

West Grove United Methodist Church 300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

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September 2014

"And Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." <u>Mark 16: 15</u>

"Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn." John Wesley

The newest meme and craze seems to involve committed, sane, dry individuals dumping a bucket of ice water over their head for the purpose of raising funds and/or awareness, i.e. the ALS ice bucket challenge. Perhaps, you have seen these videos and pictures on Facebook or the news. ALS,

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.¹ The appeal to get involved with either the chilly ice bucket dump or the giving of donations has ranged widely from Bill Gates, Martha Stewart, LeBron James, Lindsay Lohan, Kermit the Frog, Conan O'Brien, to George W. Bush and Patrick Stewart. Friends and families have gotten into the act challenging one another to get wet or donate (or sometimes both!).

The challenge started with a golfer from Florida, Charles Kennedy, whose friend told him if he poured ice on his head that he would donate to the charity of his choice. Kennedy chose ALS, because of a cousin who suffers from ALS. With millions of people being challenged and responding, the response has been astounding. As of August 27th, the ALS Association had received \$94 million dollars, in comparison with the \$2.7 million raised during the same time last year.² They now have the incredible problem of deciding how best to use the new windfall thoughtfully and appropriately to work towards a cure for ALS – is it treatment or research, is it caring and counseling current sufferers or advocacy?

As they gather with boards and donors to decide, I wonder if there is something that the church can learn from this? I am not suggesting that we necessarily need to challenge each other dump buckets of ice water on our heads. In fact, the church has had a ritual involving commitment and water for thousands of years in the sacrament of Baptism. However, I do wonder about the reality that many of us have no trouble challenging a



friend or family member to do something like the ALS ice bucket challenge, but would never share about our faith walk, church, or relationship with God. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus commissions the disciples to tell all of creation the good news of God's love shown in Jesus. This commission applies to us today as well.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, took the commission to heart. He was not content with the ways that the Anglican church (the church in which he was ordained) followed those instructions. He was convinced that one had to get outside the church to where people are. When asked how to get people interested in hearing God's word, John Wesley was said to reply: "Light

yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn." While he did not literally light himself on fire, he did preach and teach in pubs, coal mines, open fields, and anywhere people are.

As you fall back into the routine of the programmatic year, consider the commission that Jesus gave, not just disciples of two thousand years ago, but us today as well – Share the gospel! **Consider yourselves challenged** to spread the good news, share a glimpse of your faith walk with a neighbor who asks you why you are going to church on Sunday morning, instead of Starbucks, and encourage a colleague who is discouraged. I can't wait to hear the stories of how God uses each of us in this challenge!

In God's Love, Pastor Monica

1 http://www.alsa.org/about-als/what-is-als.html. 2 http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/08/27/343733139/life-after-ice-buckets-als-group-faces-94-million-challenge



September Worship at West Grove UMC

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

Sermon Series: Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten and Sunday School As the children return to school, we are reminded of the truths of how to live with one another. Robert Fulgrum's book, All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten captures truths of Kindergarten as well as teachings of our Faith from Sunday School days and originally, the Bible. Let's look together at God's wisdom.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 7, 2014 **Sacrament of Holy Communion** Third Grader Bible Sunday and

*Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day is on the first Sunday of each month **Scripture:** Romans 13:8-14; Psalm 119:33-40 **Sermon:** "When You Go Out Into The World. Watch for Traffic, Hold Hands and Stick Together"

Sunday, September 7 marks the end of our Summer Blended Worship Schedule. Next week, Sunday, September 14, we will resume our normal schedule with our **Contemporary Service** at 8:30 a.m., Christian Education Classes and J.A.M. at 9:45 a.m. and our Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 14, 2014 **Back to School Sunday Commissioning of Christian Education Teachers** and Sunday Morning Servants **Scripture:** Matthew 18:21-35; Genesis 50:15-21 Sermon: "Don't Take Things That Aren't Yours"

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 21, 2014

Scripture: Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-6 Sermon: "Be Aware of Wonder!"

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 28, 2014 Stewardship I

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11; Matthew 6:5-15 Sermon: "But I Do Pray..."



Ministry Coffee and lemonade will be available every Sunday beginning September 14 after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services compliments of our Hospitality Ministries Team and Volunteer Coffee Makers. Please enjoy and have fun while greeting and welcoming friends and guests.



that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if they contain nuts (including coconuts).

Thank you.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in honor of Labor Day.



We pray you give thanks today for all who labor.





Cottage Fellowships Ending Soon!

Small groups have met informally with Pastor Monica over the last several weeks to provide an opportunity to get to know one another. We have had a great time getting to know one another and dreaming about our future together.

with our New Pastor

There are only three fellowship opportunities remaining in September! Be sure to check your calendars and sign-up to attend! Sign-up sheets are posted in the lobby, or you may call or email the hosts listed below. You may

also call the office and advise them of the gathering you would like to attend and we will be sure to add your name to that list.

Wednesday, September 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mel and Joan Leaman, 14 Woodview Drive, **West Grove**, PA 19390 jmleaman@comcast.net, 484-643-2181

Tuesday, September 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Jeff and Carol Whelan, 27 Field Stone Drive, **Cochranville**, PA 19330 clwhelan1@verizon.net, 610-345-0964

Sunday, September 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

Dave and Lori McClain, Ovations, 127 Reynolds Lane, **West Grove**, PA 19390 lmcclain411@gmail.com, 610-869-7812

Have you been attending WGUMC and want to join our family?

Beginning September 28th, we will meet for three weeks to learn more about what it means to become a member of the United Methodist Church, and more specifically, our church here in West Grove.



September 28th: OPEN Join us as we learn about opening our hearts to Jesus. In this class, we will get to know one another a little better and discuss the United Methodist Church structure.

