



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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May 2015



"That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible. " 2 Timothy 1:5, The Message

In March, there was a headline in the Religious News Service that caught my eye, **"College freshmen less religious than ever — just like their parents."** As I went onto to read the arti-

cle, I learned that Over a quarter of college freshmen say that they have no religion. This makes them the least religious cohort in four decades of the surveys conducted by UCLA. The survey, not only asks about the student, but also about their parents—what is the religion or religious practices of their parent? The highest rise for both parents and students was in "none" as in answering the question, "Which religion do you practice?" (<http://tobingrant.religionnews.com/2015/03/17/college-freshmen-less-religious-ever-just-like-parents/>)

I was not surprised by the decline in religious practice or faith connection; this is an ongoing story with multiple motivations. I was surprised by the tagline, "just like their parents." The connection between parents who had no connection with religion and young adults who grow to find no value in religion stands in the face of parents who imagine that their children will develop their faith, or lack thereof, on their own. Parents who are religious are more likely to have children who find value in a faith-filled life.

With Mother's day and Father's day on the horizon, I find myself giving thanks for my father, who modeled a faithful life, even in the midst of doubts and questions. I give thanks for my mother, who is still living out her faith and looking for new ways to serve. I give thanks to God for my maternal grandparents who were so convinced that I was called to the ministry that they started having me meet female pastors starting when I was twelve. Felicity and Peter both have their middle names, Olive and David, from these great examples in the faith. I give thanks to God for my paternal grandparents whose lives were shaped and shaken by their roles in World War II as liberator and one who was liberated, and who sought to address those shaping experiences all of the rest of their lives through faith.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he commends the roles of his mother and grandmother in shaping Timothy. The sharing of our faith, the living of our faith, the passing down of our faith are essential to the discipleship of all and the bringing forth of the Kingdom of God. The examples we give to our children, our grandchildren, our nieces and nephews, our neighbors and our church family matter. When we live in such a way that our faith matters, those who are growing up and looking our way are more likely to live in such a way that their faith matters, too.

Who can you give thanks to God for? Who has shaped you in the faith? Who is looking up at you, deciding how they will live out their faith or lack thereof?

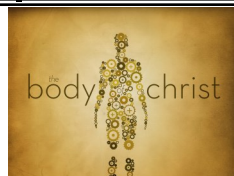
*In God's Love,
Pastor Monica*



May Worship at West Grove UMC



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



For the next 3 weeks, we will continue our series on the Body of Christ. Let us discern together how God is calling us to be a part of the body of Christ here at West Grove.

Fifth Sunday in Easter ~ May 3 Communion Sunday

Scripture: 1 Corinthians: 2; John 15:1-8

Sermon: "Mind of Christ"

"The hardest prison to escape is your mind." How can we cultivate the mind of Christ?

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

Sixth Sunday in Easter ~ May 10

Mother's Day ~ No More Malaria Sunday

Scripture: Hosea 11:3-4; John 15:9-17

Sermon: "Hands of God"

"Christ has no hands, but yours."

Seventh Sunday in Easter ~ May 17

Memory Bells at 11:00 a.m. Service

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-12; Psalm 1

Sermon: "Strength of God"

Depend on the strength of God!

Pentecost Sunday ~ May 24

Confirmation Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2; John 15:26-27

Sermon: "Amazed and Astonished"

Sermon Series: After God's Heart

David was described as a man after God's heart.

How are we also after God's heart?

First Sunday After Pentecost ~ May 31

5th Sunday Coin Collection to benefit

The Community Cafe

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1; John 3:1-9

Sermon: "Why Are You Sad of Heart?"

Financial Update:

We give thanks to God for all who give faithfully that we might continue to impact the world for Jesus, bringing about the Kingdom of God, here on Earth.

Have you noticed before the offering there is a moment of impact in which it is shared how giving financially to the church changes lives? Listen before the offering is received! Your gifts matter and change lives!

As you go on vacation, visit friends, and are away from the church on a Sunday morning, please remember to share your financial gift with the church, so that we can continue to impact lives in our community and around the world!



Technology Team

The Trustees have begun a sub-group related to technology. The Tech will address immediate technology concerns as well as vision and plan for our future with technology. If you have particular gifts of expertise to add to this conversation, please see John Boyd, Trustee Chair or Pastor Monica.



Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship this month is hosted by the FaithLinks Class

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



Church Office Closed

For the Holiday

The church office will be closed on **Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day**



Summer Fun for Everyone

Join us for
hotdogs, games,
fellowship and
the Word

Wednesdays
June 3-Aug 26
6-8 (ish)



Please note that we will not be having our Annual Strawberry Picnic this year.

If you are interested in seeing the Strawberry Picnic return in subsequent years, please see Pastor Monica with your interest in volunteering or chairing this event.

Thank you!

