



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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

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

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

## February 2023



(Romans 7:15-18) “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability.”

### Change, Transformation, & Resolutions

At the start of a year, many people pursue the world’s most popular strategy for maximizing success, and then also wonder, *Why did I make that New Year’s resolution?* It turns out someone has spent many years trying to understand why people make resolutions. One person who wants to understand this method of behavioral and change is **John C. Norcross**, professor of psychology at the University of Scranton and one of the first scholars to research the practice.

Sceptics expect most people will abandon their plans and the whole effort and process is worthless. Yet a surprisingly high

percentage of people follow them for at least six months. Dr. Norcross says these goals are more likely to drive significant change when they are realistic, specific, and *oriented toward accomplishing something good instead of avoiding something bad*. Dr. Norcross believes New Year’s resolutions are also useful because they provide an essential lesson about the nature of progress. It is not instantaneous. It is incremental. Even major breakthroughs are made possible by modest gains.

If you’ve had a resolution, what has been your goal? Perhaps a sincere, humble promise to eat healthier, drink less alcohol, exercise more, meditate, write a journal, learn a musical instrument, learn how to make something, or change behaviors. There is a deeply human desire for *self-improvement* and it fascinates many, especially Dr. Norcross, who says he studies New Year’s resolutions because of what they represent. “I’m interested in how people change on their own,” he said. And never do so many people change so much about their behavior than during the new year. Maybe that is why so many Methodists over the years hosted a New Year’s eve “Watchnight” service, to set the year off to a great start centered in faith.

Originally, in late December 1985, Dr. Norcross began his work asking a local Pennsylvania television station to encourage people to call his team for a study on New Year’s resolutions. Soon the team had 200 volunteers who agreed to be contacted for subsequent interviews, and to monitor their progress navigating resolutions. When the researchers predicted how many of the volunteers would stick to their resolutions after six months, their expectations ranged from 10% to 25%. The actual result turned out to be 40%. Even though a majority of people still failed, Dr. Norcross was amazed at the success rate. The New Year’s resolution social ritual was not just a ploy to sell gym memberships.

He published a research paper in 1989 and showed resolutions were more powerful than he’d suspected, then he ran another experiment in 1995 to double check his results and see if anything had changed. This time, instead of studying volunteers for his study, his undergraduate assistants used the Scranton, Pa. phone book and randomly cold-called strangers in the week after Christmas.

By the new year, they had interviewed 159 people with resolutions and 123 with similar plans and motivations and goals but no formal resolutions, and they followed them all, both groups, for the next six months. Once again, more than 40% of those with resolutions stuck with them, but *only 4% of those without resolutions achieved the behavioral changes* they had in mind.

Most New Year's resolutions are meant to be temporary, and the 40% who were successful after six months dropped to 19% after two years. So, that's one in five people who managed to change something about themselves. Some might say, failure is a matter of perspective. Even those who have studied resolutions say, like a lot of human behavior, they would like to know a lot more, in part because the entire body of academic literature is limited to the study of only several thousand people, in a world of billions, in multiple cultures. There have been more people in a single exercise class than the number of people who have been studied.

One researcher, Blake Hallinan said, "I was definitely surprised to find so little research," He based his research using more than 160,000 tweets. Another researcher, Per Carlbring, a professor of clinical psychology at Stockholm University, wanted to see if resolutions were as bad as their reputation among many people. He discovered that *how New Year's resolutions were framed helped determine how effective they were.*

For example, if you want to spend less time on your phone, you have a better chance if you commit to doing something positive, constructive in its place. Filling a positive where there was a negative is powerful. Soon it no longer feels like work. It becomes a positive routine. While phones may distract us, they can also be a tool to help us focus. More research is being done, for there is much more to learn. One additional, successful approach is to make a game out of the effort. When users envision and assign themselves daily tasks, they suddenly feel an urge to fulfill them. They want to extend their success streak. A phone app has been created and its sales numbers rose dramatically in late December into early January, as people look for ways to hold themselves accountable to their resolutions. "Every now and then," said Mr. Zervaas, the creator of the app said, "you get this reminder that it's actually making a meaningful difference in day-to-day lives."

