



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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West Grove, Pa. 19390

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December 2014



*"Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary has been engaged to Joseph, but before they had lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:18*

As a little girl, I can remember lots of fun Christmas traditions: making cookies, wrapping presents, dancing at nursing home with my dance studio, singing Christmas songs, and much more. But the image that first comes to mind when I close my eyes is watching Christmas movies as a family. Throughout the month, we would watch different favorite movies as they were shown on TV or some we would watch off our favorite VHS tapes. Sometimes we would sit down all of us to watch, and other times wrapping and cookie making would go on in the background.



Looking back, I realize that my images of Christmas were as much shaped, initially, by those Christmas movies and popular culture images, alongside the Sunday School stories and biblical scriptures. The Grinch who stole Christmas might not have made it into the Nativity, but was part of talking about the real meaning of Christmas. Frosty the Snowman was never mentioned in the Sunday School, but I am sure shaped by wishing for snow at Christmas. And somehow, we all have a very clear image in our minds of what a Charlie Brown Christmas tree is.



As I read the first chapter of Matthew in preparation for Advent, I think of how much the beginning of the birth of Jesus sounds like a movie script. The author of the Gospel of Matthew invites us into a tale with intrigue and romance, mystery and action. The tale of the birth of Jesus in Matthew is complete with dream sequences and villains, surprises and plot twists. The birth of Jesus is such a familiar story to so many of us that we can echo some of the traditional King James version or New Revised Standard version words (depending on the generation that we grew up) as we hear scripture read. However, I wonder if we hear the fullness of God's drama unfolding in our listening as the whole world is set to be changed as God does a new thing in Jesus.



This year, I want to invite you to hear the Nativity story anew, afresh. Listen to the words again. Place yourself in the action. Imagine the scenes in your minds' eye. Not just the scenes depicted in your favorite Christmas movies and music, but the scene as described in the biblical narrative. Let God speak to you among the familiarity of Advent and Christmas in new ways this year. Let the Spirit of change and God's way move over you as the Spirit moved over Mary as she served God fully. Advent is not only about remembering, but also about moving into God's preferred future. God can move through all of the tellings of God's story, even through movies!



So, I am looking forward to sharing some of the tradition of watching Christmas movies with you all as we gather on Wednesday evenings during Advent to view the movies that we will discuss in the following Sunday's worship. Bring some food to share for the potluck, if you are able, put the kids in their pjs, and sit back and enjoy the movies. Can't you already smell the popcorn?

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



December Worship at West Grove UMC



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

Sermon Series: Movie-ing Through Advent

The Christmas story is familiar and has been told in many media.

Let's take a look at some classic movies as we re-tell the story of the waiting and expecting Christ as well as his birth.

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2014

Communion Sunday

**Emergency Food Pantry Collection Day is on the first Sunday of each month*

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8; Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: "Not Home Alone!"

Third Sunday in Advent

Baptism Sunday ~ Mason Hendrickson

December 14, 2014

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55; Isaiah 63:7-9

Sermon: "Have You Known a Miracle?"

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2014

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 61:1-11

Sermon: "Expecting Hope!"

Blue Christmas Service

7:00 p.m.

December 21, 2014

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1, 25-31; Psalm 121

Sermon: "Just Doesn't Feel Like Christmas"

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2014

12:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Children's Service

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon: "Room for a Little One"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

6:30 p.m. Family Service with a pick-up Christmas

Pageant and our Memory Bells Handbell Choir

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Service with music by

our PraiseWorks Band

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon: "God Bless Us Every One!"

10:30 p.m. Traditional Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and our Chancel Choir

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 9:2-7

Sermon: "God Bless Us Every One!"

First Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 2014

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40; Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Sermon: "Blessed to See Jesus"



Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Perhaps, as you prepare for Christmas, this season has not felt as joyful for you as it does for others. Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, and physical, emotional, spiritual pain. As stated by Nancy Townely, "On this night, we remember those for whom the holidays are not joyful; they are lonely,

in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations; they are experiencing depression and sadness and yet are compelled to 'put on a happy face' for others, denying their true feelings."

The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls. It is an offering of hope, as we decorate a bare branch with shiny blue ornaments. As one after another of the ornaments decorate the barren branch it becomes a glowing, living testament to the resilience of the spirit. Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.



Connectional Commitments

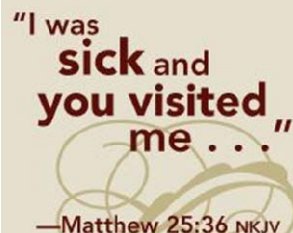
As United Methodists, your clergy are called not only to serve the local church, but into the community and throughout the world. John Wesley famously said, "The world is my parish." So how are your clergy living up to that commitment?

- November 2nd—Pastor Monica and others offered worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Twin Pines at 2 p.m.
- November 9th – Pastor Jim offered worship, including Holy Communion, at Jenner's Pond at 11:00am.
- November 10th—Pastor Monica attended Wesley Foundation Board meeting at Drexel University.
- November 15th—Pastor Monica and Melissa Jones attended Planting Seeds for Ministry at Hopewell UMC. Look for future reflections on the wisdom in reaching newer, younger, and more diverse persons for Christ.
- November 17th - Pastor Monica participated in Annual Conference Worship Planning Team.