Save the date:



Some Safe Sanctuary changes have been written into Pennsylvania state law, effective January 1st, 2015.

In order to bring everyone up to speed and prepare for Vacation Bible School, please join us on **May 28th at 7pm.**



Happy Mother's Day!

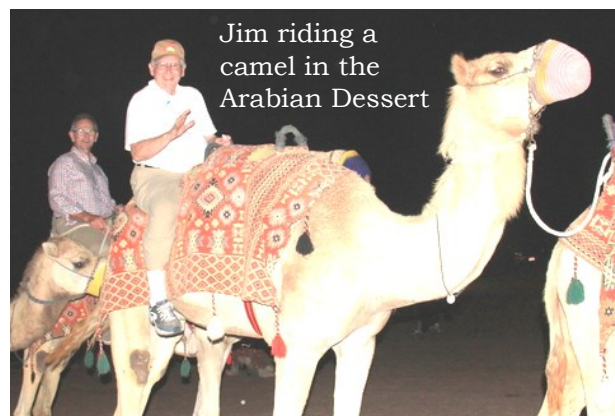
Prayer for Mother's Day

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for many diverse forms of mothering. Let us pray for all the mothers among us, for our own mother, living and those who have passed away, for mothers who have loved us amply and those who have fallen short, for all who are hoping to have children one day and whose dreams have been frustrated, for all mothers who have lost children, for all the men and women who mother in any ways: substitute mothers and aunts, godmothers and grandmothers, mothering presences and those willing to kiss scrapped knees, marvel to worms, encourage new drivers, and wait up when young ones come in late. All of this we pray in the name of the God who is described as a mother hen who gathers in all of the chicks, Amen.
(Matthew 23: 37, Luke 13: 34)



Betty on the crater of Mt. Etna in Sicily. It Etna, Europe's tallest and most active volcano.

The Mundell World Cruise



Jim riding a camel in the Arabian Desert

Pastor Jim and Betty (Mundell) continue on their world.
We pray for their continued safety and enjoyment.
We look forward to having them back with us at the end of April.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica

April 13, 2015

Dear Rev. Guepet and Congregation:

It was such a joy to worship with you on March 8th and to celebrate the baptism of Peter Guepet. I was so deeply moved when your Pastor, Rev. Monica Guepet, on behalf of the congregation, presented me with the gift of a children's stole. You may know that Bishop Johnson had asked me to bring such a stole for the baptism, but I did not have one. Your thoughtfulness of giving me an embroidered stole was truly such a beautiful gift. Every time I wear it, I will remember your generous hearts and I will also remember Jesus' call to welcome the children.



Thank you West Grove United Methodist Church for your servant hearts and for all the ways you share the love Christ with the world.

Together in Ministry,

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm



Tools for Ministry

April 1, 2015

Dear Rev. Guepet and Congregation:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We want to thank you for hosting the Tools for Ministry training event for the Southeast District. The amazing West Grove Team provided everything we needed.

The welcome area, sanctuary and classrooms were all beautiful and functional. We received many excellent evaluations about the facility and the hospitality. The environment you created for this event made everyone feel at ease and welcome, an excellent environment for learning and sharing.

Once again, we truly appreciate your faithfulness and support of the District and your wonderful ministry of hospitality.

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm

Rev. Lin George

(Handwritten notation: West Grove is a gift to the District! Thank you. Blessings, Dawn)

GARDENING OPPORTUNITY-- WELCOME MINISTRY

The Church has five flower beds and several small areas circling individual trees that are needing care.

With a little help from "YOU", these areas could be transformed into beautiful welcoming plots.

The Trustees are asking for volunteers to take care of these garden areas for the 2015 season. Each volunteer would (1) remove the weeds and (2) mulch the bed area to a depth of 2-3 inches (the mulch will be supplied by the Trustees). The mulching should be completed by May 16th. Each bed should be checked and weeded throughout the season.

Please consider signing up to care for just one specific area.

Questions may be directed to Vernon Ramberger (610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net). Alisabeth Guepet will be taking care of the area surrounding the tree by the mailbox! The church needs you to join with Alisabeth to keep our church exterior looking beautiful and welcoming throughout the season!