October 5th: GROW In this class, we will discuss spiritual growth and what that means to you as an individual.

October 12th: SERVE We will talk about spiritual gifts and how they can be used for different forms of service.

October 19th: WELCOME On this day, you will be taken into membership during the worship service.

Classes meet on Sunday morning at 9:45 in the Pastor's office.

Please contact Pastor Monica or Melissa Jones if you are interested in learning more about membership.

From the Pastor's Desk



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 over the 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.

CONNECTIONAL CONNECTIONS

As United Methodists, your clergy are called not only to serve the local church, but also the community and throughout the world. John Wesley famously said, "The world is my parish." So how are your clergy living up to that commitment?

August 10th, 2014 – Pastor Jim offered worship, including Holy Communion, at Jenner's Pond at 11:00am.



World Communion Sunday October 5, 2014

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. What would it look like if the church today imitated Je-

sus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.



We give thanks to God for teachers, teachers of our congregation and teachers of our children and youth.

God of Love, we thank you for every teacher who notices a child's special gift. Thank you for teachers who are listeners and gentle guides. Thank you for teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more. Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.

God of Mercy, sustain teachers who give everything they have and feel abandoned when society expects too much. Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.

God of Strength, encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish. *Motivate teachers to keep on learning* for the fun of it and to make learning fun for children. We wonder at teachers who know how to quiet a class of five-year-olds or help fourth grade girls be empathetic. We admire teachers who enjoy middle school writers, or teach physics or math or civics. We cannot even imagine how to help every single student achieve Adequate Yearly Progress. Bless the people who are expected to accomplish these miracles and who know how to comfort children when miracles don't happen. We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen

For all of our children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends, who are returning to school, we pray.



Dear Lord, We thank you for our

children, youth, and adults who seek education. May your way be known to them at home, at school, and in the world around them. Guide them to seek excellence in all they do. Encourage them when classmates are difficult to get along with, when bullies are present, and in the midst of trials and crises. Help them to embody fairness, honesty, compassion, and love in the classroom and on the playground. May this year be filled with learning and growth as all seek you. In the name of the Great Teacher, we pray, Amen.



Labor Day was first celebrated in 1882, and ever since has been recognition of the work of many.

Working God, we see your handiwork

everywhere we turn our heads. We thank God for the beauty that surrounds us as well as your people, whom you have created. You have gifted your people, made in your image, with various gifts. Grant us the grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, industry, honesty, and integrity of all who labor. We are also mindful this day of all who seek fulfilling and supporting work and are unable to find it. May we be compassionate and seek justice for all who labor, their needs, and their families. In the name of the One who brings Justice, Amen.

Financial Report



We give thanks to God for the generosity of the congregation. We are indeed blessed by individual and family commitments to serving God through tithes, gifts, offerings, and donations.

It has been the joy of this congregation to be in ministry and mission, not just during the program year, but throughout the year.

We invite you to review your giving in order to your giving consistent, even as you vacation and travel. The mission and ministry of the church is most vital and vibrant with the support of all of parts of the church contributing.

We look forward to ways in which God blesses our gifts as we serve God together.



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.

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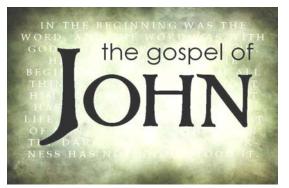
П П You are a Part of the Puzzle After having moved multiple times, I have learned one of the most frustrating parts of moving is unpacking and putting everything in a new spot. Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of packing, items that should be together were packed in different boxes. Nothing illustrates this better than puzzles. П We have some wooden children's puzzles that we have been Π finding pieces to across multiple different boxes. Until we find all the pieces, the full picture will not be clearly visible. It is remarkably disappointing to put together a Π puzzle only to discover that you are missing an integral piece of the image. П On September 28th, we will begin our stewardship series together, entitled: You are a Part of the Puzzle. As we explore the discipleship to which God calls us, we will be reminded that each of us are an essential part of the puzzle, that is the body of Christ, here at West Grove UMC. The puzzle is most clearly visible, when we are all using our gifts and talents that God gave us to serve God and God's people. Look in your mailbox towards the end of the month, for more information about this series, opportunities to engage, and your very own piece of the puzzle. Looking forward to piecing the puzzle together with you! Pastor Monica



Welcome to worship as we move from summer into fall. May we be blessed in one another's presence and in the presence of our Savior.

Coffee for adults and Lemonade will be available every Sunday, beginning September 14, before classes and after both worship services compliments of our Hospitality Ministries Team and Volunteer Coffee Makers. Enjoy and have fun while greeting and welcoming friends and guests.





"Portraits Of Christ" Bible Study Led by Pastor Jim Mundell

Mondays, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. September 22– November 24

Each chapter of John paints a portrait of Christ showing the characteristics of our Lord. There are 21 portraits of Christ that will be explored during the course of this study. Example: John 1 - Portrait is of Christ as "The Son of God" John 3 - Portrait shows Christ as "The Divine Teacher"

The study will meet weekly beginning on September 22nd and will be completed by November 24th. We will meet in Room 14 in the Christian Education wing.

JOIN US!



Join us on September 14th for a fun J.A.M. (Jesus and Me!) back to school party!

Who: Ages 4 - 6th Grade

Where: meet in Room 11 at 9:30 for opening fun!

What: a time of worship and praise, fun and stories, crafts, skits and games- you

never know what each week will bring! Join us this year as we learn about God's Armor and how we can use it to fight spiritual battles!