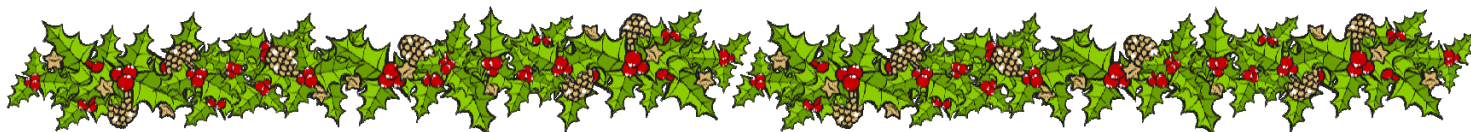
Have you been traveling?
Away on vacation?
Sick on Sunday morning?
Want to remember an
illustration from a sermon?

Did you know? Sermons are now available on the website! You can choose to read them in manuscript form or listen to them in mp3 form.



Please let Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. We would love to support you and your family with a visit.

We depend on you to share the information of which hospital your loved one is in. Please also let us know of any other pastoral needs. We are also interested in gathering a visitation team. Please let us know if you are interested in supporting our homebound members in this way. Thank you!



Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 21



is hosted by
The Congregation

Due to food allergies among the general population and our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship note if they contain nuts (including coconuts). Thank you.

Bring in your favorite Christmas cookie to share with the congregation for the fellowship time.

The
**Church
Office**



**Will Be
Closed:**

The Church office will
be closed

on Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday,
December 24-26
For the Christmas
Holiday.

We pray for a blessed Christmas for everyone!



MOVIE-ING THROUGH ADVENT

WEDNESDAYS, 6-8 P.M.

Do you love Christmas movies?

Looking for a way to get in the holiday spirit?

Join us!

November 26th – How the Grinch Stole Christmas – animated

December 3rd – Home Alone

December 10th – Miracle on 34th Street

December 17th – It's a Wonderful Life!

Join us for Potluck dinner and the full movie that the upcoming Sunday's sermon will be based on. 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! Pajamas for the kids are great, along with a comfy blanket and pillow! A short meditation will follow the movie. Join us as we prepare for Christ's birth and second coming with movies!

WHERE: West Grove United Methodist Church, 300 N. Guernsey Road, West Grove, PA 19390

NEED A RIDE? Let us know! Call the church office at 610-869-9334 in advance and we will arrange to have you picked up. Hope to see you there!

Worship With Us *Christmas Eve*

Sunday, December 7th – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30pm

Saturday, December 20th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00pm

Sunday, December 21st – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

12:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service

6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

8:30 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

10:30 pm Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

A 4-Week Bible Study

Based on Mathew 1:18-2:23

Do you believe that God speaks to you in dreams?

In this season of Advent, explore the Infancy narratives as we find them in the gospel of Mathew. Advent itself we might understand as God's dream for the world coming true: in the arrival of Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. And yet, Mathew's story of Advent and Christmas is told very deliberately in a series of four progressive scenes, each of which



features a nighttime dream to human beings... dreams which offer divine guidance, or warning from danger, or a challenge to try something new. If Advent is God's dream coming true, we might ask: how do we ourselves (and our church)

live into God's dream, and does God today offer guidance or protection or challenge to us in dreams?

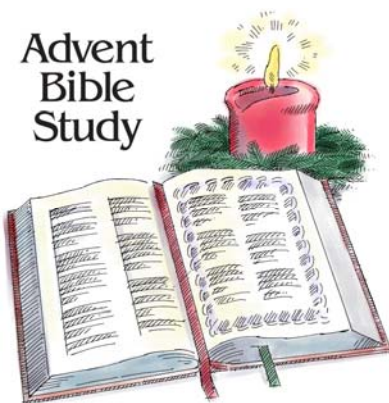
Join us on **Wednesday mornings** from

9:30 – 11:00 a.m., Room 8

December 3, 10, 17 and January 7

Please contact Pastor Monica if you have any questions.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY AT JENNER'S POND



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

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

This study will be held in the Alison Theater at Jenner's Pond on the Tuesdays beginning December 2nd at 1:30 PM for four weeks. You are invited to attend. See Pastor Jim if you have any questions.



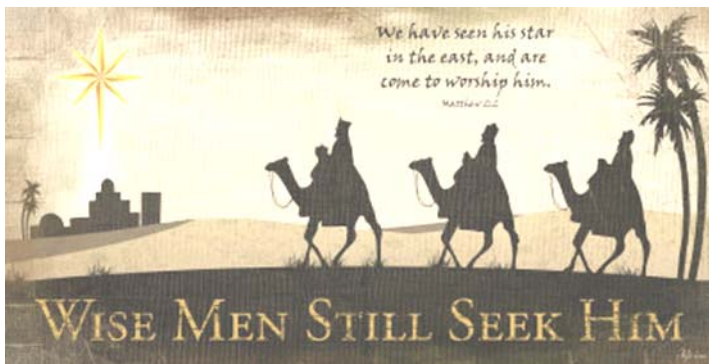
PORTRAITS OF CHRIST BIBLE STUDY IN REVIEW

Learning about Jesus and His life was the result of a Bible study conducted by Pastor Jim Mundell. For a period of 8 weekly sessions, from September 22 through November 18, thirteen people attended this study and learned what the Gospel of John taught us about Jesus. We learned the characteristics of Jesus and the works that He performed during His ministry here on earth. This study painted 21 different portraits of His life, one portrait for each of the 21 chapters of John. As we studied our way through the Gospel of John these portraits became alive and we learned more about Jesus. The following are the portraits that we studied.