The garden plots and tree areas requiring care:

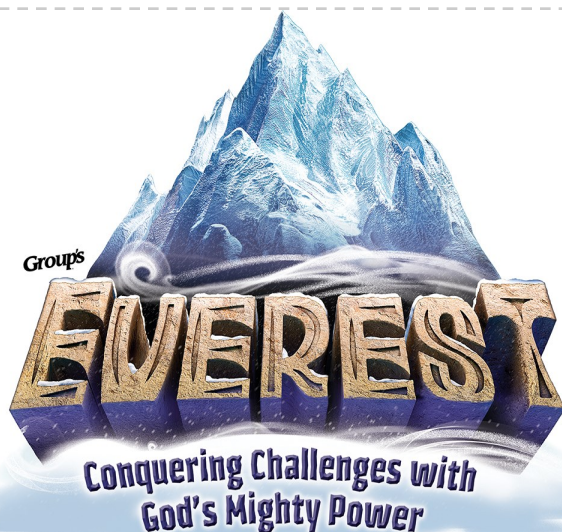
1. South wing--the Sunday school wing toward Harmony Road.
2. Right side of the church entrance containing the weeping cherry tree.
3. Left side of the church entrance containing the cross.
4. Sidewalk area meeting the parking lot containing the street lamp.
5. North side of the church--outside the conference room and Pastor's office.
6. Seven small areas circling individual trees surrounding the parking lot and the drainage basin--take your pick!

Thank you! Trustees

Beautification Committee



SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS JULY 13-17 2015



**Thank you to all
who have spent
time on Sunday
mornings
volunteering in
the nursery! We**

continue to be
blessed with

wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow! We could use additional volunteers, especially during the 11am service. If you are interested in helping in the nursery (approximately once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at ahass17@hotmail.com or 610-468-4321.



NURSERY WORKERS



Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Set-Up on Thursday, April 30, 12:00 p.m.

Sale, Friday, May 1: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sale, Saturday, May 2: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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?

This is a biannual event pioneered by the United Methodist Women. It offers gently used clothing and household items to the community at record low prices. Many families in our community attend this event and the bargains are very helpful to them in these hard economic times. In order for the event to be held, many hands are needed for the physical labor of setting up the sanctuary and putting the items out on tables on the Thursday before the Friday sale. Then the reverse must happen on Saturday to get the sanctuary set up for Sunday worship. It is also helpful to have a half dozen people available during the busiest sale hours to help with check out on Friday and Saturday morning. Please consider lending an hour or two. The United Methodist Women use the proceeds of this event for various missions or additions to our church.

Also needed, of course, are donations of gently used clothing and household items. These can be brought to the church during office hours the week before the sale.

Volunteer sign-up sheets are located in the lobby.

We will be setting up on Thursday, April 30 at 12 p.m.

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

Your gently used donations can be dropped off in the lobby coat closet beginning Sunday, April 26 through Thursday, April 23. The church office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank you!

THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Tuesday, May 26

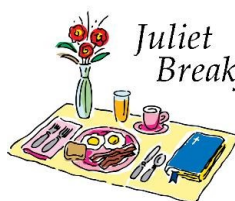
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



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.

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 of-fice@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.**



Juliet

Breakfast

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

May 9 at 9:00 a.m.

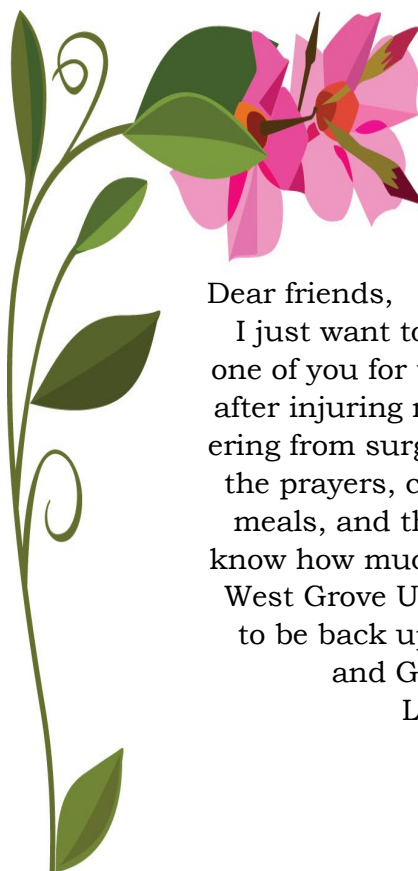
Please join this group of ladies for a breakfast time of food, fun and fellowship. **We meet at Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348** They have free parking in the parking garage on Saturdays. Questions? Call Margee Michaels or Chris Curtiss.

Care Givers Group

**May 13 @
7 p.m.**

Caregivers meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on May 13 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.**



Dear friends,

I just want to thank each and every one of you for the loving care I received after injuring my back and then recovering from surgery. I am so grateful for the prayers, cards, emails, wonderful meals, and thoughtful gifts. You all know how much I love my work here at West Grove UMC, so I am very happy to be back up to speed. Thank you and God bless you all!

Love, Donna





College/Young

Adults @ Starbucks!

If you are college age/
young adult.. thinking

18 – 25ish... - then come on out to Starbucks, **Monday May 18th**! I would love to get together with you/catch up/ give you all a chance to catch up with each other/talk about the possibility of doing something through the summer/ drink coffee..... So – let's join together around **7:30 on May 18th** at the Jennersville Starbucks!