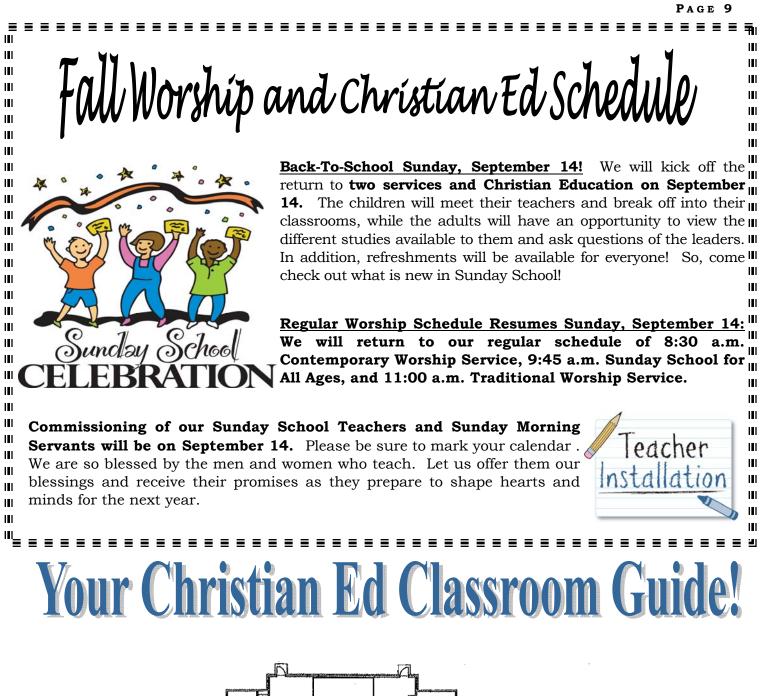
Christian Education for all ages

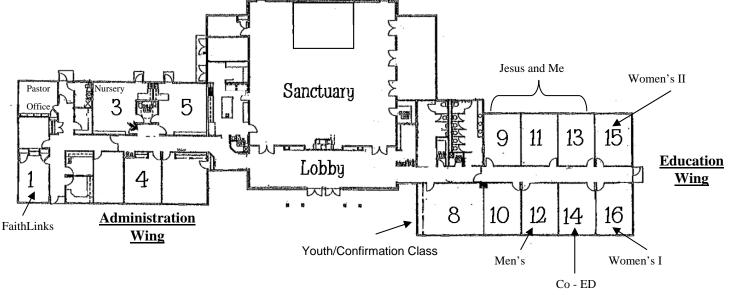
Sundays

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

ADULT	<u>FaithLink</u> Room 1 For Men & Women	FaithLink is a study for adults who want to apply their United For Men & Women Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events.
	<u>Co-Ed Class</u> Room 14 For Men & Women	The Co-Ed class tackles subject about parenting, marriage and every day challenges.
	<u>Women's Class</u> I Room 16	Join us as we worship together, study together, and pray for one another.
	<u>Women's Class</u> II Room 15	This year, we will be working our way through the Gospel of Mark. Come join us for a casual and caring study.
	<u>Men's Class</u> Room 12	The men have a good time discussing their current book subject- or just talking about life in general.
YOUTH	tional meeting on Sur	Meets on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. If you are in- nfirmed and becoming a member of WGUMC, come to our informa- nday, September 21st at 9:45. Students and parents are invited to nation will begin on October 6 at 9:45.
YC	Junior & Senior High and discussion.	h: Join us Sunday mornings from 9:45- 10:45 for a time of study
, 	and discussion.	h: Join us Sunday mornings from 9:45- 10:45 for a time of study Join us on September 14th for a fun back to school party!
, 	and discussion.	Join us on September 14th for a fun back to school party! Who: Ages 4 - 6th Grade
J	and discussion.	Join us on September 14th for a fun back to school party!

to wrap up your discussion and close in prayer.



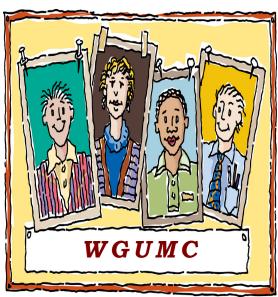


New Church Picture Directory Coming This Fall!

Do you know the names of the people sitting around you? Help us to build a tool that will put names with faces. It has been quite some time since we have had a picture directory made of all the wonderful people of West Grove United Methodist Church. Not only do we have an opportunity for a new directory, but the

portraits could make wonderful gifts for Christmas as well!

Therefore, we have contracted with LifeTouch to make a comprehensive, fullcolor directory of our church family in late September. **Sitting dates are Thursday September 25, Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27.** Please save a date and time on your calendar! A display



with sign-up times and dates and other detailed information will be posted in the lobby in the coming weeks. In order to be successful, we need everyone to participate.

By participating, each household will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of the directory! There is no obligation to

purchase additional photos, nor will you be pressured to do so.

If you have any questions or would like to help with this program, please call Melissa Jones at 610-869-4283.

More information will be available as we get closer to the date.

Thank you.

submit Su

Women

Cookbook!

We would like to publish a new cookbook this fall to include our favorite

" soup, salad and dessert recipes. If you have a
" recipe you would like to share with us for
" inclusion, please send it to me at
" chaley@zoominternet.net" or drop it off in the
office mailbox.

Cindy Haley, UMW President

SAVE THE DATE Charge Conference — Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.

All members of West Grove UMC are invited to attend as we receive reports on our ministries, hear from our District Superintendent and celebrate our connection as United Methodists around the world.



