



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove
United Methodist Church
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November 2015



*"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise; Psalm 138:1 "*

November is sometimes called the month of gratitude. Perhaps, it is celebration of Thanksgiving; perhaps, it is the cold and dark that leads us to reflection; perhaps, it is the gratitude that bubbles up in us towards the end of the year. Whatever it might be, however it might come, I find myself in a grateful space.

I am grateful for the diverse gifts of our PraiseWorks band as they make each song an offering of worship and call us to join them in centering ourselves on the greatness of who God is and discipleship to become who God has called us to be.

I am grateful for the creativity of our Chancel Choir as they offer incredible musical offerings, add additional musical talents and instruments, enhance their anthems with multimedia PowerPoints, and provide musical leadership for our 11:00 worship service.

I am grateful for the work of our Christian Education team as they started a new model of Sunday School for our children 4-6th grade that is engaging more children. Their new unit on the book of Ruth reminds us that God is with us to make bad situations redeemed for the good.

I am grateful for the commitment and diligence of our technology team who have recently migrated our website, created additional infrastructure, purchased and supported new computers, and vision about how our technology is a vital part of sharing the love of God with others and transforming lives for Christ.

I am grateful for the hearts of disciples who have been moved to action after the recent sermons in this series on Created to be generous. In the week after the challenge to good works, we received many donations to our emergency food pantry, the Bridge, and a organizer for the pantry!

I am grateful for the vision of our leadership to grow in width and depth as we seek three new staff positions related to engagement: Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries, Engagement Specialist, and Contemporary Worship Leader.

I am grateful for the generosity of those who tithe, give, and offer to impact the world through our Mission and Ministry budget. I am grateful for all those who chose to take an additional step of faith, so that others might know faith.

I am grateful for the multiple stories I have heard, even this month, about answered prayers. I hope people who have experienced answered prayers will consider sharing their testimony! Perhaps, you might consider writing it for the newsletter. Perhaps, you might consider sharing a video testimony. When the ten lepers were healed by Jesus, it was the one who returned to thank him who is lifted up to us as an example. What will you give thanks for this month?

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica



October Worship at West Grove UMC



Please join us in our worship service to be blessed by the Word of God.

All Saints Day
November 1

Communion Sunday and Emergency Food Shelf
Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 24 and John 11:32-44

Sermon: **"Generous Saints"**

We give thanks to God for the examples of those who loved God extravagantly.

Consecration Sunday
Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
November 8

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
and Mark 12:38-44

Sermon: **"Generous Givers"**

As those made in the image of Generous God, we commit to giving generously to impact our community for Christ and help usher in the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 15

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8 and Psalm 6

Sermon: **"Follow Which Leader?"**

The world calls us to follow many leaders. Who do we as Christians follow?

Thanksgiving Sunday
Last Sunday After Pentecost
November 22

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-33 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Sermon: **"Oh Yeah, By the Way, Thank You"**

We are called to intentionally thank God and others for the generosity that has been offered to us.

First Sunday of Advent
Fifth Sunday Coin Collection to
Benefit Mpasa Health Clinic
November 29

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: **"Peace in the Kingdom"**

As we picture the Advent of Christ, let us work for peace in the kingdom.



House Blessings

"And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have

promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever." 2 Samuel 7: 28-29

From biblical times, when someone moved into a new dwelling, words of blessing were offered at new home.

Home blessings involve prayers, scripture reading, and movement throughout the house. If you are interested in a home blessing, please contact Pastor Monica.

Hosted by our
Staff Parish Relations
Committee



Due to the increase in food allergies among the general population as well as our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if there are nuts in them (including coconuts). Thank you.

Fifth Sunday Coin Collection on November 29 to benefit Mpasa Health Clinic

Last year, our district raised funds to build a pediatric health clinic in Mpasa, Congo.

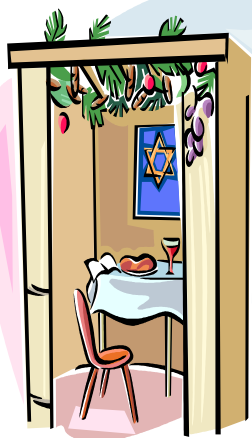
This year, we are raising funds to supply the needed resources and medical supplies. We have committed to supplying a sterilizer and wheelchair. Please bring your contributions to help us impact the health of children in Mpasa, Congo.



Community Thanksgiving
Worship at
West Grove United
Methodist Church
on
Sunday, November 22nd
at 7:00 p.m.

Join the churches of West Grove, Avondale, Jennersville, and the surrounding areas, as we gather to give thanks to God! Please bring a non-perishable food item for us to share with the local food pantries. Join us for great music, time of fellowship and testimony, and a inspiring message for our community.

West Grove UMC Annual Fall Harvest Food Collection At the Sukkot Booth



The word Sukkot is the plural of the Hebrew word *sukkah*, meaning booth or hut. During this holiday, Jews are instructed to construct a temporary structure in which to eat their meals, entertain guests, relax, and even sleep. The *sukkah* is intended to reflect God's benevolence in providing for all the Jews' needs in the desert.