### **Strength In Christ**

Our fellowship is more than a *self*-help group; our fellowship's strength is in Christ, seeking a deeper relationship with God by faith. Our focus is an extremely essential, strong approach to life. I wonder what resolutions would be like if people were more engaged in faith practices like devotions of prayer and hearing God's Word in scripture, worship, and service. How much more empowered we can be when we develop trusted friendships together in Christ. The article was in the Wall Street Journal on January 15, and it provides hope for many people who are trying to grow and learn in life. Sometimes, especially today, it can seem like we are not getting very far for our efforts. In Christ, we have a different perspective on what makes life successful.

### **Not by Ourselves Alone**

Paul realized he could not live a grace-filled, transformed life by himself. The more he tried by himself, he seemed to exclude God and never broke the cycle of faults and sins. He needed something, some *One* more. We often forget as American Christians of the great faith the early Christians had to welcome Paul into their fellowship, and how they helped him with his blindness. God's love and grace in Christ was lived, and Paul's life was transformed because people believed, trusted that God was at work in Paul's life, even though he had built up a reputation for persecuting and executing Christians. They took him in, mentored and shared with him. By some measures it took three years of mentoring and living in faithful fellowship for him to grow into the Christian he became.

So we learn, transformation happens in steps. It is not immediate or all at once the way many want to portray it. It is not instantaneous; it is incremental. We seek to embrace and be embraced by the holiness of God and live a holy life, touching and experiencing what is sacred. I pray we all continue to see how God can transform life when we are "resolute" with a vision and they have come from him. With God, we can make significant changes when our resolutions are realistic, specific, and oriented toward accomplishing something good instead of avoiding something bad. Please join us in our efforts to faithfully follow Christ, and know you have a place in his heart and here in our sacred friendships together. ~ Tim



## Worship in February 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.



### February 5—Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany ~ Communion and All Worship Sunday

We will celebrate communion together as we examine I Corinthians 4:1-5 and Matthew 5:13-20. So many times we can feel like we can never set things right in life, and the truth is we can't...on our own. We need God, and the more we seek the real truth from God, the stronger our lives can be when we allow God to set the foundation for our lives and hearts.

### February 12 – Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

Rev. Dr. David Frame will preach for us. His message is entitled "Hard Sayings of Jesus". Matthew 5:21-37 and I Corinthians 3:1-9 are the recommended scriptures for the day. We are so grateful for David's scholarship and dedication to Christ, especially as he shares God's Word with us.



Pastor Jim will preach for us as the recommended scripture is Matthew 17:1-9 and II Peter 1:16-21. We know Jim's heart is in sharing his faith in Christ.

### February 22 – Ash Wednesday

We will offer a service at 7PM and hope everyone can join us as we begin the season of Lent, a time when we are very intentional in remembering how much we need God's mercy to live life fully. Traditionally, Lent has also been a time of preparation for joining our Christian fellowship, and so it has been a time to especially exercise great care in the ways we relate with others. We remember the journey of Jesus in the desert and his instructions to us as disciples to exercise care in the ways we live as we sacrifice and live humble lives together.



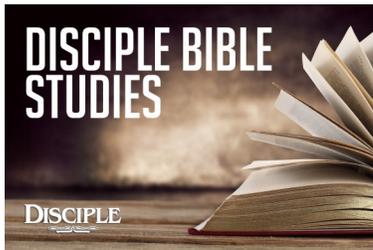
### February 26 – First Sunday in Lent

Our scripture is from Matthew 4:1-11 and Romans 5:12-19. Jesus is tempted in the desert. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate that leads us to deepen our understand of the truth. So then it also challenges us to deepen our journey of faith together, and when we do, our lives bless others.



**Jenner's Pond Residents:** Join us for worship on **February 12th at 11 a.m.** On your closed circuit TV and in-person in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

# Pastor's Desk



## Disciple Bible Study, Journey in Faith

A number of years ago, way back in the 1980's, a group of Methodists were lamenting that fewer people were spending time in God's Word in personal devotions. It seemed like in many lives, opportunities to grow closer to God and live in the strength of Christ was being lost, slipping away. So, they felt led by the Spirit to create a ministry that could be taken to local churches that would build sacred, holy fellowship in community together, and interweave God's Word, biblical scholarship with practical living in faith. Our heritage as Methodists has its foundation in small groups who are intentional in sharing the journey of faith together. And Disciple Bible Study was begun. Participants spend 36 weeks in personal devotions in prayer and scripture, listening for God's leading in their lives, and then sharing their insights in community together once a week.