PARENTS NITE OUT!

Parents of little ones – are you in need of a break? A kid free dinner out? A nap?!

Then bring your kids to the church on Saturday, May 16 from 4:30 – 7:30 and let the youth watch them. We will feed them pizza, play games, do crafts and watch a movie.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child for the evening and all the money goes towards the youth group summer mission trip to Union Beach NJ!

RSVP to JamieLindtner@gmail.com



Calling All Graduates!

Do you have a graduate in your home? Please contact the church office (610-869-9334) or email

office@westgroveumc.org so that we can recognize them on June 14th in our Sunday services.
Thank you.



7th Annual Community

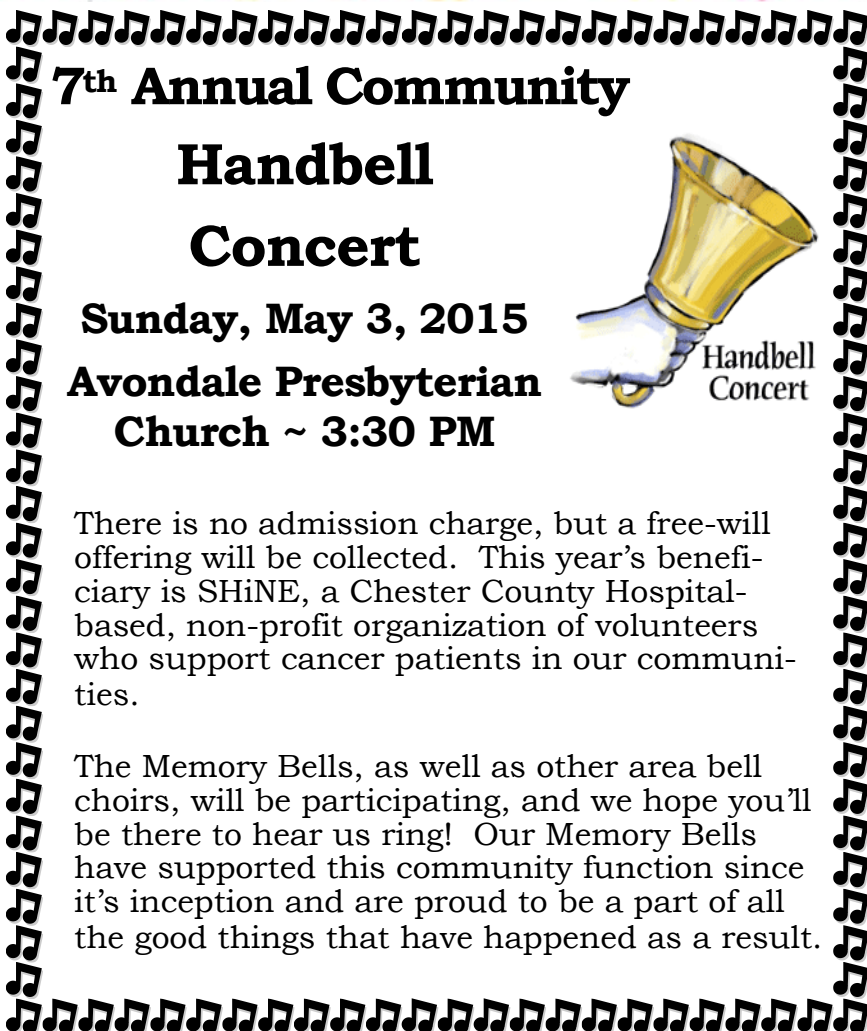
Handbell Concert

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Avondale Presbyterian
Church ~ 3:30 PM



There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be collected. This year's beneficiary is SHiNE, a Chester County Hospital-based, non-profit organization of volunteers who support cancer patients in our communities.

The Memory Bells, as well as other area bell choirs, will be participating, and we hope you'll be there to hear us ring! Our Memory Bells have supported this community function since it's inception and are proud to be a part of all the good things that have happened as a result.





CMO Preschool

It is hard to believe that our school year will be ending soon. It seems like every year, the school year goes by more quickly. April has been a very busy month for us. We had the West Grove Fire Department visit to teach the children about fire safety. The children were thrilled to see the trucks. We also began our Music Enrichment class. Children get to stay after our regular 12:00 dismissal time, enjoy lunch with their friends, and then participate in a music class held by Ms. Linda Bunting. Linda did a music program in the Fall for us and I am so excited to have her back to do a more intimate class for some of our children. Our children will also be going on a field trip in the beginning of May to Plumpton Park Zoo. I love that we are able to incorporate some new activities and ideas into our program.

I would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who came out and supported our Spring Consignment Sale. Mother Nature was surely trying to play a trick on us by making it snow on the Friday of the sale, but we were fortunate to still have a wonderful turnout. We raised just under \$1400. The money that we made will help our program out greatly. I would also like to thank everyone who so generously donated money during the fifth Sunday collection. I am truly overwhelmed by your support and generosity of our ministry.