As we have done in previous years, our church will collect nonperishable food items and turkey coupons (from local grocery stores) at the Sukkot booth in the lobby beginning Sunday, November 1 through Sunday, November 22.

This year's Fall Harvest Food Collection will benefit and help replenish the short food supply for The Bridge at the Avon Grove Church of the Nazarene. The Bridge has doubled the number of local families that it is serving this fall.

Your donations are essential to serve those in our community. In addition, Thanksgiving Baskets will be given to a few local families in need. Be sure to stop by the booth with your donations.

Thank you for serving God through the faces in our community.

Share the
WARMTH!
Coat and Blanket Drive

West Grove UMC Hosts
A Blanket and Coat
Collection
November 1 through
November 22

Winter is coming and everyone needs to bundle up nice and warm. Yes, that means **EVERYONE**. However, throughout our community we have many individuals that lack the basic winter defense of a nice, warm winter coat. Once again, West Grove United Methodist Church is asking for the donation of gently used or new blankets and winter coats. Donations may be dropped off at the church from November 1 through November 22. We are accepting all sizes from children, through teens and adults. These items will be given to The Bridge at the Church of the Nazarene in West Grove and to the Penn London Elementary School for distribution. Please join us and help keep **EVERYONE** warm this winter!



THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

**Our church's free
meal ministry**

Tuesday, December 8
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A combined
Holiday Celebration!



Twin
Pines
Ministry

On November 1st, we will be taking a group to Twin Pines (formerly Chatham Acres) to lead worship and offer fellowship. Join us as we sing, enjoy a message from Pastor Monica, offer communion, and enjoy treats together.

Please consider joining us at 2pm on Sunday



United
Methodist
Women

UMW Invites You!

A UMW unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, at 10 am at the church in order to wrap treats and pack Advent Bags. A brief meeting will also be held at this time. Please join us if you have an interest or desire to learn more about the missions we support.

Thank you note from Margee Michaels to UMW

Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet that was sent by the UMW. It was very much appreciated. Thank you for your love and support. Margee



In case of an emergency, many in our community look for a warm location with access to electrical power, warm food, and comforting conversation.

West Grove UMC has been providing this informally for many years. This month, our trustees have approved our official inclusion on a Chester County list of facilities that would be available as Comfort Care centers in case of an emergency.

At each emergency, each comfort care center sets their availability. Prayerfully consider how you might be able to help in the case of an emergency.



Missed this weekend's message?
Listen to past sermons online.



Did you miss a sermon? Want to check a resource? Hear it again? On our website, www.westgroveumc.org, we have three ways you

can do this:

Read the manuscript of the sermon. This is complete with the weekly meditations and scriptures.

Listen to the Audio of the sermon. Listen to it through the website or download it onto your MP3 player.

Listen and Watch the sermon coordinated with the PowerPoint presentation for the fullest experience of word and image.

Don't miss a single Sunday! Catch each one online.

Children's Worship

Dear Friends,

I hope you got to hear wonderful stories about what your children were doing on Sunday in Children's Worship. Attached is a picture of the finished product in which they were building together a house for God.

Did you know our Children's Worship team coordinates lessons with the worship and sermon theme? As we were considering God in the Mountains and how we experience God, your children were also considering their experiences of God! I am so thankful for the commitment leadership team.



Worship at Jenner's Pond

We give thanks to God for Pastor Jim's gifts being shared with the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives on October 27th as he opened the legislative session in prayer.

We give thanks to God for our outreach to Jenner's Pond on the second Sunday of each month, offering worship to those present and many more through closed circuit television.



Our Church Office will be Closed to celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th.

We pray that our staff, our congregation, and our community will have days filled with the blessings of family, friends, food, and God's very presence.



CMO PRESCHOOL

Fall is in the air and the children of the CMO and Preschool have been very busy. The teachers have been teaching about the season of Fall and planning many hands on activities to go along with this theme. You may see our children raking pretend leaves, sampling apple turnovers they made, or painting with vibrant fall colors.

We began our Chapel Time with Pastor Monica the beginning of October. The children are enjoying hearing the stories that Pastor Monica is sharing with them. They also love the songs that Pastor Monica shares. This month the song is the B I B L E song, and the children sing it loud and proud.

We have also added an after school enrichment program for this fall. It is soccer shots. Soccer shots **is a beginning soccer program for preschool aged children. A "soccer coach" comes each Wednesday and** teaches the children about soccer. It is so much fun and the children are really enjoying it.

November and December are always busy for the preschool as well. We have a photographer coming to take preschool pictures. We also have a local musician coming in to perform a Fall music show for the children. We had the musician last year and she was wonderful with the children. If you have a special talent that you would like to share with the children, please let me know. We would love to have you share that talent with the children! Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director



CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica

During October, we had the opportunity to meet for chapel time twice in coordination with field trips and other exciting class events. Each time, we have chapel time we have a story, a song and a prayer.



In October, we learned about God's book, The BIBLE. All of the classes have been learning the song, B-I-B-L-E. The lyrics are below. We usually sing it through twice. The first time is sung quietly and then, we turn up our voices and sing loudly!