They are **CHRIST THE....**

SON OF GOD
SON OF MAN
DIVINE TEACHER
SOUL WINNER
GREAT PHYSICIAN
BREAD OF LIFE
WATER OF LIFE
DEFENDER OF THE WEAK
LIGHT OF THE WORLD
GOOD SHEPHERD
PRINCE OF LIFE

THE KING
THE SERVANT
THE GREAT CONSOLER
THE TRUE VINE
GIVER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
GREAT INTERCESSOR
MODEL SUFFERER
UPLIFTED SAVIOR
CONQUEROR OF DEATH
RESTORER OF THE PENITENT

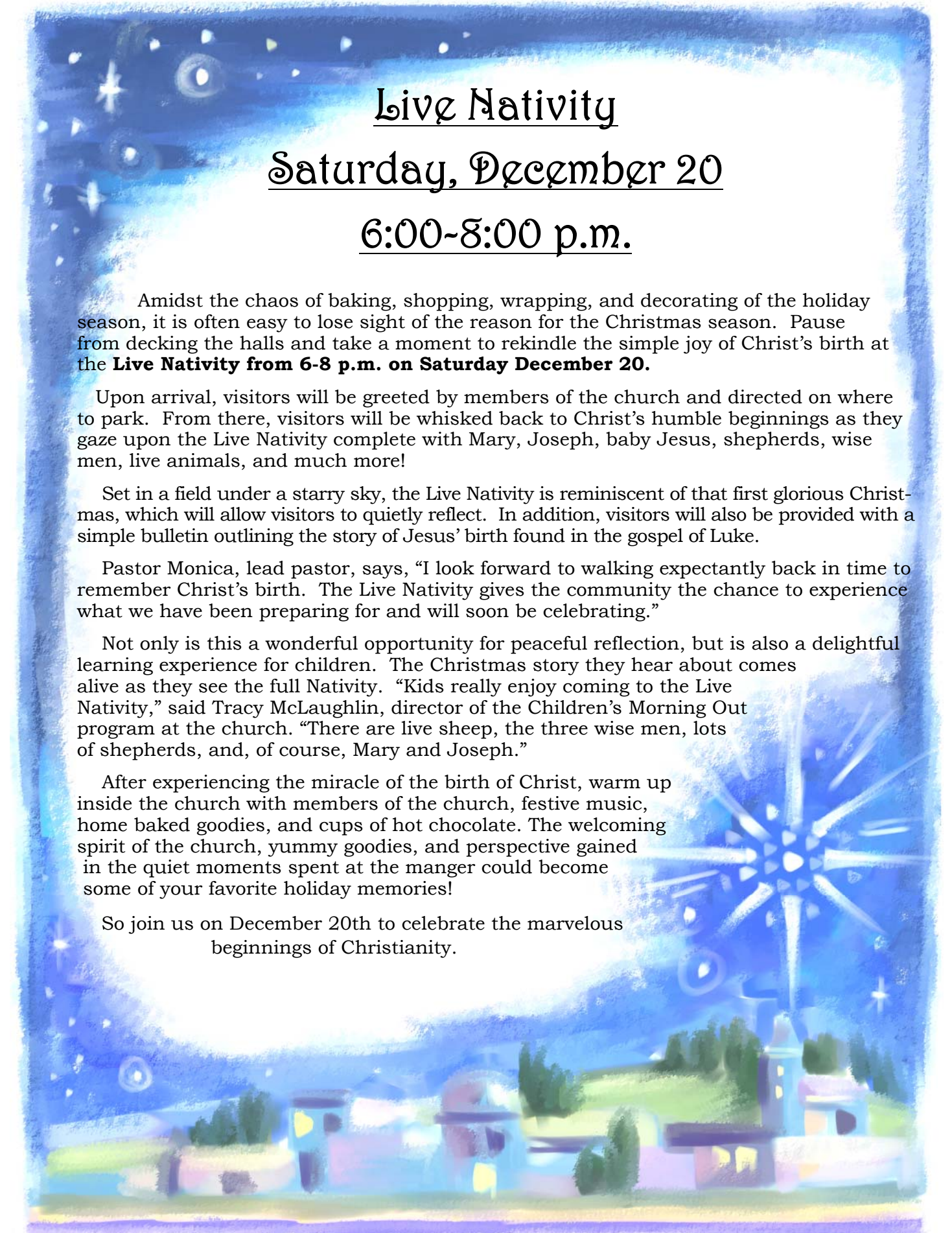


LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Help Us Celebrate the Real Reason for the Season! We need YOUR help with the Living Nativity!

This year's Living Nativity is scheduled for Saturday, December 20th from 6-8pm. Your attendance, support, and help allows us to share the Gospel with our community.

Sign up to bake cookies, provide hot beverages, lend a hand to set up or take down the Nativity scene, greet people as they arrive, or even dress as one of the many Nativity characters. For more information, **or to sign-up, contact Lori McClain at 610-869-7812 or llmcccl@verizon.net** or sign up in the Narthex.



Live Nativity

Saturday, December 20

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Amidst the chaos of baking, shopping, wrapping, and decorating of the holiday season, it is often easy to lose sight of the reason for the Christmas season. Pause from decking the halls and take a moment to rekindle the simple joy of Christ's birth at the **Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday December 20.**

Upon arrival, visitors will be greeted by members of the church and directed on where to park. From there, visitors will be whisked back to Christ's humble beginnings as they gaze upon the Live Nativity complete with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, live animals, and much more!