Tracy McLaughlin, Director

WORD IS GETTING OUT!

Our Preschool and Children's Morning Out Program is providing quality early education and socialization with a religious foundation for our community. Registration for 2015-2016 was a success.

There are a few openings left for children to join this program, particularly in the youngest class, the Ducks class.

Please call Tracy McLaughlin, if interested.

Thanks be to God for our CMO and preschool!

Eggstravaganza Thank You!



To Pastor Monica and all members
of West Grove United Methodist Church:

Thank you very much for hosting such a wonderful event on Sunday, March 29. My granddaughter was visiting us for the weekend and we brought her to the Easter Eggstravaganza. She, as well as us, enjoyed all the activities. It was obvious how much time and effort went into this event and it was a whopping success. What a wonderful way to embrace the community by welcoming us to your church.

Again, thank you: Doris & Bill Zinck



C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



The Youth Ministry program at WGUMC is open to all students in grades 7th – 12th. We meet together on Sunday evenings for fellowship, games and bible study. See our calendar for more details. If you would like to get involved – either as a student or as a leader – please contact Jamie Lindtner at Jamielindtner@gmail.com or 610-937-7932

May News!

Due to holidays in May – youth will meet **ALL together on May 3rd and 17th. 6:30 – 8:00 in the youth room.** Bring a friend!



Parents Nite Out - May 16th! We'll need students to help w/ the kids – 4:00 – 8:00 – please let Jamie know if you can help! Parents – we'll need 2 adults as well. Thanks!!

PARENTS NITE OUT! Parents of little ones – are you in need of a break? A kid free dinner out? A nap?! Then bring your kids to the church on **Saturday, May 16 from 4:30 – 7:30** and let the youth watch them. We will feed them pizza, play games, do crafts and watch a movie. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per child for the evening and all the money goes towards the youth group summer mission trip to Union Beach NJ! RSVP to JamieLindtner@gmail.com

Union Beach Team Meetings: It's hard to believe that our youth mission trip to Union Beach is less than 2 months away. It's going to be a great week! In order to prepare for the week away together, we are going to have some team meetings. At these meetings we will get to know each other a bit more, spend time in God's word, talk about being a servant and learn some practical simple skills about tools and how to use them! So please mark your calendars for May 26th, and June 9th and 23rd. We will meet in the youth room from 7 – 8:30.

Incoming 7th graders! We are so excited to be welcoming our incoming 7th graders to youth group this summer!! Watch for details about our summer events, invite some friends and join in on the fun! Parents of our incoming 7th graders – shoot me an email and let me know that you have a current 6th graders – I want to make sure I have an accurate list of all our eligible students for next year!

College/Young Adults @ Starbucks!

If you are college age/young adult.. thinking 18 – 25ish... - then come on out to Starbucks,



Monday May 18th! I would love to get together with you/catch up/give you all a chance to catch up with each other/talk about the possibility of doing something through the summer/drink coffee..... J

So – let's join together around 7:30 on May 18th at the Jennersville Starbucks!

PURCHASE STOCK

in the West Grove UMC Youth Ministry

Would you like to invest in something worthwhile? Do you believe in the youth of our church? Then buy stock in the WGUMC Youth Ministry Program! Your investment will go towards helping students be a part of a summer mission trip. One of our greatest needs at the moment for our mission trip is renting vans to transport our team of 22 people to Union Beach. Your stock purchases will go towards our budget of rental vans.

*Fill out the form below and return to the office or to Jamie with your check and you will receive a certificate of Stock.
(all proceeds go towards the WGUMC Youth Ministry)*

This summer after our mission trip, the youth ministry team of students will **host a brunch** for all stock holders where we will share about our trip and offer our thanks for your support and investment in the youth ministry at WGUMC.



Request for purchase of Stock in WGUMC Youth Ministry

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of Shares of Stock @ \$5 a Share.....

___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___ 9 ___ 10
or more... _____ (fill in the number)

Total \$ Due _____ Paid by Cash _____ or Check _____

Please make checks payable to WGUMC and put in the memo line—Youth Stock Shares. If paying by cash—place funds in an envelope with this form and write on the envelope—YOUTH STOCK SHARES.

Once your request and payment has been received—you will be mailed a certificate of Stock!

*Thank you for participating ***** The WGUMC Youth Ministry*



All are Invited! Reserve your ticket today for
“THE POWER AND THE GLORY”

June 12, 2015

This June, after a five year absence, Hopewell UMC's Drama Ministry will present **THE POWER AND THE GLORY**--the modern language resetting of their original **Passion Play**. This wonderfully rich telling of the story of Jesus' ministry, teachings, sacrifice, victory, resurrection, and ascension was originally translated in 2005 from **The Passion Play** which was first performed at Hopewell in 1963. This newer production is based on the earlier script, bringing the King James Version of The Bible's language into contemporary language using several Biblical translations and adding several scenes to tell more of "the greatest story ever told".

