged by such efforts and have failed at it. God provides mercy and grace to help us.

In the meantime, we need to continue to share our journeys of faith in fellowship together in worship, Sunday School and Bible study. Please join us in these opportunities, and join us for the meetings we look to host. A date in January will be named in the next month. Whenever we meet, whether in in Sunday School or Bible study, or a simple person to person conversation, there are some guidelines we must keep in our hearts and minds, to honor God and each other so that we can be open to learning. We've listed them here and hope we can always strive to take steps to fulfill them. Thank you for your faithfulness in Christ.

## ***A Covenant for Our Difficult Conversations***

(Written by Rev. Dr. David Woolverton)

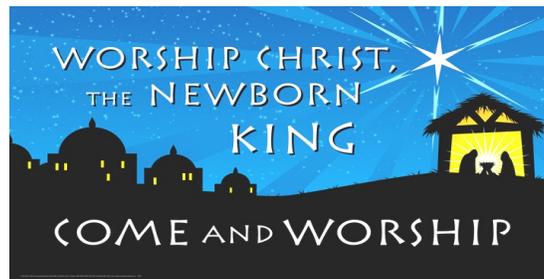
As we gather to discern both our personal and corporate direction from the Lord, we are choosing to agree to the following mutual boundaries and expectations:

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 December - We need your participation*



## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services* Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00 p.m. Our family service with music by our Memory Bells Handbell Choir  
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond with The Rev. Jim Mundell in Allison Theater  
 8:00 p.m. Our Contemporary Service with music by our PraiseWorks Band  
 10:00 p.m. Our Traditional Service with music by our Chancel Choir



**Church Office is closed on Friday, December 23rd and on Monday, December 26th, so that the staff may spend time over the holiday with their families.**

**The New Year holiday will have the office closed on Friday, December 30, 2022**



**Thank you to Linda Shiplet, Caryl Stuhrke, Nancy Duvall, Esther Culbertson, Jean Kilmartin, Priscilla Barkman and the crew from the Mighty**

**Writers, Estela Nunez, Angel Santiago, and Emma Tapia** They did a superb job cleaning the kitchen as it is readied for the annual inspection. They scrubbed for hours, so please be sure to take extra care in keeping the kitchen clean!



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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



**The cost is only \$7.00 each.**

The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 19th** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room. You may also email Donna at office@westgroveumc.org with your order.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in **Christmas Eve bulletins**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 26th after the 11:00 a.m. service or during that week. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

## Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

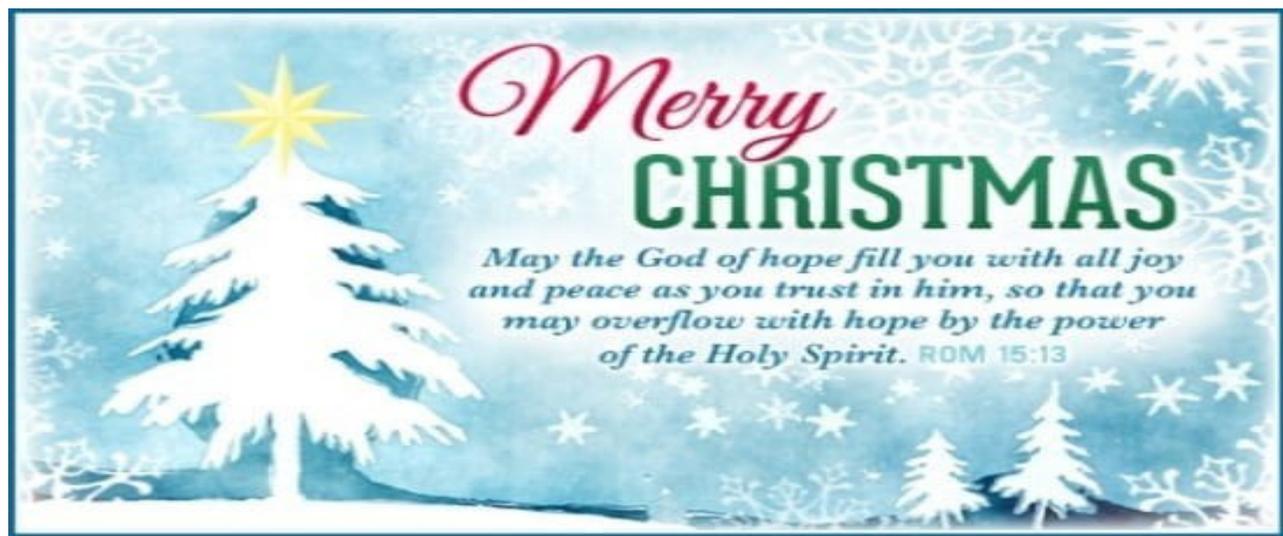
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_ x **\$7.00** each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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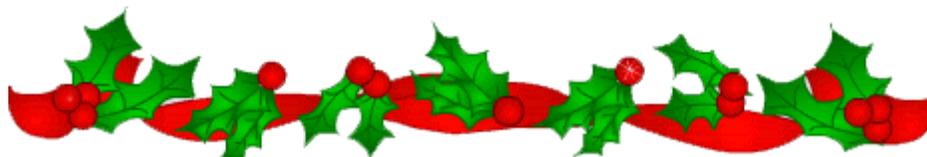