Set in a field under a starry sky, the Live Nativity is reminiscent of that first glorious Christmas, which will allow visitors to quietly reflect. In addition, visitors will also be provided with a simple bulletin outlining the story of Jesus' birth found in the gospel of Luke.

Pastor Monica, lead pastor, says, "I look forward to walking expectantly back in time to remember Christ's birth. The Live Nativity gives the community the chance to experience what we have been preparing for and will soon be celebrating."

Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for peaceful reflection, but is also a delightful learning experience for children. The Christmas story they hear about comes alive as they see the full Nativity. "Kids really enjoy coming to the Live Nativity," said Tracy McLaughlin, director of the Children's Morning Out program at the church. "There are live sheep, the three wise men, lots of shepherds, and, of course, Mary and Joseph."

After experiencing the miracle of the birth of Christ, warm up inside the church with members of the church, festive music, home baked goodies, and cups of hot chocolate. The welcoming spirit of the church, yummy goodies, and perspective gained in the quiet moments spent at the manger could become some of your favorite holiday memories!

So join us on December 20th to celebrate the marvelous beginnings of Christianity.

From the Pastor's Desk



December 1st, 2014 is a World AIDS day. The United Methodist Church recognizes this as a day in which we as a church focus on the needs of our world. One of the four foci of the United Methodist Church over this quadrennium (2012-2015) is to stamp out killer diseases, including HIV-AIDS. Pastor Monica has been an active supporter. In solidarity with those living with the HIV-AIDS infection, Pastor Monica is tested annually. Take a moment to read the following statistics.

Start by being aware of the need in our country.

More than 1.1 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection, and almost 1 in 5 (18.1%) are unaware of their infection.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that 1,148,200 persons aged 13 years and older are living with HIV infection, including 207,600 (18.1%) who are unaware of their infection. Over the past decade, the number of people living with HIV has increased, while the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable. Still, the pace of new infections continues at far too high a level— particularly among certain groups.

World-wide Statistics

33.4 million are currently living with HIV/AIDS.

More than 25 million people have died of AIDS world-wide since the first cases were reported in 1981.

While cases have been reported in all regions of the world, almost all those living with HIV (97%) reside in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), most people living with HIV or at risk for HIV do not have access to prevention, care, and treatment, and there is still no cure.

The HIV epidemic not only affects the health of individuals, it impacts households, communities, and the development and economic growth of nations. Many of the countries hardest hit by HIV also suffer from other infectious diseases, food insecurity, and other serious problems.

Consider supporting efforts to stamp out HIV-AIDS at <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Global-Health/HIV/AIDS/AIDS> as well as being tested for HIV-AIDS in solidarity with those who are living with and unaware of their infection.

We give thanks for God for the pledge commitments received to this point.

**We have received 55 pledges to date.
10 of those pledges are new pledgers.
10 pledges increased over last year's pledge.**

We give thanks to God and all of you for following God's movement here at West Grove. We are able to serve God together because of your sharing of resources.

We do not yet have all the pieces of puzzle. If you are still contemplating your commitment, **please prayerfully consider offering it in the next few weeks' offering.**

Thanks be to God!



December 6th is Saint Nicholas Day. Nicholas was a bishop of Myra, in modern day Turkey. He was known to model generosity and justice.

Mostly notably, he is said to have provided anonymous gifts to those in need.

On December 6th, consider how you might capture that spirit of giving.



On December 31st, we wrap up this year 2014 and look forward to the next year with all of its possibilities. As you give thanks for all that has been and look forward to what may be in the next year, consider this prayer below. This covenant prayer by John Wesley reminds us of our full reliance on God and invites us again into relationship with God.

A covenant prayer for the new year

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by you, or laid aside by you, exalted by you or brought low by you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

John Wesley, 1780

DS DAWN TAYLOR-STORM ANNOUNCES SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MISSION PROJECT



Southeast District Global Mission Project: Building a Pediatric Unit for the Mpasa Medical Clinic in the Congo **Southeast District Goal: \$50,000**

Background: Congo is the third largest African Country and is surrounded by nine other nations in which there is often suffering. Our primary outreach in the Congo is through the Mpasa Medical and Nutrition Clinic, located about 20 miles from the nation's capital of Kinshasa. Our clinic, currently directed by Dr. Rebecca Yohadi provides vital medical services to this community. We also

sponsor a nutrition program for children and their families. About 300 children a day come for food, five days a week. The partnership supports the salaries of the doctors, nurses, and nutrition staff, along with the food, medical supplies, and equipment.

Southeast District Focus: Building a Pediatric Unit (COST: \$50,000)

One of our great hopes is to be able to build a separate Pediatric Wing to the hospital. **There are currently beds for only 25 patients. When children are ill, they must be put in with adults, who often have more serious infections.** Land has been recently purchased that adjoined the property. All that is needed is funding for the building. ***Once the building is in place, we will have a dedication ceremony and will be seeking representatives from the Southeast District to attend and dedicate the building. The hope is that this will be completed in 2016. Please pray about this initiative, educate your congregation about the need, and then seek support! Let us do our part and be as generous as possible.