610-869-9334

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBEQUE

1/2 chicken served with a baked potato, coleslaw, applesauce, a roll and dessert! Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014 Drive-Thru: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Eat-In: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adults: \$10.00 Children 10 and under: \$5.00 Children under 5 may EAT-IN free w/adult Tickets on sale now! Call or stop by the church to purchase your tickets! www.westgroveumc.org



Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 24th, we celebrated the Blessing of Backpacks as we prepared for the beginning of school the next day for many of our students and teachers. The stage was filled with children, youth, and teachers with their backpacks, lunch bags, and other bags. As we prayed then, we pray now, may God be known to them as they return to school. May the Jesus fish on their bag remind them of God's presence always with them!

Expanding horizons, one foot at a time

ш

My 8-year-old often likes to wear the pants of one outfit with the shirt of another. "I want these socks today!" he proclaims, holding up a white and a

black. When I offer the stray black one I spot on the couch, he insists, "No! I *like* things different!"

What about *us* in the world ... in the church? Studies show that people tend to live near others like them. Many congregations consist predominantly of one ethnicity. We gravitate toward people who share our marital status, profession, values and views. Sometimes this is sensible, but often it limits our growth and horizons.

For a tux-clad ring bearer, matching socks are best. But when socks' only purpose is keeping feet warm at school, where my youngster feels "at home" and each child's uniqueness is celebrated, I embrace his nonconformity — and that of his socks. Would that we all appreciated diversity as much!

—Heidi Mann, Published in: NewsletterNewsletter May 2013



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 meditations and questions with which you might begin your day. Don't Meditations forget to take your bulletin home and

place the mediations 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!



barb.lytle@verizon.net or 610-255-5048.

Dear West Grove UM Church,

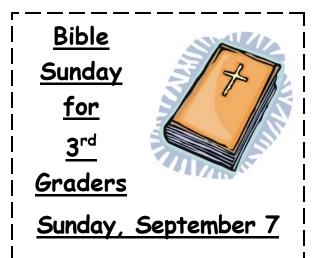
Just a little note of appreciation...we LOVED all the of the VBS



decorations you loaned us for "Weird Animals"!!! We appreciated all of the time involved in creating them. It really helped add to a successful VBS for 70 different children, and we were happy to "pass them along" to another church as well.

Thanks so much for "sharing the joy". :-)

With Christian Love, Pat Reese, Oxford UMC



On Sunday, September 7, we will present each of our third graders with Bibles. To ensure we do not miss anyone, please call Donna in the church office, 610-869-9334, or email her at office@westgroveumc.org with the spelling of your child's name so a Bible can be presented to your child.

We can't wait to share the Word of God them!

SAVE THE DATE! The Children's Morning Out program will be holding the Fall/Winter Children's Clothing, **Toy and Equip**ment Consign-



ment Sale on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18.

Find the outgrown children's clothes, toys and baby equipment that you aren't using anymore!

The Children's Morning Out is having its

Fall/Winter Children's Consignment Sale on October 17th and 18th.

This is a great way to make some extra the CMO program. More details to come!

We also gladly accepted any donated children's items if you

do not want to consign them yourself. The proceeds from the sale of these items go directly to the CMO Scholarship Fund.

Please contact the church office at 610-869-9334 with any questions.



Children's Morning Out and Preschool Gearing to Start Up with the Program Expanding to 5 Days a Week!

Wow! This summer has been a quick one, and here we are back in preschool. The CMO and Preschool Staff are very excited to be back in the classrooms. It is always a joy to return and to greet so many familiar faces and meet so many new faces. This year,

we continue to have our Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes, and we have added Tuesday and Thursday classes as well. It is great to be able to provide this program for so many children in our community. The children will be busy this month getting to know their teachers and one another.

Ways that you can help the Church's Preschool

We look forward to continuing to work with our Church community. There are many opportunities to help our CMO and Preschool program. You may have a **special gift or talent** to share with the children, you can clip labels for education, volunteer your time at one of our consignment sales, or even pick an apple off of our "giving tree" to donate to the **preschool program**. Thank you for all of the support you have shown to me, the staff, and our preschool. Please feel free to call, email, or stop by and see me with any suggestions you may have for our program or just to say "Hi!" I can not wait to share all of our fun and exciting news each month!!!

Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director

C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



September 14 – Sunday School Begins for middle school and high school **students!** Meet in the youth room at 9:45 a.m. We'll have

some snacks, play some games

and get to know each other.

Sunday, September 14: Youth Tailgating Party & Glow in the Dark

Capture the Flag. 6:30 -**9:00 p.m.** All youth in 7th – 12th grades are invited out for our fall youth kick off! Bring a friend for some fun. We'll grill out, eat some yummy food, play games



and, once it's dark, we will play some glow in the dark capture the flag. Sweet!



Middle School Youth Groupa youth fellowship which includes games, food and bible study for students in grades 7th and 8th. MS youth will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 📸 📾 🏫 🍇 🌋 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group – for students in

grades 9 – 12th who get together for discussions and bible study to grow in faith. We'll also have some fun games, some hanging out time and



snacks. HS youth will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

September/October Youth

- **MS Youth** September 14 (youth kick off), 21st, October 5th, 19th
- **HS Youth** September 14 (youth kick off), 28, October 12, (No 26^{th} b/c of Philly Project Weekend Blitz).

Confirmation Meeting: September 21st at 9:45 a.m.

Any parents and students who are interested in finding out more about confirmation. All are welcome to join us! Confirmation will officially begin on October 5th.





Friday Night DodgeBall – Once a month (usually the 4th Friday), we hang out, eat pizza and throw balls at each other. Bring a friend and join in! September 26, 7 -**9:00 p.m.** \$2 for pizza.



Interested in helping with the youth?

We are always looking for more adults to help out! Here are some ways you can be a part of the youth ministry.

A middle school youth leader – join us on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

A high school youth leader – join in on the 2nd and 4th Sunday

A dodge ball youth leader - 4th Friday of the month.