### **Advent's Weekly Themes in Lighting the Candles**

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



## **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.

### **SHARING THE SPIRIT OF GIVING WITH RESIDENTS AT TWIN PINES**



As in the past, this Christmas we will be collecting gifts to be given to the residents at Twin Pines Health Care Center in Chatham.

We have been given the names of 20 residents and their gift suggestions. Those gift tags are hanging on the small Christmas tree in the lobby.

**We ask you to wrap the gifts and put the tag on the outside of the gift. Wrapped gifts should be brought to the church and placed under the tree by Sunday December 18th.** Thank you for your generosity!



***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!



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> and continuing on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Advent Bags for Our Homebound**



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

A huge thank you to Priscilla Barkman and Paulette Bryan for coordinating the collection of gifts and distribution of our annual advent bags to our home bound members and friends. Each year 20 bags are filled with 25 gifts with scriptures to be opened each day in December leading up to Christmas Day.

Thank you UMW ladies for your generous gifts which filled these bags with various goodies.

Thank you **Edel Mullen, Betsy Smith** for helping Priscilla and Paulette assemble the advent bags preparing them for distribution. And, many thanks to all who gave of your time to visit and deliver the advent bags to their recipients.

We are so grateful for our church family and friends and are blessed to let those who are not able to worship with us in person know that they are cared for and loved by West Grove UMC.



**Advent  
Bags**

**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, November 11 at noon. We welcomed Lisa Glass, a local EMT who presented useful tips on staying safe.

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, December 9 at noon** for a covered dish luncheon as we welcome home Steve and Melanie May as they present their:

### **Adventure of a Lifetime!**

Our own Steve and Melanie May walked the entire Appalachian Trail this past year, starting at Springer Mt in Georgia back in mid-March and finishing atop Mt Katahdan in Maine in early October. At 2,195 miles the Appalachian Trail is the longest hiking trail in the world, that many people have hiked parts of, but few have completed, let alone completed in one year. Steve and Melanie will share their experiences, the scenic beauty of the trail, wildlife encountered, friends made, and the unique challenges that only an adventure like this can bring. Will they be willing to do something like this again? See you all in December and find out.

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

### **JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together**

The JULIET s will be meeting **Saturday, December 10th** 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)

## ***Food Bank Update***

### **Changes Coming to our Church Food Pantry**

Beginning in January, we will be adding another day to our church food pantry distribution. This is due to an increase in the number of families that are utilizing our pantry. The new distribution hours will be Wednesdays from 5:00 - 6:00 and Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00. We will need additional volunteers to cover both days. We hope to have enough volunteers that each person will only need to be scheduled twice per month, unless she/he wants to serve more often. If volunteering is something you are interested in, and are not presently on the volunteer schedule, please let Joan Leaman ([jmleaman@comcast.net](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net)) know of your interest. If you are interested in helping with the pantry but aren't available during the times of distribution, there are other ways that you can support this ministry. Again, contact Joan if you would like to help.



Joan Leaman, Coordinator



# 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  |  |

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

**“An Advent Prayer”**

The season of Advent lasts four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year Advent begins on November 27 and ends Christmas Eve, December 24th.

During Advent, the church, looks back in celebration of Christ's birth while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

To help celebrate Advent and prepare us for Christmas, the following prayer will help cut away the distractions of the season and focus our heart and mind on the birth of Jesus Christ. Pray it often to realize that Jesus is the hope of our lives, now and forever.

***Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, during this season of Advent come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven as the first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever. Jesus came as a baby born in a manger. Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree, waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me. Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth, when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us, your presence came that night. And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light." "Do***



***not be afraid," they said to the shepherds in the field.***

***Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield. Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your***

***call. Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all. Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice. Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise. Allow me to slow down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush. During parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush. This Christmas Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day. Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray. Amen.***

*by Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart" (modified)*

Merry Christmas to all. Pastor Jim



*Advent*



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](mailto:cboughter@methodistservices.org) or 215.877.1925 ext.104 or visit [www.methodistservices.org](http://www.methodistservices.org)



# YOUTH 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.

**December youth group dates: December 4 & 11**  
**No youth group December 25 & January 1, 2023**

## Youth Group Christmas party

### *Comfy Christmas*

**December 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Our Christmas party is all about comfort and coziness! Students are invited to wear their favorite Christmas pj's or coziest outfit and bring their favorite pillow/blanket/cozy things for our Christmas movie on the big screen in the Sanctuary. We'll have food and a hot chocolate bar to complement our cozy party!