Please participate by contributing toward our 2014-2015 Global Mission Project: Mpasa Pediatric Unit. Make checks payable to: Southeast District Office (Memo Line: Mpasa Pediatric Unit) Send to: Southeast District Office, 60 West Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Deadline for Contributions: March 31, 2015.

Currently, the district has received approximately \$6,000 towards our goal of \$50,000.

We will celebrate the gifts given at our District Conference.

Together in Ministry, Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Southeast District Superintendent



Our **Christmas Gift Tree** will, once again, be up in the Narthex. On the tree, you will find gift tags for families and individuals in need. The tags will specify gender, size, age and other appropriate information to help you fill the Christmas wish. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season. The wrapped and tagged gifts will need to be at the church by Sunday, December 21 to ensure they are delivered in time for Christmas.

Congregational Christmas Tree

Once again, we will hang personalized family and/or individual ornaments on our Congregational Christmas Tree to be enjoyed by all in the church lobby. The ornament should bear either your family name, picture, or something symbolic to your family and can be homemade or purchased.



Please feel free to bring in your ornaments and hang them on the tree during any of our Advent Worship Services. You may also update the ornament you hung on the tree in years past. Leave the old one or take it with you. If you need more information, please call Barb Lytle at 610-869-9334.

Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. **Please stop by the lobby information table and pick up an order form or use the form below.** Each plant will be in a 6" pot and will be red with 4 to 5 blooms. **The cost is \$6.50 each.**

POINSETTIAS



The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 14** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in the **Sunday, December 21** bulletin. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 28 after the 11:00 a.m. service. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form



Your Name: _____

No. of Plants _____ x **\$6.50** each = \$ _____ Total

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

Circle one: ☐ In Honor of: ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Celebration of:

Would you like to get into the Christmas spirit?!

The Creating Spaces team could certainly use your help!

On Wednesday, December 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Barb Lytle and friends will be decorating the church in anticipation of all the wonderful activities and services we will be having over the Christmas season.

There is much work to be done to make our church an inviting and welcoming place to enjoy the Advent Season and your help would be greatly appreciated!





THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ
Holiday Meal
Tuesday, December 9
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The good people of West Grove UMC are excited to offer to the community a wonderful holiday lunch on December 9. Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays falling so close to the normal 4th Tuesday Community Café, the Café committee decided to offer one, mid-month special holiday meal! The Community Café is a monthly meal ministry offered to meet the needs of our church neighbors, friends and members who are in need of or desire a time of fellowship and food. The meals offered through this ministry are **TOTALLY FREE** and everyone is welcome!

Please join us for a hot, delicious luncheon prepared by Chef Joe and served to you by the wonderful volunteers from the church. The menu will include Hand Carved Turkey with Stuffing and Gravy, Baked Ham with a Cherry and Pineapple Glaze, Mashed Potatoes, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Traditional Green Bean Casserole and, of course, Cranberry Jelly. A special dessert and beverages will also be served. In addition to this mouthwatering menu, you will enjoy the sound of holiday music playing in the background! So, we believe you are sure to enjoy this feast that the chef and volunteers will prepare.

Please note that the normally scheduled meals on November 25 and December 23 have been cancelled and replaced with the one special meal on Tuesday, December 9.

Our lunch is served directly to your table, restaurant style, by our gracious volunteers, so you do not have to stand in a buffet line! Reservations are suggested, but are not required, by calling the church office at 610-869-9334 or e-mailing office@westgroveumc.org.

Walk-ins are welcome. The Rover Bus Company provides local transportation for a nominal fee. You must call them at 610-594-3911 to reserve your seat. If you want to attend the lunch, but are unable to afford transportation, the driver will be met at the church doors, **and the bus fare paid.**

**CROP
WALK
FOR
HUNGER**



Area preliminary total of donations is over \$14,000!

West Grove UMC raised \$3,250 to help fight hunger!

What a wonderful (and powerful) response from our congregation, friends and the community! Thank you to all who sponsored, walked or participated in any way to make this year's walk a success!!

**The
Kitchen
didn't
clean
itself!!**



A BIG thank you to

Linda Shiplet, Karen Boyd, Kay Yates, Linda Peirson, Kim Smith, and Connie Simcox for their monumental efforts preparing the kitchen for our annual Health Inspection. Every nook and cranny has been scrubbed, polished, and organized. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!



There is a cart in the lobby containing serving dishes and other kitchen ware that was left church after one of our events. Please check to see if they belong to you.



Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 7th ~ 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, J.A.M. Singers, 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!



Advent Bags for Our Homebound Thank You!

Thank you to all who generously donated gifts for this year's Advent Bags for our homebound.

Fifteen bags were filled with 25 gifts each, scripture attached to each gift telling the story of Christ's birth, and each numbered 1-25. For the days leading up to Christmas, our homebound can open a gift each day and know they are loved, cared for and cherished by this church family.

We are especially thankful to Helen Carlin for coordinating the collection and distribution of the gifts for this important ministry.



Building Memories at Christmas After the Death of Your Loved One

by Judy Hawk

1. Candles help bring warmth into a home at Christmastime. The light is a symbol of Jesus' birth. Luminaries in the yard bring a sense of peace, particularly on Christmas Eve. Children can help prepare and set them out.
2. It helps at Christmastime to find something simple to place in your home to remember your loved one. Perhaps a small vase with a single rose or an electric candle placed in your window.
3. Buying or making a special ornament for the tree is a memory builder for upcoming Christmases. . You can be sure that whatever is done to remember the loved one will be treasured for many years.
4. Be sure to keep some of your family traditions, Pick two or three traditions that will not overwork you.
5. A visit to the cemetery before Christmas is good, even for the children. Include them when you decorate the grave with flowers or a small tree. Take time to talk about the loved one while you are there.



CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica



During our chapel time in November, we have focused on the joy of thanksgiving. The children have brainstormed lots of things to be thankful for. You might be delighted to learn that the top of the list always includes moms, dads, sisters, brothers, and babies to come (whether or not, Mom and Dad are planning expanding their families)! Also, on the list has been trick or treating, toys, special stuffies, school friends, and teachers. God and Jesus have both made it on the list at some points, as well.

In giving thanks throughout the month, we shared together in the following books:

- ⇒ 'Samuel in the Temple" Children of God Storybook Bible by Desmond Tutu
- ⇒ 'Samuel' in Pray and Play Bible for Children by Group
- ⇒ The Fantastic Gifts of Fall by Dandi Daley Mackall
- ⇒ P is for Pumpkin: God's harvest Alphabet by Kathy- Jo Wargin
- ⇒ Thank you for Thanksgiving by Dandi Daley Mackall
- ⇒ Splat Says Thank you! By Rob Scotton

We also sang our song for the month, "If you're thankful and you know it! " to the tune of "If you're happy and you know it."

Lyrics for If you're thankful and you know it!

If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're thankful and you know it, then you really want to show it
If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands. (clap clap)



If you're thankful and you know it, say a prayer (fold your hands)
If you're thankful and you know it, say a prayer (fold your hands)
If you're thankful and you know it, then you really want to show it
If you're thankful and you know it, say a prayer (fold your hands)

If you're thankful and you know it, say 'Thanks God!' (Thanks God!)
If you're thankful and you know it, say 'Thanks God!' (Thanks God!)
If you're thankful and you know it, then you really want to show it
If you're thankful and you know it, say 'Thanks God!' (Thanks God!)

We are looking forward to telling the story of baby Jesus in December. The children are all curious what the song of the month will be! With all of the Christmas songs and hymns, there are lots of choices! Stay tuned for the update next month!





Children's Morning Out and Preschool



What a wonderful time of the year! I still cannot believe how quickly the beginning of this school year has gone. In November, the children learned a lot about being thankful. I always love to hear what they are thankful for and even though they are young, their hearts are filled with so much love and thankfulness. They all especially love their parents!!! Our preschool family also collected food donations, and we were able to provide two thanksgiving

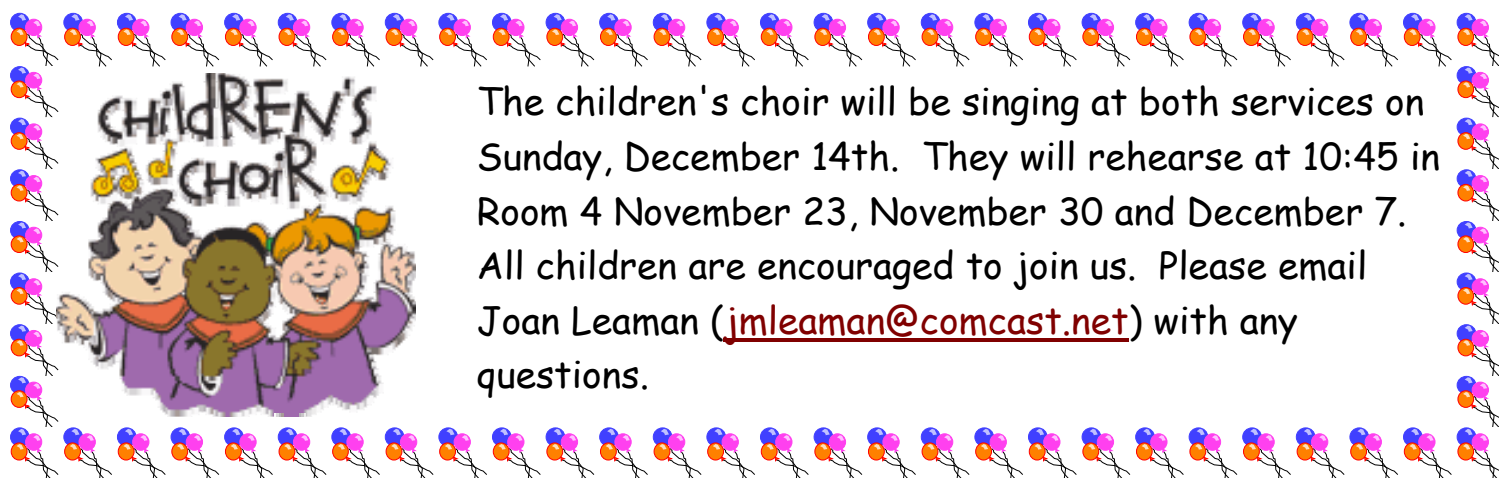
meals to local families. In December, the focus turns to Christmas. Of course, the children talk about Santa but they are also learning about the real meaning of Christmas. Our December classes always end with a Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration. This year our celebration will start with Pastor Monica telling the children the story of Jesus' birth. This will be followed by the children singing some Christmas carols as well as Happy Birthday to Jesus. Then the children will get to explore many fun activities with their parents before they leave for Christmas break.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our CMO and Preschool program. I am truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful program. I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Tracy McLaughlin, Program Director



a



CHILDREN'S CHOIR



The children's choir will be singing at both services on Sunday, December 14th. They will rehearse at 10:45 in Room 4 November 23, November 30 and December 7. All children are encouraged to join us. Please email Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) with any questions.