Pray about how you can be a part of this ministry and let Jamie know your thoughts!

Looking Towards October

* We will start again with a **weekly Bible study** as we continue to look through Philippians. Day and time TBD.

* Philly Project Weekend Blitz – October 24 – 26th! Registration will start in September.

Questions or to find out more about the youth ministry at WGUMC – please contact Jamie Lindtner, Director of Youth Ministry. JamieLindtner@gmail.com or 610-937-7932

Youth in Mission in Washington, D.C. Remembered

These reflections were shared in worship on August 10th regarding the Youth Group's mission trip in July to Washington, D.C.

LAUGHTER

Joke: Q: What do you call a cow with no legs?

A: Ground beef!

That right there, all of you laughing, that is where I saw God that week. Almost everywhere we went, there was laughter in some shape or form. You might think, "well why did I have to go all the way to DC to experience this "laughter" when it can be found in all of its glory right here in West Grove?" It's more than the actual act of laughing. It's being able to laugh in front of strangers, in front of people who might judge you, in front of those who are different than you, in front of those you may never see again. That's the great thing about laughter; it doesn't discriminate. Laughter doesn't care about what religion, race, gender, or age you are. I saw this joy all over the city, through us youth, through the old, and through the young that we visited. On the first day, we saw it with making connections at the farmers market and through a sweet lady, Janice, who had us laughing for almost the whole hour we visited her, to then inform us that we had made her day. Later in the week, we visited with the old folk at a day care center for the elderly, and a few of us were sent up with a group of people that had further developed Alzheimer's. This group of people had everyone one in the room laughing, to the point of tears, over the littlest things. I saw here that these people were all different, but all facing the same kind of problems, could laugh at each other and simply be happy. On the whole other end of the spectrum, we visited a day care center for kids towards the end of the week, and got to see these kids happy to be with us and to play, and to laugh at silly things. These kids might have it hard at home, but when they get to come to a place like the day care, they can forget all of it through the simple power of laughter and giggles. There is so much that went on this week that I will never forget, and I am glad I went on this trip Because I grew closer to these lovely people up



here, and I changed because of it. My friends at school used to be able to tell I was coming down the hall just by my laugh, and

I never want that to change so I vow to NEVER stop laughing and I encourage you to do the same. Thank you. *Alyssa Lytle*

Mr. Get Off The Floor

Nine middle/high school students sat in the E.R. with their young leader on that infamous Thursday afternoon. And I can tell you, I was not too excited about texting my mother later that Mrs. Bushy (Eileen Bushnell) dislocated her elbow roller skating. (Good thing Alyssa did it first!)

The ride over in the big silver van was silent and long, with a spectacular view of car bumpers as we bumbled along in the traffic. But when we first got there, everybody started getting a little more comfortable. Several trips to the snack machine, hyping up on sugar, and we were soon back to our fidgety selves. And then we discovered some more good news...someone had brought a deck of cards with them! Between D.C. and the West Grove Project, our new best friends were named King, Queen, Jack, and the occasional Ace. Glad for a distraction from the odd couples therapy shows on TV, we all hopped down from our seats and organized ourselves in a neat circle. However, before our version of Hunger Games began, a pair of shiny black shoes appeared inches from our circle. Each one of us looked up to see a tall security guard raising his eyebrows at us. He informed us that we weren't allowed to sit on the floor and left as swiftly as he arrived to return to his hospital duties. There we were. Cut off from our only source of entertainment besides the failed attempts at I-Spy and other hand games. But, just when we were about to resign to defeat, who do we see striding back down the hallway, but our good old friend Mr. Get Off The Floor. (Continued on Page 12)

Emily Lytle

what we need. And that will never change.

(Continued from page 16)

Washington DC

Right then, I became aware. Most of the

others in the waiting room were spread across the chairs in pairs or by themselves—most looking down at a phone or a laptop. I wondered what interrupted this mix of people from their regular routines. But then I looked around at my friends—and we looked like a field trip gone wrong.

In a way, we were the out casts. And this man, labeled A. Hall on his golden name tag, picked us out and chose to befriend us.

For you see, when he returned to our odd bunch, he had some interesting and perplexing things to say. He said, "I am a veteran, and back in the day, I knew a whole bunch of things to do with a deck of cards. Let me show you."

He then took the first nine cards in the suit of clubs and arranged them in a square. He said, "There is a way, that if you arrange these cards correctly, each row and each column will add up to fifteen. Think of it like a Rubik's cube. I'll be back to see how smart ya'll are."

By the time we solved that puzzle, and we saw the look of satisfaction on Mr. Hall's face we were having one of the best times all week! This pattern continued for maybe the next hour as he kept returning with more riddles and jokes for us to solve. I had never had to sit in the waiting room of the E.R. before, but I never thought it would be this stinkin' fun!

At the beginning of the week I was overwhelmed. We took a tour of the city and were thrown into the mess: homelessness, human trafficking, drugs, runaway teens and hatred.

At our final stop, we spread out across a wide field behind an old-looking church on top of a hill. It was dark except for the bright lights of the city below us. And for one moment, we saw through God's eyes as we took in the entire city. And to see what God sees—the whole picture can break you down. I told God that night: Honestly, I'm not sure this is possible. How on earth can we save all this?

But, the biggest lesson I learned from our week in D.C. was this—we are not alone. I believe that God sent an angel dressed as a security guard that Thursday. But Mr. Hall didn't only comfort us in those couple of hours of waiting; he reminded us that God is good. That He will give us

Give em' Hope!