The beginning production was performed indoors and was so popular it became an annual event. The first outdoor performance was held in 1966 with the audience sitting on folding chairs. Their outdoor amphitheater now contains 900 comfortable, convenient, and permanent stadium seats. There have been as many as 400 people involved in this annual presentation. The performances are in June because of the seasonal weather. In case of rain, the play is held inside. Admission to the play is free. Freewill offerings are gratefully received.

Our **RAP group and friends** will be traveling to Hopewell UMC on **June 12th**. The group will board a **DuVall bus** at WGUMC at **5 p.m.** The bus will return our group to WGUMC after the play. Light dinner choices, snacks, desserts, and beverages will be available for purchase at Hopewell UMC beginning at 6 p.m. The play will start at 8 p.m. Hopewell suggests that you bring bug spray for your comfort and also a pillow/blanket for your seating--we will be permitted to choose and "save" our seats before enjoying our meal.

The cost for **bus transportation** is **\$12.50 per person (includes the gratuity for the driver)**. Individual food choice purchases and freewill offering will be the responsibility of each attendee. **Please direct your questions and reserve your seat on the bus with Sara Ann Ramberger, RAP Outing Coordinator**, asap at 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net.

ALREADY BUT NOT YET

I have already
run the dishwasher,
put away every
squeaky-clean plate
and sparkling glass;

but I have not yet
tackled the leaning tower
of soggy cereal bowls,
or that pan,
thick with bacon fat.

I have already
pulled warm, snapping towels
out of the dryer and into
my arms, folded them
in neat stacks;

but I have not yet
sorted the piles of soiled
clothes, or washed them
of their stains and
ripe smells.

I have already
drawn my children near,
tucked hair behind their ears,
told them how much
I love them;

but I have not yet
made it through a day
loving perfectly,
free of discontent, guilt,
or fear.

Sarah Dunning Park

*Prayfully consider how the
God of us all is bringing
about God's kingdom here
on Earth.*

*Theologically, we under-
stand that God's kingdom is
already here, and not yet
here.*



Annual Conference What Is It?

On May 14-16, Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, Cindy Haley, and Luke Chalmers will attend the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

What is Annual Conference? For United Methodists, Annual Conference is both a yearly meeting and the name of our geographical boundaries. There are 463 churches in the eastern part of the state, from Philadelphia to the Poconos and the Delaware River to Lebanon County, that comprise the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. Throughout the country, we have 63 annual conferences, encompassing all 50 states. There are also United Methodists in 163 countries – the world is our parish, as our founder John Wesley stated 250 years ago!

Our yearly gathering of clergy and lay people from the 463 churches in our area is also known as Annual Conference. This year, the Conference is held at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA. The theme this year for our annual conference is “Faithful Stewardship of Our Time, Treasure and Environment.” The Keynote Presenter will be **The Rev. Dr. Clif Christopher, who founded the Horizons Stewardship Company** in 1992. Both in his local church ministry and stewardship ministry, he led numerous major building, capital campaigns, and consultations in over 1,000 churches, conferences, synods and diocese in all phases of building, finance, and church growth. We will also be blessed by the prophetic messages of **The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS)**. As the chief executive officer of the board, Dr. Henry-Crowe leads GBSC's visionary role as the denomination's social-justice advocate and oversees programming, staff and administration of the board's office, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

More than 1000 United Methodists – half lay, half clergy – will gather to approve legislation and new rules governing our life together, be inspired by gifted teachers and preachers, receive reports on the work that United Methodists take part in, and recognize pastors who are retiring or who have passed away and celebrate the ordination of new pastors. Please keep Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, Cindy Haley, and Luke Chalmers in your prayers along with our other brothers and sisters as we seek God's direction and guidance for us and God's people in Eastern Pennsylvania!



gg60697113 www.gograph.com

AVON GROVE COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN AT WGUMC

Gardening season is upon us again and this year we're taking a slightly different approach to those raised beds on the church grounds. For several years, the Avon Grove Community Garden has been used by community members who garden for themselves and are asked to donate some of the produce to local food banks. Some gardeners have managed this quite well and some have struggled. So this year, we're trying something new. A half dozen or so faithful gardeners will continue to use their beds as they have done over the past few years. We'd like to use the rest of the beds to grow food for the The Bridge at the Avon Grove Church of the Nazarene. We hear from the staff at the