The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes that's the book for me; I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

The Turtles and the Funky Frog classes have read *How God Made the World* in Read Aloud Bible Volume 3; Noah in Pray and Play Bible. **The Ducks and Bumblebee classes have read "God Made Our World" in** Pray and Play Bible. God's Rainbow by Allia Zobel Nolan. The Leap Frogs and Butterfly classes have read Big Momma Makes the World by Phyllis Root. **"Noah's Big Boat:"** in Read Aloud Bible Volume 3.

Soccer Shots!



Having Fun!



Learning Teamwork!



Chapel Time with Pastor Monica



WGUMC SOUP SALE



November Soup Sale

We will make two favorites

#1– Roasted Butternut Squash

#2– Chicken Corn Chowder

Sign-up is until Thursday, November 26

There is a sign-up sheet

hanging on the blackboards in the lobby,

or you can call the church office at

610-869-9334.

Pick-up is on Saturday, November 28

between 2 & 4 p.m.

or Sunday after Worship Services

The cost is still only **\$5.00 per Quart.**

Proceeds will help to buy a smart TV for the church in support of Family Promise and many other programs and ministries hosted at

ADVENT

Wednesday Night Fun

Join us on the
Wednesdays in Advent

November 25th

December 2nd

December 9th

December 16th

December 23rd

From 6-8pm

We will have pot-luck style dinner. If you are able, you are invited to **bring a dish to share.** If you can't, no worries, come anyway! It is a potluck and there is always plenty to be shared!

We will provide plates, utensils, drinks, and desserts.

Come one week,
come all of the weeks!

Bring the family, bring the kids, invite your friends and neighbors!

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies

Interested in Eating
Together

November 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Please join this group of ladies for a breakfast time of food, fun and fellowship. We meet at Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348. They have free parking in the parking garage on Saturdays. Questions? Call Margee Michaels or Chris Curtiss.



Luther House Bible Study

Hear the Stories!

Luther Class is for men and women who are interested in coming together to learn the stories of the Bible. All are welcome. We meet every Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 pm at Luther Building #1 in the parlor, right inside the door. Come join us! Bring your friends.

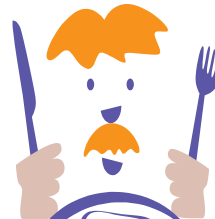
If you have any questions, contact Cindy Haley at: chaley@zoominternet.net

Care Givers and Grief Sup- port Group November 11 @ 7 p.m.



Caregivers and Grief Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Conference room. The next meeting is on November 11 at 7 p.m.

There are many in our community who provide care for their loved ones, whether close by or afar. There are many who quietly grieve from any number of losses they have suffered. Find love and support from others in your situation. Please join us for a time of sharing and comfort. *Thank you.*



R.O.M.E.O.

Retired Older Men Eating Out

Due to the

R.O.M.E.O.

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Retired Older Men Eating Out, will not meet in November. The next gathering will be on Thursday, December 17. If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEO lunch. We get together to eat at Perkins in Avondale on Rt. 41 on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.. Call Roger Bates, at 610-869-7638, if you have any questions

Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.) FRIDAY, November 13 12:00 Noon -3:00 p.m.

Scott Steele will bring our program. Scott Steele is a wonderful member of our congregation and local historian. We will be treated to an engaging program. Please bring a brown bag lunch and prepare to enjoy his presentation. This presentation is open to people of all ages who might be interested in Scott's presentation.

We meet on the second FRIDAY of every month September through May. See you on Friday, November 13th at Noon. Bring your brown bag lunch.



Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 6th ~ 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,
special musical numbers
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!





C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



Youth Newsletter for November 2015

ROOTED UPDATES



Rooted is a Sunday School program for 7 – 12th grades where students are provided with opportunities to become more *ROOTED* in their faith through participation in Service,

Faith Journaling, Technology, Music and Drama and Small Groups Discussion. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Youth Room. Our Schedule for November is:

November 1st – Faith Journaling

November 8th – Tech Fun (continuing on with our Spoken Word Testimonies)

November 15th – Drama/Music: We'll be looking at music and pulling out themes of thankfulness. Bring your favorite Song!

November 22nd – Small Group Discussion

ROOTED in Advent



We are planning on switching things up a bit during the 4 Sundays of Advent – so join us for some

fun things planned including a Sunday of Minute to Win It Christmas Style! We will take a look at the idea of “waiting” as we look at what that means in the brokenness that surrounds us. Be sure to join us for Advent as we together wait for Christmas. **Starting November 29th.**

YOUTH GROUP in

NoVeMBer. We meet

together for youth fellowship,

snacks, games and devotions on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of the month** from 6 – 7:30. Bring a friend and come have some fun. **November 1 & 15th.**



Friday Night Dodge Ball

Friday, November 13th from 7 – 9:00. \$2 for pizza. Bring a friend. Dodge Ball Fun!



Pictures from
PHILADELPHIA
PROJECT



Questions? Interested in being a part of the WGUMC Youth

Leadership Team – Contact Jamie Lindtner by calling 610-937-7932 or emailing: JamieLindtner@gmail.com



COMING SOON!