C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



A Word from the Youth Director

December Sundays are a bit different - so mark your calendar for the upcoming events.

December 7 - NO Youth Group. Concert and Music at church that night. Come listen and sing and enjoy!

December 13 - Saturday
- Parents Nite Out! Sign up to help.



December 14 - Sunday - Youth Christmas Party @ The Lindtners! Bring a silly, fun, \$5 gift for a gift exchange game. Details to come.



New Year Dates to be aware of!

January 11- We will have a Happy New Year - Middle School and High School - Summer Mission Trip - **REVEAL PARTY!** Come find out details about our summer mission trip: June 28 - July 4!

January 31 - February 1 - Winter Retreat @ Gretna! Sign up with Jamie.



Sponsored by the
WGUMC Youth
Group

Parents – Make a reservation and go to dinner without kids! Enjoy an evening on your own! We will watch your kids for you, and you can go on a date, Christmas shopping, the grocery store or take a nap! Here's the details!

When: Saturday, December 13 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: At WGUMC

Cost: a suggested donation of \$10 per child

*Any money that is donated towards this event
will be used to help offset the cost of the
2015 youth summer mission trip*

What: We will feed the kids pizza, do some crafts, play games and watch a movie. Your kids will be safe and have fun, and you get to enjoy time away and relax for 3 hours!

SIGN UP by filling out the bottom of this form and returning it to the office or giving it to Jamie Lindtner.

Parents Date Night Sign-Up

Child/Children's Name & Age

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Parents Name: _____

Emergency

#: _____

Food Allergies or Concerns:



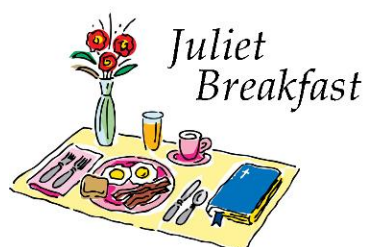
Fantasy Football

at West Grove UMC

WGUMC Fantasy Football League Standings

Rank	Team	Team Manager	W-L-T	Pts For	Streak
1	jerry's boys	Reed Smith Sr.	6-3-0	1043.2	W-1
2	groves 3 and 2	Jeremy Moore	5-4-0	1111.78	W-2
3	soundcurfew	Lee Arter	5-4-0	1076.1	W-3
4	Ten Plagues	Tim Bushnell	5-4-0	977.94	L-2
5	sulli's skins	Fred Sullivan	4-5-0	1051.17	L-2
6	Jim's Vultures	Pastor Jim	4-5-0	921.09	L-1
7	The Rogue Elephants	Doug Allen	4-5-0	894.31	W-1
8	Not a Prayer	Matt Hendrickson	3-6-0	1196.43	L-1

***Updated Nov. 10th



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

JULIET...Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

December 13 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.

Do you pay your bills online?

Many of us pay our bills online. It's fast, convenient and doesn't require a stamp! Consider adding West Grove UMC to your list. There are no fees involved for this service.

If you bank at National Penn Bank or Fulton Bank, you can set up an automatic transfer to the church's account there at no cost to you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to help you!

Online Bill Pay

Paying your bill is quick, easy & only a click away!

MAKE A PAYMENT



Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

FRIDAY,

December 12

12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Please join us for fun and fellowship on Friday, December 12 at noon. Our guest entertainer is John Clayton who is returning once again to lead us with Christmas

piano music and carols for all! RAP is sure to be blessed by his piano playing and singing! In celebration of the Christmas season, we ask you to bring one of your favorite covered dishes to share.

We provide the desserts and beverages! Let's celebrate the

Christmas season together. Our events are open to the

community and will prove to be a joyous time for all! Hope to see

you there! Blessings, Lisa Reoli



Christmas Music



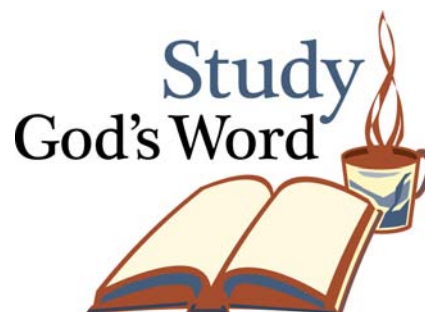
R.O.M.E.O.

Retired Older Men
Eating Out

R.O.M.E.O.

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays both falling on the 4th Thursday, the ROMEOS

will not meet in November or December. They look forward to you joining them on **Thursday, January 22** at the Perkins in Avondale at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and conversation!



Hear the Stories!

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**

Care Givers
Group

Caregivers meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on December 9, 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.**

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Help us color our Christmas tree green! Our challenge is for 100% congregation participation in the SCRIP Program and we will offer two dates to order the SCRIP cards; November 30 and December 14. These are wonderful opportunities to purchase cards for gifts, holiday meal planning, traveling, etc.

If every member just purchased one card, we can achieve our holiday goal. Questions? See John Boyd or Scott Steele or you can call the church office at 610-869-9334. Order forms are available in the Narthex.