Bridge that their greatest need is fresh food. **We're asking church members here and at the Church of the Nazarene, along with other community groups, to commit to caring for the garden beds for just one week during the summer.** Groups of volunteers might be families, Sunday school classes, youth groups, women's groups or any other combination of people you might imagine. Each family/group/organization will weed, water and care for the entire garden for just one week. Garden Coordinator Kate Black will happily meet with each group at the beginning of their week to show them around. Please consider signing up for a week and/or joining us on **our Opening Day, May 23rd** to help do minor repair work and prepare the beds for planting. For more information or to sign-up for a week, please contact Kate at 610-869-2231 or kateblack@gmail.com

Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

RAP will be meeting on **FRIDAY, MAY 8**. This is our last meeting until the fall. We will be enjoying a Potluck and, as usual, beverages will be provided. Please join us for great fellowship, food and abundant blessings of friendship. **I am so pleased to announce that some members of The Paisley Family will be performing!** What a special day we have in store.

They are a wonderfully talented family and we have alot to look forward too. Please bring a friend or neighbor and enjoy the afternoon with us. Blessings, Lisa Reoli, Coordinator



R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men
Eating Out**

Thursday, May 28

R.O.M.E.O.

Remember, if you are retired, then you could be a ROMEO. We get together to eat at Perkins on the **last Thursday of each month**. Call Roger Bates at 610-869-7638 if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends!



Luther House Bible Study

Hear the Stories!

Luther Class is for men and women who are interested in coming together to learn the stories of the Bible. All are welcome. **We meet every Wednesday**

from 2:00-3:00 pm at Luther Building #1 in the parlor, right inside the door. Come join us! Bring your friends.

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



The Avon Grove Ministerium will be supporting the National Day of Prayer on May 7th.

The Jennersville YMCA is setting aside a prominent location at their facility in which people can pray during the National Day of Prayer on May 7. Pastors from the community will be available throughout the day. Pastor Monica will be supporting this time of prayer with her presence at 10 am and 7pm. Please join us in prayer on this day, whether you are praying at the YMCA, at home, at work, or wherever you find yourselves.



West Grove United Methodist Church will be partnering with Good Works, a Christian nonprofit based in Coatesville, on Saturday, August 8th.

This full day service opportunity will focus on home repair for one low-income homeowner in the greater Coatesville area. Good Works' vision is to eliminate substandard housing and replace hopeless with hope as people experience warmer, safer and drier homes. They provide a framework for those who wish to serve community members in the Coatesville, West Chester and Phoenixville areas. Good Works is the largest nonprofit in Chester County whose sole focus is to utilize volunteers to perform extensive repairs at no cost to the homeowners.



May 24th is Pentecost!

We are receiving our confirmands on Confession of Faith. Support our confirmands with your presence. Consider wearing the colors of Pentecost, red, orange and yellow to show your support.

May the Holy Spirit blow in this place!



Mother's & Father's Day

Don't forget gift cards for Mother's Day and Father's Day!

See our Scrip program to order. Information available in the church office, the Lobby, or from John Boyd.



The Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering a number of Grants to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2015-2016 school year. [The attached pages](#) describe the opportunity and method of application. All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) May 1 to May 16 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered.

Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected. It is important that this information be provided to church members who plan to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2015. Please communicate this grant opportunity to your congregation as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact the Education Society Chairperson, Al Adey at ahadey@verizon.net. The pages are also available in the church office.



The missions team of West Grove UMC in conjunction with Family Promise of Southern Chester County is **evaluating** the possibility of being a host church for homeless families in Southern Chester County.

A host church provides overnight accommodations for up to five families / 14 people for a one week period (Sunday evening to the following Sunday morning) every 3 months. These carefully screened families are provided shelter, meals, and support services to help them get back into housing with a goal period of 30 days.

Family Promise has a day center that is located in downtown West Grove on Evergreen Street, where the families are able to shower and receive support services for getting back on their feet.

A host church provides:

- Sleeping accommodations ;A living area / hospitality room
- A Dining area; Evening Meals; Simple Breakfasts; Bag lunches
- Compassion and hospitality

For a church to effectively run this program, a crew of 40 volunteers is needed for the following roles:

- Coordinators (2-4); Meal Preparers / Food providers (14)
- Overnight Volunteers (14); Set-up / Take-Down (2-4)
- Linen Laundry (2); Activities (2); Supplies (many)

If you would like to see WGUMC be a host church, please sign up in the lobby.

If you have a particular area of interest, indicate such beside your name.

Please call Janice Bowers with any questions: 484-888-6821 days 610-444-8470 evenings or email janicesemail2@gmail.com.