On November 22nd, our Christmas Gift Tree will be up in the Narthex. On the tree, there will be gift tags for families and individuals in need.

Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season.

Details will follow.



Advent Bags for Our Homebound

Donation due by November 16

- For many years, the United Methodist Women have sponsored an annual Advent Bag ministry for the homebound. Twenty-five gifts, with scripture verses attached to each one that tells the story of the birth of Jesus, are wrapped and put in beautiful Christmas bags for delivery. Each day during Advent, the recipients open their gifts and know that they are thought about, prayed for, and loved by their church.
- A sign-up sheet with suggested items is available in the lobby. If you would like to donate for the 20 bags that are being assembled this year.



2015 Operation Christmas Child

The youth group will, once again, sponsor the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry this year. Dansko shoe company is generously donating all of the shoeboxes. The youth group will have a display and all necessary information in the church lobby this month. The Shoeboxes will be available for pick-up in the lobby on November 1st and are due back by Sunday, November 22nd. Thanks!

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

TOYS :small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER: Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

TRUNK OR TREAT ROCKED!!

We had a fun trunk or treat event on Sunday, October 25th, 2015, with more than 150 children attending for a total of at least 250 people.

This outreach was successful because of the many volunteers who gave their time and donations for this purpose.

We had games, crafts, story time, and refreshments inside; hay ride and almost twenty trunks decorated for the occasion, and giving out candy outside.

Among the many Trunk or Treaters, there was Cinderella carriage, complete with horses, a Cookie Monster who handed out 400 cookies and many more!

This was our biggest one yet as the weather was cooperative with warm temperatures, and bright sun shine!





Finance Report

Your tithes, your gifts, and your offerings impact the world and our community when you give at West Grove UMC. We want to share with you a new way to give.

On our home page of our website, there is a button to

Give Now

When you click, you will be directed to pay through PayPal that gives you a chance to give to the church. You can even check the box to make a recurring monthly gift.



Consider giving in this way to make it easier for yourself!

You can also give electronically through your bank. Contact Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator,

donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org for details.

Consecration Brunch

On Sunday, November 8th, we will offer our commitment cards in worship and celebrate following in the image of God as generous givers.

We hope you will join us for moving and inspiration worship, that morning at 8:30 and 11:00 am. After each service, a brunch will be hosted in the Church Lobby.

As we give thanks to God for all that God has given us, we rejoice together our steps of faith towards the fuller image of God.

Join us for a delicious brunch after the 8:30 service and the 11:00 service.



THE WEST GROVE UMC ENDOWMENT FUND

The West Grove UMC Endowment Fund is funded by bequests, memorials and gifts **made to the fund. Contribute to the fund by a check made out to "West Grove UMC – Endowment Fund" and send it to the church or drop it in the offering plate.** Bequests or memorials may be designated for the Endowment Fund.

Your giving allows us to continue our ministries into the future!

Created to Be Generous

You've Got Mail!

Look in the mail for an invitation to impact our community and usher in the Kingdom of God! We are created to be generous and have a need to commit to being generous.

In the mail, you will receive a commitment card accompanied the stories of how West Grove is impacting the world and our community to Open, Grow, and Serve.

If you do not receive a letter, please contact the office: 610-869-9334, office@westgroveumc.org.

We look forward to committing to the next part of the journey of following God together on Consecration Sunday, November 8th.



Building Maintenance Reserve Fund

We believe that our building is not ours, **but it is God's. We have the privilege of updating it and maintaining it** so that all who enter find it a warm, welcoming and hospitable place to experience the spirit of Christ.

Our Building Maintenance Reserve Fund is one way we ensure that we are good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

Please consider making donations regularly.

Daily Meditations



We hope you have had a chance to catch the new meditations in the bulletin. They are written one for each day of the week as a short meditation and question **with which you might begin your day.** **Don't forget to take your bulletin home** and place the meditations and scripture reading in a place you can use each day. May your relationship with God be enriched.

They are also available on Facebook and our website!

Notes from the Financial Secretary

Please note that the 2016 envelopes will have a slightly different choices for your giving. There will be 4 categories on the front of the envelope: **Mission and Ministry** (This is our general fund, primary budget, the way in which we plan to do mission and ministry in the world. Please contribute your tithe to this purpose.)

Building Maintenance (Please use this to make designated gifts to be used for the upkeep of our building maintenance. At other points, this was designated as our Harvest Fund)

Endowment (Please use this to make contributions to our endowment for our congregation to make future impacts on our community)

Other (Please use this for special designated giving, such as Community Café, Sunday School Supplies, Mortgage principal donations, Mpasa Health Clinic, and others)



Giant Gift Cards

Giant Gift Cards are a simple and easy way to increase your weekly giving without costing you a cent.

The cards are sold for

face value, but the church purchases the cards at a 5% discount.

To participate in this program, just complete the order form located in the lobby, attach your check, and drop it in the offering plate or Carol Whelan's mailbox.