Summer is winding down and school is drawing ominously closer. As the days tick by everyone begins to reminisce on their summer that has just flown by. Many people will have the cliché memories of days on the beach, relaxing in the mountains and an overall carefree summer. But what I have learned about life is that it isn't the things that are fun, but the things that push you past your breaking point, or even to the point of devastation, that make you better. This is exactly what the CSM-DC (Center for Student Mission) mission project was designed to do. Being emerged into DC was like entering an entirely different planet of its own unlike anything I could ever imagine. Every day we were faced with new and different challenges that would pull our hearts in a different way every single time. *My heart* was pulled in a way that - at the time- I could never imagine how it would impact me at St. Thomas Moore rehab centre. As we rose in the elevator to the most intense ward of the building, my anxiety grew with every click of the floor. The doors of the elevator opened to reveal what could only be described as a child-like happiness when we were greeted by the staff and the ice-cream for the patients. However, as we trekked along we met many patients deflated from a tough life. As we worked our way down the halls, we had met many characters full of personality. We had then made our way down to the third floor where we met a young man who seemed like a misfit in this hopeless place. The 21-year-old football star had his life tackled to a stop in a world shaking car crash.

This didn't mean much to me in the moment as we prayed over this young man, and we made our way back to the van as we had done so many times before.

Only minutes later was my world shaken to the core when we heard that a good friend of mine had lost his sister in a car accident. I was shocked into silence and for the first time that week I **Prayed**.

This final push had exhausted me physically and mentally but now I could relate to the hurt that had been going on in DC for years. It was time to Give em' Hope!

Justin Lytle



Give thanks. Give life.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the words of the Apostle Paul, "I appeal to you by the mercies of God" on behalf of a young man in our area who needs a new kidney. Fernando Tena is the son of Maira Tena, our Nursery Attendant and a Children's Morning Out Teacher's Assistant. Might the Spirit lead you to step forward to be an organ donor? It is my hope that you will communicate this urgent request to your family and friends through as many means as possible. This young twenty-yearold is a man of great determination. He is a graduate of Avon Grove High School. Presently, he works, attends a community college, and goes for dialysis three days a week. However, as you know, without a new kidney his health will eventually deteriorate to the point that regardless of his determination, his dreams will not be met. I recently heard of a similar story and appeal in a different area of the country that had a delightful ending. It can happen here. Someone's heart may be touched and this young man will have a new lease on life. The donor must have A-Positive blood type. Any interested person may call the office of the West Grove United Methodist Church at 610-869-9334 and leave necessary contact information. In the Love of Jesus, Mel Leaman



Saturday, October 4

9 a.m.-Noon

Household goods, adult and children's clothing, toys, and lots of other "treasures" will be for sale. On Saturday, all shoppers may "Fill-a-Bag for \$2.⁰⁰".

How can you help?

Why not weed out unwanted books, gently used clothes, unused kitchen utensils and other household items, box games, puzzles, children's items, the stuff in your basement you've been meaning to go through, and set those "weeds" aside for the church rummage sale? You can bring your donations to church beginning <u>Sunday, September 29</u> and throughout that week. The church office is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

> We'll be setting up on Thursday, October 2.

So, start cleaning and sorting, and we'll see you at the sale!



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The children of the dren in the children of the children of the be in ministry through the children's choir. The group usually sings four or five

times during the school year. Practices are generally held the three Sundays leading up to a performance, in Room 4 at 10:50. The children receive a CD and lyric sheets so they don't need to make every rehearsal. All children four and older are welcome to participate. If your child is three, but you feel he/ she is mature enough, that is fine.