We make small and large decisions every day whether to grow closer to God, or to drift away, or even reject and leave Him. I am grateful for Disciples Bible Study and what it has meant for my life in getting closer to God, and then getting closer with others in faith. I give thanks for the ways so many people have said "yes" to God through countless generations. Disciple launched a great blessing of growth in my faith. I've shared in over a dozen groups over the years, including one for youth. I hold up hope that we can again host this study and share fellowship together. Several people expressed an interest, just not quite enough to hold a group; 12 participants is ideal, 6-8 can work. Are you interested? Please contact Tim or Donna and let us know.

## Courageous Dialogues – Sharing Our Views of Sexuality

You are invited: On **Tuesday, February 7, from 9AM to**

**1PM a special workshop is being offered at Gretna Glen** our camp (near Mount Gretna) where participants are invited to come and share fellowship in worship and in courageous dialogue in small groups, sharing one story that would help others understand one's views on sexuality. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided. The cost is \$20, scholarships are available. Please contact pastor Tim if you need assistance in registering which is made through our Conference web site at [EPAUMC.org](http://EPAUMC.org)



Sexuality is a sacred part of our lives and one of the most complex dynamics we share. When we hold differing views on it, as Christians we need to take time to listen in empathy to what others have been through, to learn, grow, and mature together. The Bible is full of stories about faith journeys, and those stories are not always complimentary of the people who lived them, but the stories are seeking to lift up God's faithfulness, and the ways God has helped bless and nurture life, and our relationship with Him. They teach us as they can prepare us for life's challenges, and they enrich and help to multiply our blessings. It is vital we strive and work to be active listeners, and understand one another's experiences and points of view. Much of the Bible's guideline and laws are entrusted to us, so that we might have more trusting, intimate relationships, where we can be more ready to share and grow from insights together, and build a closer, deeper community together.

# Pastor's Desk ~ Continued

Stories also heal, as they provide identity and understanding; they can help nurture empathy, as they stretch us to understand God and one another. Sharing stories is a way to honor the Shema, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. I have learned so much from the stories that people have shared with me. You are invited to come and share your story to help in our understanding together in the larger community of faith. In a world so polarized and divided we have choices we can make to live faithfully in the grace and fellowship God has entrusted to us.

**The next workshop is planned for Tuesday, February 7 at Gretna Glen, from 9AM to 1PM**

## **Our Core Values for the Courageous Dialogues and as a Church Include:**

- 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 (using scripture; tradition; reason & experience)
- Hear each other's heart/share our faith journey
- Stop the “flight or fight” response and provide space for connection in sacred relationships
- We hope to provide a model for the local church & for individuals for this & other issues
- Open-mindedness & outward mindset (seeing the other person as loved by God in Christ)
- Appreciation for diversity in complex perspectives, and God's creativity

It takes courage that only God can provide to share such an intimate part of who we are. Yet our Lord and Savior has done so much for us to help us claim the fullness of life God has offered in His Covenant to us. Now we are called to respond with our best, our all. I pray that God will continue to lead us in patience, empathy, compassion and grace to be the people who fulfill His promises, listening and sharing our hearts bringing the fullness of life in His fellowship to our world. I pray you will join us in one of these gatherings, and I pray we are led as a congregation to open our hearts in faithful ways with Christ, to share deeper fellowship with each other. May God leads us in building trust together in Him.



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 or someone you know would like me to visit. 484.720.8626  
[pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)

## **Angels Bible Study**

### **Lead by Pastor Jim**

### **Mondays at 6:30 beginning February 6th**



#### WHY WE SHOULD STUDY ANGELS

- Angels play a very prominent role in Scripture.
- They have an important function in the plan of God.
- Angels reminds us of the reality of the unseen spiritual world.
- Understanding that angels protect believers will comfort us.
- Realizing angels are observing us will encourage us to live more

consistent lives.

The study of angels can have many benefits. Our faith in God's care for us is strengthened when we understand the ministry of (Good & Evil) angels.

The study of Angels begins on February 6, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary of West Grove UMC.

- Week 1 Characteristics of Angels
- Week 2 Ministry of Angels
- Week 3 Evil Angels
- Week 4 Guardian Angels

### **Upcoming Chancel Choir Cantata**

Along with all of our regular Sunday morning anthems, the Chancel Choir is beginning to work on a cantata for Palm Sunday. We'd love to have you join us as we rehearse and prepare for the cantata--"Amazing Love."