I usually have a supply of gift cards on hand and can give them directly to you as soon as I receive a check. If you spend \$300 a month, the church will receive \$15. In a year the church will receive \$180! If you shop at Giant, please consider purchasing a Giant Gift Card through the church. The cards come in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. Questions?? Contact Carol Whelan at 610-345-0964.

United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, November 29

Across the country, the people of the United Methodist Church **are serving God's people. Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all— who've been sent by** you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge. What no one person or congregation can do alone, **we're doing together. Give generously!**

SCRIP PROGRAM

Savings for Church through Rebate and Incentive Program The SCRIP program allows for the congregation of WGUMC to participate in a savings program which benefits our church.



By purchasing prepaid cards for use at business establishments you frequent on a weekly basis, WGUMC will receive a percentage from the businesses.

Buy your groceries, pay for your gas, buy gift cards for friends and family, etc. It is a great way to budget your money, too!

The possibilities are limitless, and every dollar provides another avenue of stewardship for our church.



The Holidays are coming. Order gift cars for hard to shop for people. There are lots of choices!

If you have any questions, please see John Boyd or e-mail him at jwb389@zoominternet.net. Thank you.

Persons Remembered on All Saints Day

June M. Martz
 Charles R. Fisher
 Olive D. Brinton
 Laura Sloan
 Philip R. Miller
 Louise M. Wilkins Mason
 Thomas C. Rosazza
 Michael Basilio
 Phyllis Angell
 Alfred J. Cocciolone
 Joseph C. Tolmie
 Ella Streibel
 Paul Jubinsky
 Rev. Fred Landis
 Former pastor from 1972-1984



Lawrence E. Ramberger
 Jason Daniel Haley
 E. Ruth Cocciolone
 Lil Fili
 Gloria J. Miller
 Mabel Cook Romanowski
 Maura Eileen Caroli
 Jessie C. Eller
 Peter F. Grossweiler
 Ruby Dale Peak (Deboard)
 Dr. Eugene Wayne Martz
 LaVern K. Benner
 Barry Kelly
 Hailey LeeAnn Pzrker



Generous and gracious God, we give you thanks for those who have gone before us who now belong to the communion of saints.

We thank you for ordinary persons

with laughter in their eyes and kindness in their deeds. We thank you for common ones with compassionate hearts and listening ears.

We thank you for holy ones who saw light in the midst of darkness and potential when others saw dead ends. We thank you for strong ones who remained faithful in times of crisis, who endured suffering yet remained joyous, who fought for justice when they could have chosen comfort. Help us walk in the shadow of the saints who go before us, now and always. Amen.

- Larry James Peacock

Openings: A Daybook of Saints, Psalms, and Prayer



DID YOU KNOW about Thanksgiving?

Our celebration of Thanksgiving is partially due to the work of Sarah Hale. She was born in 1788. For forty years, Hale served as the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, the most widely circulated US magazine in pre-Civil War period and it was her personal mission to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Hale believed that the US had too few national holidays that could be celebrated by all people. At the time, Thanksgiving was celebrated in certain states primarily in the North and was observed on different days in different locations. Hale sought to create a single holiday that would help unify the nation around a day of gratitude for one's blessings.

Beginning in 1849, she also made an annual tradition of writing to the president about the holiday. Finally, in 1863, President Lincoln, who saw the benefit of such a unifying holiday during the stress of the U.S. Civil War, supported legislation to establish the new national holiday. With Lincoln's proclamation declaring a national day of Thanksgiving on October 3, 1863, Hale's 36-year quest for Thanksgiving was finally a success.

And, incidentally, Hale is known for another enduring accomplishment; this remarkable woman is also the author of the famous poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb".

Scouts in Action!

Thanks to all of the Daisys, Brownies, and their families who helped to keep our gardens weed free this year!



You are the best and the congregation of West Grove United Methodist

Church is very grate-
for
hard
work!