The first time the choir will be singing this fall is Oct. 12 and we will rehearse Sept. 21, 28 and Oct. 5. Please contact Joan Leaman with any gues-

~~~~~~~~~~~~~ **PraiseWorks Band** 



Our PraiseWorks Band leads the 8:30 a.m. contemporary worship service each week. We always welcome new singers and instrumentalists. If you have a heart for worship and are willing to serve God though leading the congregation on Sunday mornings, please contact Betsy Smith for more information.



# THE MEMORY BELLS of the WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**517 IT'S TIME FOR HANDBELLS AGAIN!** Our first rehearsal will be **September 8**, when we will start with our annual bell polishing, and quick review of some of our upcoming pieces. Again this year, I have chosen two pieces that should be very easy to pull together, and since we actually

have two weeks to prepare, I think we can plan to play in church on **September 21**. If not, our usual third Sunday schedule will begin on October 19. Come join us for some great fellow-ship and interesting and fun bell choir music.

AS WE HAVE DONE BEFORE, WE WILL BE PLAYING IN CHURCH THE **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**. We also usually play during our annual Advent Music Night, Christmas Eve, and Easter Sunday. For the past five years, we have been participating in an annual Community Charity Concert, usually held in mid-April.

**WE REHEARSE EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 6:30 P.M.** If there is an occasional Monday when you cannot rehearse or are out of town for any particular Sunday, we ask that you get a substitute for your position from the substitute list that is provided. It is really important to have a full choir for rehearsals and, especially, the Sundays we play.

We know that belonging to a handbell choir is a huge commitment, but the rewards are great. Not only do you have the great fellowship times with your fellow ringers, you are part of enhancing the worship experience for our congregation each month. You don't need to be able to read music, just learn where your note appears on the staff and be able to count to three or four (very occasionally to six) and you'll fit right in! Besides, everybody is there to help everybody else, so we have a good time working together.

We currently have three full octaves of bells and chimes. If you are interested in learning or in being a substitute, please contact me at 484-887-0003 or 610-563-9500. You can also just talk to me at church!

Thank you,

Sandy Deckard

Hand bell Choir Director



A bell symbolizes the call to worship, reflected in the ringing of bells in many churches to announce or open the worship service. A bell also symbolizes the proclamation of the gospel to the world: hence, the ringing of church bells at the close of some services as worshipers depart to spread Christ's good news in their daily lives.

Published in NewsletterNewsletter5 September 2013

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# Fantasy Football at West Grove UMC

START YOUR ENGINES.....oops, wrong sport.... But anyway....... FOOTBALL "SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. Last year was the fifth season of the West Grove UMC Fantasy Football League. We are now preparing for the Sixth season. No experience is necessary but some knowledge of the NFL teams/players is "

helpful. No fee to play; the winner's name will be engraved onto the very honorable West Grove UMC Fantasy Football trophy. Congrats to Reed the Swede for last year's victory; let's get that trophy back to the USA where it belongs!

Perhaps you have a friend or neighbor that may benefit from a church community, but you haven't been sure how to invite them; this could be it. Space is limited; teams will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. To join the league please contact Commissioner Tim Bushnell BEFORE Labor Day at 610-998-0916 or agedarborist@gmail.com

# Everyone likes a list.

Lists are reassuring. They comfort us. To list is to understand, solve, and even control. Moses brought a list down from the mountain. There are lists of



the gifts of the Spirit. Lists of good fruit and bad. I've compiled a list of some God-given, time-tested truths that define the way to navigate life. May I share it with you?

- When no one is watching, live as if someone is.
- Succeed at home first.
- Pray twice as much as you fret.
- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.
- Once a week, let a child take you on a walk.
- Only harbor a grudge when God does.
- *Never let the important be the victim of the trivial.*

Those are just a few ideas on my list. Why don't you compile your own?

Max Lucado

# **Inspirational Vision**

Charley Boswell, a former University of Alabama football star with hopes of a professional baseball career, lost his eyesight in World War II. But that did not stop him. He went on to become the National Blind Golf Champion 17 times. He was quoted as saying, "I never count what I've lost. I only count what I have left."



—The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom Published in: <u>June 2006</u>

Retired Active People

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## Retired Active People (R.A.P.) <u>FRIDAY, September 12</u> 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

R.A.P. (Retired Active People) has been meeting for many years and has been such a success due to the wonderful ladies and gentlemen that attend not only from our church family, but from the wider community as well. We have been blessed with fellowship, old and new friends, great entertainment and, of course, good food!

We are back to the second FRIDAY of every month September through May. Our first meeting is 9/12/2014 Friday at noon. Please bring your bag lunch, and we will supply iced tea, lemonade, coffee tea and desserts.

To kick off our season, we have one of our own, WGUMC Pastor Don Hurst, author. Yes, he is a published author of a book about where Don grew up, learned the love of the Lord and much more. The book is titled *Living In Harmony*. Don speaks of growing up on Maryland's Eastern shore in the town of Harmony and how his family and many others wrestled with heartrending discordance to maintain Harmony's name. Please join us for Don's presentation and his book will be available for purchase!

Here is to a glorious RAP season! **Don't forget we are back to Fridays!!** I am so grateful to all who help to make each month so special. Praise God.

Blessings, Lisa Reoli, R.A.P. Coordinator

You are invited to

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¢ celebrate the Christmas Season with the RAP **~~~~~~~~~** group and friends on Friday, December 5th as all travel to the Plain & Fancy Restaurant for their delicious **Traditional Amish** Farm Family Style Feast at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to browse/shop in the Country Store, **\$** plan to arrive earlier in the morning, ¢ before the meal. After lunch, we will **\** then travel to the American Music Theatre to attend the **2014 Christmas** Show "Joy to the World" beginning at 3 p.m.--the suggested time of arrival is 2:30 p.m.

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CHRISTMAS SHOW IOY TO THE WORLD

Make reservations to enjoy the meal and the show. However, you are welcome to do just the meal or just the show. The price for the feast is \$24 (including all taxes and gratuities). The price for the show

is \$36.

Please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger** with your questions and to make reservations for the meal and/or the show: sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863. We will be traveling by carplease inform Sara Ann if you need a ride.



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

# JULIET...Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

#### September 13 at 9:00 a.m.

 $\underline{Please}$  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.



# R.O.M.E.O. Retired Older Men Eating Out Thursday, September 25

Retired Older Men Eating Out, will meet, August 28, 2014. 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 or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.



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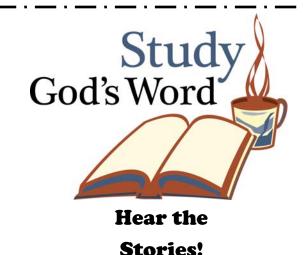
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# Care Givers Group

Caregivers will meet throughout the summer on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on September

10, at 7 p.m. in Room #16.

Please join us if you are caring for a loved one, close or from afar. Find love and support from others in your situation. *Thank you.* 