Giant Gift Cards

GIANT GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS

Make Great Christmas Presents and Stocking Stuffers!

Christmas Gift Suggestion – Do you know someone who has everything? How about a Giant Gift Card? It is the perfect size, will not take up any room in the house; can be used at the pharmacy, coffee shop, and for Chinese food at the Giant! It is a great gift for grandparents as well as college students. It comes in denominations of 10, 20, 25, 50 or 100 dollars. Pick up an order form in the lobby and drop it in the offering plate or Carol Whelan's mailbox today! Gift Cards arrive within 5 days of placing the order and will be distributed on Sunday. It is that easy!

Use the gift cards for all your holiday food shopping (and regular shopping, too). If you purchase \$300 in gift cards per month, the church receives \$15 per month. If you shop at the Giant, please consider purchasing a Giant Gift Card through the church. 610-869-9334.

Trustee Sale!

Ariens ST7 Snow thrower or blower

- * Pull rope start, Self propelled
- * 24" wide cut x 16" deep
- * 2-stage feed
- * Swivel shoot
- * Will accept \$275 or better (Note: new 2-stage snow blowers this size start at \$600)



In January, the trustees will put this item on the open market if unsold. Please contact Vernon Ramberger, 610-869-3863 or John Boyd, 443-553-5000 if interested.

Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service with Choir and Holy Communion.

December 24th

At 10:30pm



Look for your 2015 giving envelopes in
Mid December.

More information to follow.

If you are not able to pick up envelopes, please make sure the church office knows.

If you are willing to deliver envelopes to those who are unable to pick them up, please let the office know.

This helps us save on postage!



The Gift of Hospitality

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people." Ephesians 6:7

H—humble (Micah 6:8)

O—open the doors (Revelations 3:20)

S—smile (2 Corinthians 9:7)

P—put yourself in others' shoes (Matthew 7:12)

I—initiate contact (Mark 6:7)

T—turn on the lights (Psalms 119:105; Luke 8:16)

A—arrive before guests (Luke 12:35-36)

L—listen (Luke 2:46)

I—invite (Matthew 4:19)

T—touch (Luke 8:43-48)

Y—you are representing Christ (Ephesians 5:1)

Les Family in Ukraine

A Letter of Thanks from the Les Family in Ukraine

Hello dear Cindy, dear pastor Monica and all brothers and sisters of UMC!

We are sorry we didn't reply for a while. We want to thank you for the money you have sent for us. In these hard times in our country you are a great support for our family. Some people struggle not having any money but we never had any needs thanks you all and thanks God. It is always so nice to know that there is someone far far away who prays for us and who is always willing to help. We always thank God for Shirley Daddario who always helped us and keeps helping with everything we needed and for your church who support us financially a lot. May God bless you richly for everything you do for our family. And we always keep you all in prayers.

We are doing good. My church has recently had The Thanksgiving day at our church. It was a great opportunity to thank God one more time for everything He gave us. God is great and His mercy never ends. We also have already finished making pavement around our church. And it got cold here so no more outside works. My dad goes to the village church every Sunday. They have service in the afternoon at 4, so my mom and dad go there right after the service in my church. Sometimes new people come to hear sermons. There are about 10 people at this church.

My mom is doing good. She usually stays home as a housewife. Her health is not that good but she thanks God for everything He gives to us. We must learn to be thankful even in hard times of our lives.

I am in Kiev now. I study Bible Greek in details cause I am going to teach it in one of the Bible schools here in Kiev. I thank God for this opportunity.

My sister is in Lviv. She helps with an interpretation at the Lviv Theological seminary. These are all our news.

We want to thank you one more time for your help! May God bless you much more than you help others!

Be blessed!

The Les family



REACHING OUT MINISTRY/ MOROGORO

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Greetings from Morogoro-Tanzania.

We would like to thank you very much for
your supports.



In October and November we will visit some
churches in USA. We are very excited to meet you. Keep us in
prayers.

Blessings.

Yours,

STOP HUNGER NOW EVENT A SUCCESS!

To the Oxford Connexion:

On behalf of Bev Lauver and I of the New London UMC, I want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in Saturday's Stop Hunger Now event. It was an amazing outpouring of support and outreach. Over 70 people were part of the day, and 10,000 meals were packaged. There were students from Lincoln University, high school students from the Avon Grove Young Life group, youth groups, folks from 8 of our UMC connexion churches as well as others who saw the article in the local Community Courier and decided to come. People aged 90+ years down to elementary school children took part. The SHN representative was "blown away" by the number of people who showed up and the spirit of caring in the hall.



It is a beautiful thing when people united in Christ come together to help those in need.

A friend of mine went on a mission trip to Haiti last summer. Her group worked at a school, and she told me that at the school she saw boxes and boxes from Stop Hunger Now! SHN meals feed the students there. So we are assured that the food we packaged on Saturday will be reaching the people who need it the most, as well as will be promoting education for children. Praise God!

Again, thank you all.
Rev. Mercedes Case, New London UMC

PS: From Mark Terry: Pastors; the steering group, or whatever you want to call us is meant to have at least as many lay people as clergy. Remember from your church who attended on Saturday, and who was excited about it, and let's try to have them at our next meeting. Thanks, Mark.

*Contemporary Candlelit
Christmas Eve Service
With PraiseWorks
December 24th, 2014
8:30 pm
Join us for
worship!*



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



December 2014

~ 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
donna@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 Morning 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