## Youth Summer Service Trip 2023

**June 18-24, 2023**

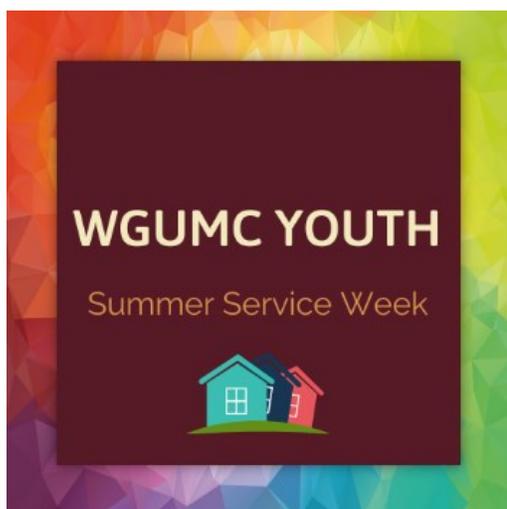
**Cleveland, OH**

Our summer work trip team will be heading to Ohio this June to work with Next Step Ministries. We will be a part of home repairs for residents in the greater Cleveland area, as well as working with social service organizations in the area.

Registration is open! Any students entering grade 8 in 2023 through graduating seniors 2-22 are invited to attend.

Information about the trip, including cost, important dates and COVID related information is available.

Contact Melanie Hartley for information or to sign up!



# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## All Worship Sunday

**Sunday, December 4th, 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 Sunday school

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

**Room 12**

**Advent Unit: Shepherds & Angels**

**November 27- December 18**



*This Advent we will look at the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the Shepherds, the first people to hear about the birth of Jesus, and the angels who shared the news. We will learn through art, cooking, and stories.*

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!



# 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.

## Open Grow Serve



“Some people have failed to recognize angels visiting them and have missed out on God’s blessings.’ These words by a preacher I heard came like a hammer to my mind as Jonathan was struggling to get into the vehicle after work one day. I paused for a while, calmed myself down, and gently helped him.

‘Is Jonathan an angelic visitation to me that I am failing to recognize?’ I pondered. His regular prayer ‘May God give you long life,’ too, came vividly into my mind.” Read a brief reflection from a Global Ministries missionary doctor that will leave you looking and giving thanks for surprising reminders of God’s presence in the world.

**Please partner with missionaries like Dr. Tendai Manyeza by making a gift, today.**

GLOBAL MINISTRIES | UMCOR  
458 Ponce De Leon Ave, NE

Building A, Suite 1  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Need Help? [donationhelp@umcmmission.org](mailto:donationhelp@umcmmission.org)  
Have questions? 800.862.4246

## BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

12/02 Katie Barrett  
12/02 Kay Yates  
12/06 Sandi Hampton  
12/06 Matthew Rinehimer  
12/07 Grace Featherston  
12/08 Harvey Chase  
12/08 Timothy Shaub  
12/08 Ed Tolmie  
12/13 Anna Castaldi  
12/13 Bill Ditzel  
12/14 Jo Ann Coates  
12/15 Sean Barrett  
12/15 Karen Underwood  
12/15 Dana Winters  
12/16 Sydney Curtis  
12/17 Ian Ditzel



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

12/17 Len Kuch  
12/17 Debbie Schneider  
12/18 Sandra Carmichael  
12/18 Jessica Jones  
12/19 Roann Bates Schneider  
12/20 Catie Weingarten  
12/21 Kayla Springer  
12/24 Mollie Miller  
12/24 Carol Schoff  
12/25 Brad Beauchamp  
12/18 Kim O'Neill  
12/29 Alexandra Smith  
12/30 Christine Hilgar  
12/30 Betty Lafferty  
12/31 Max Herrera  
12/31 Simon Mullen

# 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



**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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) or call the office at 610-869-9334. I will be happy to add you to the list!



**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

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



*~ Open, Grow, Serve ~*

*At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.*

**The Reverend Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor**

[pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

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

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

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

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)

OPEN—Handbell Choir Director

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director

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

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Maira Tena—Sexton

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

**Christ Servant Ministers**

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

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

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

**Board and Committee Leadership**

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair

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