EVERYONE IS INVITED – COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY MAY 30, 2015

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY



**CANCELLED
'TIL FALL**

Willowdale
10 am – 12
675 Unionville
Kennett Square, PA

Chapel
noon
Road
19348



Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center is hosting our 3rd Annual Gretna Gritty Mud Run and Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser May 9th

Cost: See Website gretnaglen.org/gritty

Sign up to be a part of this great event by participating or volunteering. It takes 100 volunteers who can devote their day to helping more than 1000 people enjoy the camp that day. With over 600 projected participants plus their families/ friends there will be much work to do. The day starts early (6:30 am) and jobs include registration, obstacle crew, parking, and food service. The Gritty is a joy to be a part of, and our volunteers make it an event worth remembering. Please join our Gritty family by going online to www.gretnaglen.org/gritty and follow the links to volunteer or sign up to participate in the great

fundraising event – we promise you won't regret it.

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center Spring Fling-Senior Adult Day
May 12, 9:30am-3:00pm **Cost: \$20**

Spring Fling is planned just for adults, with exceptional programs, snacks, a hot lunch, bingo, crafts, and an opportunity to stroll around camp to observe nature, birds, or spring wildflowers! Join us for a spring day filled with fun activities, special entertainment, and sharing laughter with friends. Call or email our registrar to reserve your spot. registrar@gretnaglen.org 717-273-6525

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center-Summer Camp-Your Invited
Camp Weeks Start June 14th

Call for a brochure or visit our website: gretnaglen.org 717-273--6525

The tradition of summer camp at Gretna Glen has deep roots as we celebrate 56 years of programming this summer. 200 acres of scenic hills and woodlands are ideal for day and overnight camp. The opportunities for children & youth to explore nature, develop friendships, broaden their experiences and embrace their faith journey at Gretna Glen are never-ending. Be assured that the safety of Gretna Glen summer campers and guests is something we take seriously. In order to provide a "Safe Sanctuary," we carefully select staff members and volunteers through an application process that requires references, background checks, and child abuse clearances. Staff and Volunteers are trained before working with campers. Our campsite is accredited by the American Camp Association. To earn accreditation, Gretna Glen complies with more than 300 health, safety and program quality standards. We are also members of the Christian Camp and Conference Association.

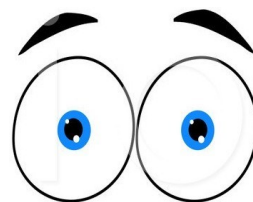
Our goals for your camper while they are here:

- S**eek God's guidance in their lives
- E**xperience a healthy Christian community
- R**each for new adventures
- V**alue themselves and the world around them
- E**xperience age appropriate responsibilities

They Are Watching By Max Lucado

Seekers may not understand all that happens in a house of worship. They may not understand the meaning of a song or the significance of communion, but they know joy when they see it. By the way, wouldn't the opposite be equally true? What happens when a seeker sees boredom on your face? Others are worshipping and you're scowling? Others are seeking God's face while you're seeking the face of your watch?

As long as I'm getting personal—parents, what are your children learning from your worship? Do they see the same excitement as when you go to a baseball game? Do they see you hungry to see the face of your Father? Or do they see you content to leave the way you came? They're watching.





New Update!

MPASA PEDIATRIC MEDICAL CLINIC

We exceeded our goal of \$50,000!
The Southeast District has raised \$ 58,649.88

What can 66 churches do when we work together? We can build a pediatric unit in Mpasa, Congo!! We can bring life and hope to God's beloved children! I give thanks for all 66 churches who offered prayers and financial support throughout the past ten months. I give thanks for UMM units and UMW units, for active and retired Pastors, for faithful laity, and for children and youth who were a part of this effort. Each and every gift has made this moment possible.

The Congo-Partnership rejoices with us today! I learned last week that this will be the final building on the Mpasa site. The building is currently in the design process. I will send information and updates as the pediatric building is being built. This unit will also enable cataract surgery. It will be a multi-purpose building whose primary focus will be pediatrics. We will care for people in body, mind and spirit. The early Methodists built hospitals, and today the Southeast District returns to our roots as we enable this pediatric unit to be a reality.

Truly, truly, this effort models the best of what it means to be a connectional church. Praise God for the work of the Southeast District. We rejoice in our Lord who has given us all that we have. We especially give thanks for God's beloved children in Mpasa. May this pediatric unit offer hope and healing.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

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

West Grove received a letter from our District Superintendent thanking us for: the generous contribution of \$521.00. She writes, "Thank you for transforming the lives of God's beloved children!"



Annual Conference

**“Faithful Stewardship of Our
Time, Treasure and
Environment”**

May 14-16, 2015

GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO

Please pray for Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, Cindy Haley, and Luke Chalmers as we prepare and serve faithfully at Annual Conference.



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Website: www.westgroveumc.org

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2015

~ 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 Morning Coordinator & Office Volunteer

Board and Committee Leadership

Carol Whelan - Interim Administrative Council Chair

John Boyd - Trustee Chair

TBA - Finance Chair

Jeff Curtis - Treasurer

Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary

Cindy Hoover - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - 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

Luke Chalmers- 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