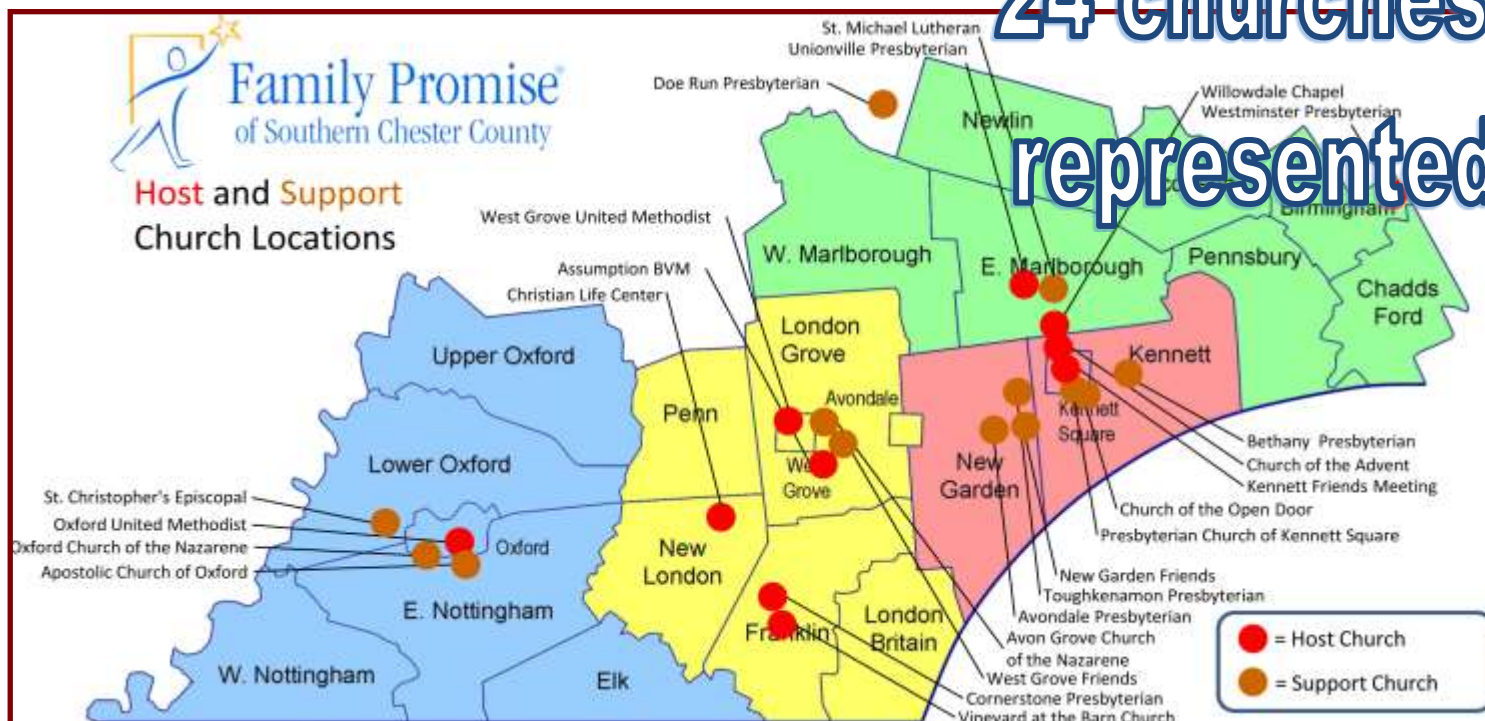


ful
your





**24 churches
represented**



**We are hosting the week
of December 6th.**

**Sign up in the Lobby to
serve.**

**Find supplies still needed
listed in the lobby, updated
as we receive your
generous donations.**

**Thank you for
serving!**



TRAINING

**Family Promising Volunteer Training
Wednesday, November 18
6-8 p.m.**

Thanks so much for serving in Host and Support
Congregations in Family Promise of Southern Chester
County!!

I am looking forward to our work together to alleviate
homelessness in Southern Chester County. There are
opportunities to serve in hosting, feeding, providing
resources, and spending the night at the church.

Please contact Janice Bowers at
janicesemail2@gmail.com



Mentor Support & Training

Many of our young moms are paired with a mentor who provides encouragement and practical assistance. We gather with our mentors **every 4 to 6 weeks for a “Mentor Coffee” to discuss wins/challenges and learn new skills.**

In August, nursing intern, Lindsay Lazos talked with the mentors about the 5 key parenting behaviors (nurturing, designing & guiding, responding, communicating, and supporting learning). Mentors discussed ways they can encourage & support their young moms in gaining skills and confidence in each of these areas.

Thank you for impacting our community by supporting Young Moms!



Greetings UMC #GivingTuesday Supporters,

More than 800 projects and more than 300 missionaries were blessed to have the support of donors like you during the past two Christmas seasons. We thank you for your generosity!

In the coming weeks you will begin seeing more information about the upcoming UMC

#GivingTuesday campaign. We hope that you will join us in leading this year's movement.

You have consistently shown the world what miracles can happen when Methodists are United. And, during this year's UMC #GivingTuesday campaign on Dec. 1, you can again join other United Methodists from around the world to highlight the powerful impact that we have when we come together to change the world.

Here are a few ways to participate right now:

- **Raise awareness within your church and community by spreading the word about UMC #GivingTuesday.**
- **Raise financial support by issuing a personal match or challenge to friends and family.**
- **Create a team to provide spiritual or monetary support for a specific Advance project. A team can be a few friends or your entire congregation.**

However you decide to join in for UMC #Giving Tuesday, we hope that on Dec. 1 you will again give to the Advance projects of your choice.

Thank you for your past gift. We look forward to what 2015 brings, when Methodists are United and we turn our love into action!

For more information about UMC #GivingTuesday, visit www.umcmmission.org/giving-tuesday.



STOP HUNGER NOW

Save the Date: December 5th, 2015
At Lincoln University
Hosted by our Mission ConneXion

Stop Hunger Now packages and ships meals to feed people in need. They have engaged over 500,000 corporate, student, civic and faith-based volunteers to package meals. They educate thousands of people each year about hunger and inspire them to help end it. This year, they will package 45 million meals, and ship over \$9 million in donated aid, mainly vitamins and medical supplies. On the day, you package meals with preset foods and in a preset process. All you need to raise is 29 cents for each meal you package. Stop Hunger Now meals are nutritiously sound. Every dehydrated rice/soy meal is fortified with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Join us!