The life and ministry of Jesus is characterized by His extraordinary love for others. The cantata-- Amazing Love! walks us down the road to the cross as we recount the final hours of our Lord's life when He was rejected, mocked, beaten, and ultimately crucified by the very people He had come to redeem. Jesus' own words served as a foretelling of what was to come: Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13) This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (I John 4:9-10) That is an amazing kind of love! That is the kind of love--the kind of sacrifice--that commands a personal response.

**We'd love to have you sing with us on Thursday evenings at 6:45 in the sanctuary** as we prepare for this meaningful experience. Please reach out to me if you have any question or need further information.

Betsy Smith

musicmomva@aol.com



**OFFERING  
ENVELOPES ARE  
FINALLY IN AND  
CAN BE PICKED UP  
IN THE CHURCH  
LOBBY!!**

Due to a company error, our 2023 Offering Envelopes that were ordered in September have just arrived. We thank you for your

understanding and patience. Please know that your offering is important to the on-going ministry of the church **Do you no longer wish to have envelopes, or would like to offer electronically?** Please advise the office at [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) so that we can make the change to our records and offer any assistance needed.



**Giving statements for 2022** have been prepared and you should have received them by now. If you did not, or have questions regarding your statement, please contact the church office.

Thank you for faithful and generous support of the missions and ministries of the West Grove United Methodist Church!

**Lap Robes and Prayer Shawls Needed.**

Do you crochet, knit or sew? For several years, our church has supplied prayer shawls and blankets, first to an ICU unit in Baltimore and now to Christian Care ICU through our Knit Wit volunteers. Since the pandemic, they have not been meeting. We thank Margaret Rubincan who brought in at least a dozen shawls and lap robes a couple of months back.

When loved ones come to the hospital to say goodbye, the blankets and shawls are used to cover the tubing and apparatus, lights are turned low, non-denominational prayer books are supplied, and the families are able to pray if they like and say good-bye to their loved ones. The shawls and lap robes have been a great comfort to many families and they have expressed how glad they were to have such a peaceful time. They take great comfort in taking home the shawl or blanket.

If you can make a lap robe, shawl or small blanket, please let Donna Fackler know. Pastor Tim will pray over them and she will be sure to get them delivered to the ICU.

Thank you.



## Retired Active People



## R.A.P.

**Friday, February 10th**

**Noon**

Thank you to everyone who joined us January 13 as we gathered for lunch and a time of fellowship. We welcomed Tom Yarnall who shared interesting stories from his time as a policeman in West

Chester.

As always, we enjoyed delicious desserts provided by some of our members. Please consider volunteering to bring a dessert and/or helping us with our setup and cleanup. Everyone's help is appreciated.



Please join us on February 10 at noon in the sanctuary at West Grove UMC for our next gathering. Bring your bagged lunch and enjoy provided desserts and beverages.

This month we welcome our members, Mike Duvall and Dr. Bob Hayes as they share information about the Water Street Mission located in Lancaster. If you are not familiar with this ministry, we encourage you to join us as we learn more. According to their website, "Each day Water Street seeks to go beyond providing basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. We invite each man, woman, and child to experience restoration in all areas of life."

Again, thank you to everyone who helps make our monthly gatherings possible.

Bring a friend or two! Everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at [sar57ver@verizon.net](mailto:sar57ver@verizon.net) or 610-869-3863 so we know how many to plan for. Also, if you are able to provide a dessert, please let Sara Ann know.

Hope to see you on February 10th!

RAP COMMITTEE

Paulette Bryan, Cindy Haley, Joyce Lewis, Sara Ann Ramberger, Caryl Stuhrke

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

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

The JULIETs will be meeting **Saturday, February 11th** 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)

## Tools for Ministry dates, sites set for March 2023



### Building up disciples through Tools for Ministry

EPA has set three March dates and three locations for the 2023 Tools for Ministry church leadership education events. The half-day academies, each offering two sessions of diverse courses, will occur onsite, rather than online, for the first time since 2020. EPA members may attend any Tools session at any location. The South and East districts will host a session together March 4 at Palmer Theological Seminary in St. Davids.

More information and registration to come.

## Apply for Scholarships

Seventeen Eastern PA Conference students are among over 2,000 United Methodists who received a total of \$4 million in financial assistance in 2022 from the denomination's Office of Loans and Scholarships. The total awarded to EPA recipients was \$20,800 in 2022.

Scholarships for United Methodist Students

The UM Higher Education Foundation offers scholarships to UM students attending UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries in the U.S. **Apply by March 1 at [umhef.org/apply](https://umhef.org/apply)** for the 2023-2024 academic year. **(UMHEF scholarships are separate from those offered by the UMC's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.)**

**United Methodist students may apply for a Fall 2023 GBHEM scholarship online until March 30, 2023, at [www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication](https://www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication).** View the video "GBHEM Scholarships Make an Impact in the Lives of Students."



## Helping our Community

Through information shared by the Mighty Writers, a need for shoes was initially discovered. There are many children who do not have sufficient shoes. As the discussion progressed, more needs arose and the following is a list of those needs. Donations can be put in the black bins in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your caring and generosity!

All sizes for children and adults are needed. They can be gently used or new:

- Shoes
- Boots
- Socks
- Underwear
- Men's jeans

## Trustees' Update



The trustees have been busy caring for our building to ensure we have a comfortable place to worship and gather. We have many small projects underway and one very large one that we want to highlight. Stoltzfus Home Improvements (Honey Brook) has been contracted to install our new roof! If our winter weather continues to cooperate with no snow, work is scheduled for late January/early February. We thank you for your patience while the work is being completed. We are always looking for new people to share your ideas and talents on our committee. Please reach out if you are interested in learning more about the important work we do.



This is our **17th year** of donating boxed valentines to the children of Penn London Elementary who do not have Valentines to give to their classmates.

Please consider buying a box of valentines and dropping it off in the collection box provided in the church lobby. You may also leave them at the office door or in shopping basket outside of the front lobby doors.. **We will be collecting the valentines now through Sunday, February 5th.** Thank you!

## Church Food Pantry Update

We are anticipating a significant increase in the families utilizing our food pantry, starting in February. For the past 2 ½ years the Mighty Writers have been distributing food from our parking lot every Friday. They are now shutting down their drive-thru distribution and encouraging their families to attend another food pantry near their home. Since many of their families are from the West Grove area, we imagine a good number of them will be coming to our pantry. Mighty Writers will assist us with this increase by offering their volunteers and assisting us in procuring more food donations.

The Chester County Food Bank has been very supportive and will increase the amount of food they provide us. They have loaned us both an industrial refrigerator and freezer for our pantry. Additionally, the food bank has some volunteers, that will be helping us.

**We are distributing food every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 and Thursdays from 1:00-2:00. There are several ways you can support this outreach. Additional volunteers, are always appreciated. To learn of the many ways volunteers can be of help, please contact Joan Leaman at 484-643-2181.**

**We also need on-going food donations. Currently the list of most sought after items includes canned vegetables, tuna, corn tortillas, canned jalapenos, cereal, crackers, cooking oil, ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise. The families also appreciate household items like dish detergent, soap, toothpaste and sanitizing wipes.** If the church is not open, you may always leave donations in the shopping cart by the front doors. If you find it easier to give a monetary donation to help with the cost of purchasing food and other items for the pantry, we would be thrilled to receive your contributions.

We covet your prayers as we adequately prepare for new food pantry clients. Our goal is to not only feed their bodies but to provide hope, friendship and on-going relationships.



**PASTOR JIM'S**  
**CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN**  
 helping us to live the Christian life  
 February 2023

February, the middle month of winter, is full of events that makes this short month very active. It is Black History Month, February 2 and is Ground Hog Day, the 14th is Valentine's Day, and the 20th is Presidents' Day, celebrating the birthdays of Abe Lincoln on the 12th and George Washington on the 22nd . Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent, is the 22nd .

However, I want to look at one event for my February "Christian Living Column", and it is in reference to Valentine's Day. The world sees this day as a day of "love". However, let's look at it from God's point of view and let's see what we can learn about His Love.

Let's look at the characteristics of God's love.

1. God's love is infinite, limitless, immense. Psalm 103:11, "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His love for those who fear Him."
2. God's love is eternal. Jeremiah 31:3, The Lord said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."
3. God's love is permanent, changeless. How quickly human "love" can turn or fail. God's love is not like this. His love is unchanging, constant, and never fails.
4. God's love is holy. God's love is always an expression of God's holiness. It is also directed toward



producing holiness in us. God's love seeks to make us holy. It is communicated to us through the Holy Spirit: Romans 5:5, "And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

5. God's love is sacrificial

Love comes at a high cost, and the one who loves is the one who willingly pays the price. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

The more we know and learn about God's love—its character, fullness, and blessedness—the more our hearts will be drawn to Him.

Psalm 36:5-7 summarizes God's love, "Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."

Pastor Jim

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
**BREAKFAST AND GATHERING**

The monthly breakfast meeting of the men and youth of our church will be **Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the church.** There will be a light breakfast with dishes provided by our men. If you would like to provide a breakfast dish please speak with Pastor Jim or Mike DuVall. The objective of our gathering is to grow our spiritual life for the glory of God. We invite the men of the church to join us. If you plan on attending, please let us know so we can provide sufficiently for those coming. Pastor Jim and Mike DuVall.

A BIG  
*thank you*  


To My Church Family,

I am overwhelmed with your generosity! Thank you for the Christmas gift that SPRC shared on your behalf. It truly touched my heart and I am so glad to be the Church Administrator in such a wonderful house of God.

As many of you know, I have bought a house in West Grove and I will be using your gift to help with all the things a new house ends up needing!

With a grateful heart,  
 Donna Fackler

*Thank you*

Thank you all so much for the kind and generous staff Christmas gift. I am very blessed by each of you and am blessed to be a part of the WGUMC family!

Betsy Smith



## United Methodist Women's Spring Rummage Sale Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th

It seems so far away, but as we all know, it will be spring before we know it.

Take some time to “rummage” through those closets, cubbies, attics and basements over the winter. Get ready for a fresh start this spring by bringing all those “treasures” to the church for their annual spring rummage sale!

The donations are appreciated and the UMW uses the proceeds to support missions in our own community as well as worldwide.

Due to lack of storage space, we cannot accept donations before April 23rd.

If this is a problem, contact Donna in the church office to see if we can make alternative arrangements. Thank you!

## 2023-2024 Preschool Registration Dates



Enroll now for  
preschool

### CMO & PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

**Coming soon! Current and Church Families on Feb. 1st, Alumni Families on Feb. 3rd, and Open to the Community on Feb. 6th.**

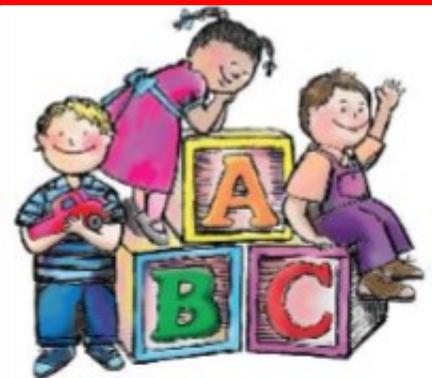
Registration (pdf) forms can be found on our website ([www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)) under CMO & Preschool—Registration.

If you have questions, contact Abbie Gruscavage, Director at 610-806-5393 or [cmo@westgroveumc.org](mailto:cmo@westgroveumc.org)

## West Grove UMC

### Children's Morning Out and Preschool

Our first month of 2023 has flown by and the children had fun learning about winter weather (wish we actually had some this month!), animals, and fun! Our Prek Classes are working hard learning their letter of the week and incorporating fun ways to practice writing. We have been able to continue playing outside in the fresh air and are grateful for the mild weather.



Our preschool held an Open House on January 17th and we are hopeful that some new families in our community were able to see the wonderful things happening here at WGUMC!

Registration for the upcoming school year will begin on February 1st for current and church families, February 3rd for alumni of the Preschool, and February 6th for new families. Please pass along this information to anyone who might be interested.

We have continued our partnership with Pasquale's Pizza in New London and are offering their delicious pizza kits twice a month. With each kit sold, a portion of the proceeds will go right back to the preschool program. Give it a try! Each kit makes two pizzas and is \$15. The kits will be delivered to the church on Tuesday, February 7th as well as Tuesday, February 21st. Please order by the Friday before. There is a sign up sheet hanging on the Preschool Information Board across from the bathrooms.

We thank you for your continued support in our preschool program!