Luther Class is for men and women who are interested in coming together to learn the stories of the Bible. The Bible Study is open to anyone interested in gathering each Wednesday for a mid-week time of fellowship and bible study. You do not need to be a resident of Luther House to attend. All are welcome. We will begin a study on Galatians in September. We meet every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. 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

Apparently this is a true story: When WC Fields, the actor, was in his dotage he was seen to be reading the Bible by a close friend who demanded to know what he was looking for. 'Loopholes, dear boy, loopholes,' murmured Fields.

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# SCRIP PROGRAM

# <u>Savings for Church through Rebate and Incentive Program</u>

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.

Our first order was a great success. We look forward to the whole congregation participating in the program.

There is a table in the lobby with Order Forms. Just choose the cards you wish to purchase, attach your check made payable to "WGUMC" with memo "SCRIP" and put them in the bin below the forms. Envelopes for your privacy and convenience are there as well.

This is an on-going program, so you can order at any time! If you have any questions, please see John Boyd or e-mail him at jwb389@zoominternet.net.

Thank you.



# **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.

# Crop Walk for Hunger Sunday, October 19 at 1 p.m.

All are welcome to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk for the Oxford area on Sunday, October 19. Scheduled time is 1:00 p.m.
beginning at the Memorial Park in Oxford. You can participate
by walking in the event or by SPONSORING ONE OF OUR WALKERS with your donation.



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CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide – and right here in the U.S. – to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Our local efforts are making a huge difference... and you are part of it! Twenty-five percent of the amount raised is returned to support the Neighborhood Service Center located in Oxford.

Sign-up sheets and sponsor sheets will be available at the display in the church lobby by mid-September. Contact Roger Bates at 610-869-7638 for more information. REMEMBER - "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give" ~ Winston Churchill.



## "Planting the Seeds for Ministry Growth" Workshop Saturday, November 15 2:00-6:30 p.m.

Hopewell UMC, located in Downingtown, PA, will once again host this year's annual "Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth" workshop on November 15th from 2:00-6:30. The keynote speaker will discuss Why Young Christians are Leaving church and Rethinking Faith. Workshops include: How to work with Millennials, Wellness Ministry, Restorative Justice: Rebuilding Communities, Toward Radically Inclusive Congregations, and Church/School Partnerships.

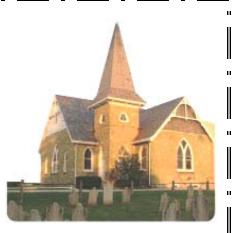
We are looking to take a group to this event. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Melissa Jones.

# The Southeast District United Methodist Women

UMW will be hosting our annual meeting in September, and you are cordially invited to join us for lunch. We are excited about this event and hope you will be also. More details will soon follow. We hope you will be able to join us for this meeting. Peace & Love, Southeast District UMW

What:SE District UMW Annual MeetingWhen:Saturday, September 27, 2014 @ 9:30amWhere:Grove UMC, Boot Rd., W. Chester, PA 19380

If you are interested in attending with Cindy Haley, please contact her chaley@zoominternet.net or 484-702-7071. Thank you!



# **REACHING OUT MINISTRY/ MOROGORO**

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH P. O. Box 5428 MOROGORO TANZANIA

Umba I. Kalangwa, Missionary number 14211Z, Email: <u>ukalangwa@umcmission.org</u> Ngoy M. Kalangwa, Missionary number 15162Z, Email: <u>nkalangwa@umcmission.org</u>





Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Receive our sincere greetings from Morogoro-Tanzania.

We would like to thank you very much for your prayers and your birthday wishes. Our family is fine. We are blessed, as Laurene our third daughter got married.

The ministry which you are praying for and supporting is going well. After the ILULA pastors' seminar last May, student students will attend posters'

will attend pastors' training courses which

will start on July 23. Rev Cox Kerry from Oklahoma will join us and teach student.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Wesley primary school and preschools are going well. We have a project to build a library and science rooms.

Four women are getting sewing course at Susannah Wesley Center

Vanessa Donald (a girl supported )



Women at Faidika

women group start to make chilli and tomatoes sauces ( Project supported by Oklahoma Mission Team ).

Our projects:

Reaching Out Ministry, **advance number 150530** Morogoro preschools **advance number 15048N** Wesley primary school, **advance number 3020704** Susannah Wesley Training centre **advance number 3020705** church construction in Morogoro **Advance number 15059N** Morogoro Pastors' Training Center **advance number 3020710** 

Thank you for your prayers , for supports and for also taking part in our mission .

Yours in Christ's love,

Mrs Ngoy and Umba Kalangwa



1. Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Amanda

2. Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

3. Dear Mr. God, I wish you

would not make it so easy for people to come apart I had to have 3 stitches and a shot. Janet

4. God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me. Love Alison

5. Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you? Charlene

6. Dear God, is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita

7. Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nancy

8. Dear God, I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too. Glenn

9. Dear God, my Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis

10. Dear God, do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does? Nathan

11. Dear God, did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? Norma

12. Dear God, in bible times, did they really talk that fancy? Jennifer



13. Dear God, how come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do any now? Billy

14. Dear God, please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. Peter

15. Dear God, maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me

and my brother. Larry

16. Dear God, I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet. What's up? Don't forget. Mark

17. Dear God, my brother told me about how you are born but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say? Marsha

18. Dear God, if you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. Barbara

19. Dear God, is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business? Donny

20. Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God. Charles

21. Dear God, it is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? Jeff

22. Dear God, I am doing the best I can. Really!!! Frank

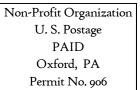
(And, saving the best for last )

23. Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool. Thomas

From God's Minute.org, Kids Talking to God in Prayer

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390 Phone: 610-869-9334, Fax: 610-869-0110 E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org Website: www.westgroveumc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTEDPost Master: Send address changes to WGUMC at above address



### ~ 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

Rev. Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond jimm@westgroveumc.org

#### Office Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Staff

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator donnaf@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director Contemporary Music Interim Director betsys@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard-Handbell Choir Director

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director jamiel@westgroveumc.org

Melissa Jones - Member Connection and Small Groups Coordinator: melissaj@westgroveumc.org

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director tracym@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Helen Carlin-Sunday Coordinator & Office Volunteer

#### **Board and Committee Leadership**

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair John Boyd - Trustee Chair Larry Yates - Finance Chair Jeff Curtis - Treasurer Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary Cindy Hoover - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair **Open** - Education Team Chair 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 Roger Bates - Lay Leader Cindy Haley - U.M.W. President Open- Prayer Chain Coordinator Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers Ad Council Member at Large