HUNGER WALK

WOW!

On Sunday October 18th, our local Hunger walk was held in Oxford. West Grove UMC turned out in force to raise funds and awareness for hunger in our community and around the world.

We estimate 200 walkers showed up and 15 of them were from West Grove UMC! Thanks be to God for the willing feet of the church walking for change in our community.

We are awaiting the final total of monies raised for this important ministry. Stay tuned for final numbers. Thanks be to God for all who walked, prayed, and gave!

You are answering the call to feed the hungry here in our community!



GLOBAL JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

A short-term service opportunity for young adults, *ages 18 to 30*. Participants are from all over the world and serve all over the world. Small teams of volunteers spend eight weeks during the months of June through August exploring the links between faith and social justice as they work with local grassroots organizations.

[For more information click here](#)



**[GEN]ERATION
TRANSFORMATION
GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS**

GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS

Global Mission Fellows (*ages 20-30*) are called to do ministry with [not to or for] their local partners; serve alongside churches, community groups, and individuals to address the priorities of people in the community they are serving; discover ways in which God is already at work. Fellows live simply. As learners and co-laborers, they commit to having the same standard of living as their local partners, embrace interdependence and become a daily presence in people's lives. Global Mission Fellows connect the church in mission.

is already at work. Fellows live simply. As learners and co-laborers, they commit to having the same standard of living as their local partners, embrace interdependence and become a daily presence in people's lives. Global Mission Fellows connect the church in mission.

BISHOP'S DISTRICT TALKS TO COVER VARIED TOPICS

Bishop Peggy Johnson hits the road again next week with her annual Days on the Districts tour. She just completed similar visits to her Peninsula-Delaware Conference districts last week and meets this weekend with other NEJ bishops and leaders at the Transformational Leadership Event in Hershey, PA.

The tour began Oct. 8 in the Southeast District, followed by the Central (Oct. 13) and East (Oct. 14) districts. She enlarges her territory further the ensuing week when she visits the Northeast (Oct. 20), Northwest (Oct. 22) and Southwest (Oct. 28) districts.

Bishop Peggy Johnson also met with leaders of Mission Connexions on each district. Bishop Peggy Johnson also met with leaders of Mission Connexions on each district.

Preaching from Luke's Gospel story in which Jesus returns home to Nazareth to "preach good news to the poor," Bishop Johnson will also report good news happening across the Eastern PA Conference, including growing engagement in missions and ministry, discipleship and resourcing for leaders. New Treasurer Jim Cruickshank and Pension and Health Benefits Director Jo Fielding will add to her report with remarks on conference finances and clergy benefits.

With interest mounting in denominational decision-making at the 2016 General and North-eastern Jurisdictional conferences, Bishop Johnson will give an overview of both and offer insights on several key issues. Those include: **proposals to change the UMC's Book of Discipline**, especially around the perennial issue of human sexuality; the organization and operation of General Conference as the representative body becomes more global; and possible, eventual downsizing of the nine NEJ episcopal areas due to membership decline.



Bishop Johnson speaking with Conference members. The two-term episcopal leader will also promote the conference's new, short-term Imagine No Malaria campaign, scheduled to end December 31. She is asking churches to sponsor special fundraising and awareness events and activities, and to contribute \$10

per worshipping member to the campaign.

Bishop Johnson will complete her report with a timely focus on the topic of race relations and reconciliation, the focus also for the 2016 Annual Conference (whose central theme will be **"Open Wide Your Hearts" from 2 Corinthians 6:13**). She will recall: recent racial incidents, discoveries and dialogues; action steps proposed by Erin Hawkins, head of the General Commission on Religion and Race; and the Acts of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous People (Native Americans), which the 2016 Annual Conference will culminate after four years of preparation.

As usual, the bishop will meet during the day with clergy, for whom attendance is required, and with laity in the evenings.