*Abbie Gruscavage, Preschool Director*

# 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.

**Youth Group schedule: February 2023**

**February 5, 19, 26—No Youth Group February 12**



### Confirmation 2023



Over the past five months, we have been busy in confirmation class learning about the history of Christianity, the Methodist Church, and our beliefs about God and Jesus. On January 21 our group took a trip to Historic St. George's United Methodist Church, the oldest Methodist Church in continuous use in the United States. We learned about how the church started, the historical events that took place there, as well as the history racism and the split of the African Methodist Episcopal church. We took away a lot of facts and things to reflect upon as we move into the future of

the church our faith.



**Youth Summer Service Week Chili Cook-off Fundraiser**  
**Sunday, March 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**



Things are heating up as our students and leaders prepare for our summer work trip to

Ohio!

Do you think you have a prize-winning chili? **Enter the chili cook-off on March 5!** If not, come join us for a night of good food and good company. Plus: YOU get to be a judge and decide who the winner will be!

There will also be a “Guess the amount” candy jar, information about our trip and

fundraising needs. All proceeds go towards the students of Youth Summer Service

Week trip.

**To enter the contest: \$12 entrance fee, sign up by Wednesday, March 1. See Melanie for a registration form and for more information!**

**Attendees: \*\*\$7 per adult to taste all the chili's you like and judge in the competition!**

**\*\*Contestants do not pay to attend.**

**\*\* Kid's meals are available upon request (hot dog & chips)**

**Registration forms for contestants will be available on Sunday mornings in the lobby, or contact Melanie Jones at [childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)**



# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



## All Worship Sunday

**Sunday, February 5th, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Services**

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

**February 12, 19, 26**

**during the 9:30 a.m. worship service**



Children's worship is offered during the worship service for children in grades K-4.

Children will have the opportunity to learn the scripture lesson of the day as well as worship practices of the church, and the church seasons. Children will begin in the worship service with their families and be dismissed to follow our volunteer leader to Room 12 after the Moment For All Ages.

~~~~~

### Children's Sunday school

**Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 a.m., Room 12**

***Winter Unit: Moses and The Burning Bush***

***January 8—February 19***



We will be finishing up our story of Moses and the burning bush this month. We've done some amazing art, made delicious haystack cookies and explored some science around fire!

Moses had fled Egypt and lived a quiet life in the wilderness. No one knew where he was...Except God. We will be learning about this miraculous story of the bush that did not burn, as well as explore how God uses all people to create a just and righteous world.

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!

# Open Grow Serve



## OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

Winter is bringing many gifts to the church! We have had meetings, events, fellowship time and hosted groups. 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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org).

### A Big Thank You to:

**DAVE TALLEY** who put in a new hook up for our food pantry freezer and all the other jobs we are unaware of!

**JOAN LEAMAN** who has tirelessly been working to get the Food Pantry up and running in a new “shopping” model. She and the volunteers have been doing a great job!

**MICHAEL DUVALL and the Tech Team.** You see them on Sunday morning, but they spend hours volunteering their time and talents to making all the parts work on Sunday.

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVANTS** who help by Ushering, Greeting, Roaming, helping the children through children’s worship and Sunday school, offering counters and our lay readers.

**BRIAN THE PRESCHOOL DAD** who has been volunteering to brave the weather and change our sign as needed out by Guernsey Road. Great job!

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

02/04 Seth Michaels  
 02/04 Emily Fulton  
 02/05 Patricia Kilmartin  
 02/05 Jeanette Stryjewski  
 02/06 Mary Kilmartin  
 02/06 James Kilmartin  
 02/07 Tim Mullen  
 02/07 Jen Dunn  
 02/07 Mila Capuano  
 02/09 Peter Mullen  
 02/09 Cecilia Figueroa  
 02/09 Sophie May  
 02/10 Laura Stephenson  
 2/10 Jenna Miller  
 02/12 Andrew Herman  
 02/12 Joan Leaman



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

02/12 Olivia Rinehimer  
 02/14 Donna Fackler  
 02/14 Cecily Eason  
 02/16 Sydney Simonds  
 02/16 Dylan Curtis  
 02/17 Amy Castaldi  
 02/18 Wayne Howard  
 02/18 Reed Hadly  
 02/18 Wesley Boyd  
 02/19 Connie Simcox  
 02/19 Katherine Whelan  
 02/22 Yasmine Smith  
 02/23 Carol McGinley  
 02/26 Rachelle Schneider  
 02/27 Lena Douglas  
 02/27 Evelyn Herrera





**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)



**2023**

*~ 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 Jones—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**

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 - Trustee Chair

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 Jones - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Missions Chair

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