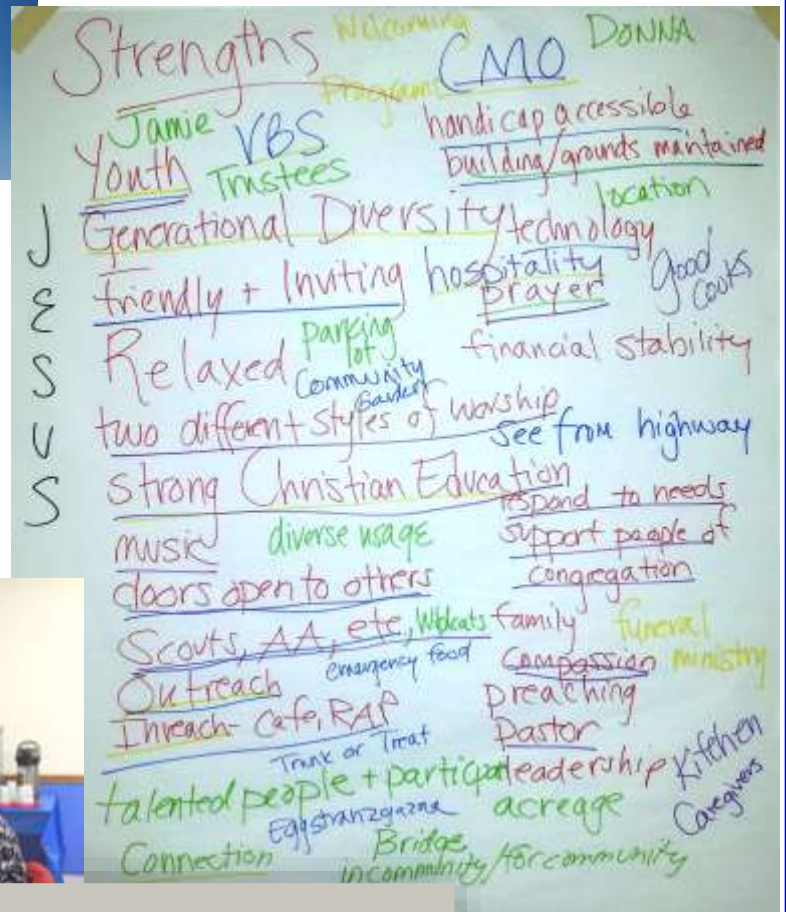
She will likely field questions on a variety of concerns in what may be some of the most lively district visits she has had during her tenure.





On Saturday, September 12th, a group of leaders met at Camp Innabah for our Visioning Retreat.

Some of our discoveries were about the strengths of the church:



There is much more to come about the good work of that day, and our work going forward. Look for updates!

One set of action items from that day include the vision to increase our engagement within our congregation and with the community. We encouraged Staff Parish to consider leadership roles in pastoral care, social media, and worship.

On Tuesday, October 27th, Administrative approved the request for appointment of an Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries. Look for an announcement soon!



"FULFILLING OUR COVENANT"

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Resolution 2012-21 Second Tier

Office of the Treasurer

September 18, 2015

Dear Church Leader:

If your church has pledged and is meeting its commitment to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's "Fulfilling Our Covenant" Capital Campaign, we earnestly thank you for your faithfulness to this collective stewardship effort. Along with other participating churches, you have helped us reduce the amount that we will need to fund our Pre-82 Retired Clergy Pension Liability.

If you have not made a commitment or begun paying on it, it is not too late to do so. We will soon enter the campaign's final year, and we are prayerfully eager to finish this important race together, with faithful participation by all our churches.

For many of us, we know that coming to this point in the campaign has not been easy. In fact, for some it has been downright difficult. So, we want to say thank you not only for your faithfulness, but for your sacrifice as well.

While our goal was to raise \$3,000,000 in this campaign, local churches and individuals have committed nearly \$4,000,000; and as of September 15, 2015 we have received a total of \$2,389,137.68. This breaks down with \$2,074,226.73 as the Conference share and another \$314,910.95 being returned to local churches for their projects.

With total campaign expenses projected to be below \$400,000 we are on target to net more than \$3,000,000 by the end of the campaign, which will be the most successful capital campaign undertaken by EPAUMC. So please keep up the good work in fulfilling your campaign commitment if you have not already done so.

As we complete 2015 and begin 2016, the goal is in sight. And thus, our energy surges with confidence and the desire to complete the campaign and fulfill all our commitments. When we do, we want all of us to be able to echo the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Timothy 4:7: **"We have finished the race. We have kept the faith."**

As we head towards the final year, it is not too late for churches to join us in this important race, to still connect with this campaign in support of our retired clergy. Maybe your congregation was not in a position to be able to participate when the campaign began, but now you would like to join us.

For more information or answers to any questions, please visit the [Capital Campaign page on the Conference Website](#) or contact EPA Conference Treasurer Jim Cruickshank at jcruickshank@epaumc.org or [\(484\) 762-8209](tel:4847628209).

The Capital Campaign is using the investment services and resources available through the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation with 100% of the funds dedicated to the Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign holds a number of accounts in a custom investment platform designed to meet the targeted goals of the campaign.

So far the campaign has received securities donations totaling over \$38 thousand. The Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation can seamlessly handle these financial transfers to the Capital Campaign, if this would be helpful for your situation.

Our faithful participation together in the United Methodist connectional system can yield great accomplishments through God's amazing grace, which assures us that all things are possible. Thank you for being a part of this great accomplishment in the name of Jesus Christ and for the benefit of those who have served him faithfully.

Kip Craven
Lay Chair – Capital Campaign Committee

Jim Cruickshank
Conference Treasurer



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Website: 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 Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

pastor@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend. Jim Mundell - **Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond**

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

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Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Board and Committee Leadership

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

John Boyd - Trustee Chair

TBA - Finance Chair

Jeff Curtis - Treasurer

Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary

Cindy Hoover - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Bill Jones - **Children's Ministry Team Contact**

Susan Paisley - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Don Hurst - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Luke Chalmers— Delegate to Annual Conference

TBA - Lay Leader

Cindy Haley - U.M.W. President

Open- Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator