



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road,
West Grove, Pa. 19390
Phone: 610-869-9334,
Fax: 610-869-0110

E:mail: office@westgroveumc.org
Website: www.westgroveumc.org



June 2015



Open, Grow, Serve!

*Our mission
statement at West
Grove calls us and
instructs us how to*

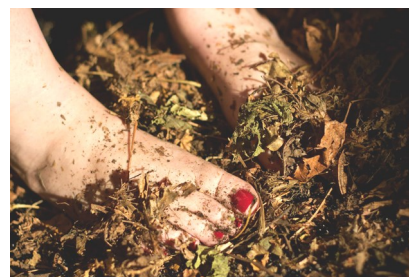
be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



We **open** ourselves to God's love and know that God's love goes before us. As a church, we seek to **open** our doors and hearts to all who are seeking God.



We desire to **grow** in relationship with God and cultivate that relationship through study, devotion, and meditation. As a church, we **grow** in worship and in study; we grow as we listen to one another and to God.



We **serve** the community as the hands and the feet of Christ. We follow Matthew 25 in seeking to **serve** the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the lonely, the sick, the imprisoned. As a church, we **serve** together knowing that God can do much more through us together than apart. We serve so that others will come to know Jesus and his ways.



"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Photography by Denver Aquino. We give thanks to God for his gifts and his willingness to share them.

We also give thanks to God for the hands and feet of God, displayed here and who walk through our halls and serve in Christ's name.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica





June Worship at West Grove UMC



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

Sermon Series: After God's Own Heart
How to walk with God in the challenges of life.
We will be walking together in the life of David.

Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 7

Communion Sunday

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20

John 3:1-9

Sermon: "Give Us a King"

The Israelites were looking for a King to guide their lives.

Who guides you?

Choose God as King, not humanity.

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 14

Baptism Sunday ~ Olivia Rinehimer

Graduation Sunday

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34; 16:13

John 11:41-44

Sermon: "Who Were You Expecting?"

We have an image in our minds of who serves God. God challenges that image again and again.

****Last Sunday for Sunday School****

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 21

Father's Day

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-49

Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: "Giants Among Us"

Our faith is built from the faith of others.

What men in your life can you thank for slaying your giants and building your faith?

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 28

Pastor Jim Preaching

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV)

Sermon: "The Glorious Person of Christ"

Financial Update:

Your giving directly impacts our ability to serve the community and transform the world through making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Don't forget to send your tithes and offerings to the church, while you travel and vacation, so that the good work of changing the world can continue.

Our financial health is an indicator of our spiritual health. Giving back to God is one indicator of a healthy spiritual life. Pray about how God is calling you to give to IMPACT the world to OPEN, GROW, and SERVE!

Coffee Fellowship this month is hosted by the Men's Sunday School 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.



Sunday School Classes end on **June 14.**

We will resume classes in the fall with our Sunday School Blast Off on **September 13.**

We give thanks to God for all our teachers and our learners for this year!



JAM Jesus And Me ration and Sunday Morning Servants Recognition Sunday, June 7th

We have been having a GREAT year! We encourage you all to finish the race strong and keep coming to JAM even when activities get crazy! We are in the home stretch and hope to end the year with a wonderful turnout and celebration! The JAM children are excited to share songs they have learned and will perform them at both services. We will also recognize and thank all of our devoted and faithful Sunday Morning volunteers. Without their dedication and selflessness, we would not be able to provide the excellent Sunday programs and services. So, please be sure to come on June 7 for some music, games, bible fun and to thank our wonderful volunteers!!

Summer Worship Begins Sunday, July 5 at 9:30 a.m.



**The last day for Sunday
School is June 14.**

For Summer 2015, we will have a blended worship service with both traditional and contemporary elements.

The single service will run through August 30, with a return to our normally scheduled 8:30 a.m. Contemporary service and 11:00 a.m. Traditional service on September 6.

J.A.M. and Adult Sunday School Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us during the summer at 9:30 am.



What is a dad?

Dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.

—Unknown

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

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

Consider a Home Depot , Lowes, Giant, Cabellas, Amazon, or other gift cards for the special men in your life!





Summer Fun for Everyone

Join us for
hotdogs, games,
fellowship and
the Word

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

West Grove United Methodist Church is launching a new Wednesday night **“Summer Fun for Everyone”**. The weekly event will start on **June 3 and continue through the summer culminating on August 26**. The entire community is invited to attend

from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** There will be hotdogs, games, fellowship and a brief word from the Lead Pastor, Rev. Monica B. Guepet, each week. The church wants to continue building a relationship with everyone in the community and believe a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere where folks of all ages could come and enjoy themselves would fit perfectly. Pastor Monica says that it “won’t be fancy”. Families can get a night off of cooking by coming to the church for hot dogs and whatever assortment of side dishes show up. All beverages will be supplied. If you’d like to bring a bag of chips, some cookies, or side dish, they will be appreciated, but by no means mandatory. The event is totally free.

A box of games will be available, the youth plan to have their new 9-In-The-Air game up and going, a gated playground is open for little ones, and the ample parking lot and grounds will provide lots of space for kids of all ages to play. Bring your lawn chair and take the night off! All are welcome! The church is located at 300 N. Guernsey Road, West Grove. For more information you may call the church at 610-869-9334, or visit their website: www.westgroveumc.org.



Donations Needed:

- Grill (preferably gas)
- Playing cards
- Card games
- Dominoes
- Checkers
- Corn hole
- Lawn Games
- Kick ball

If you would like to donate any of these items, please leave them in the box in the lobby or call the church office.



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!



On April 23rd, the church celebrated 6 young people who came to work with their parents.

As they read stories, tied shoes, sat in on meetings, and enjoyed Miss Helen's birthday cake, we pray they learned something about work as a vocation.

They all engaged in the holy work of serving others.

Thanks be to God for young people who are exploring how God is calling them into the future.

From left to right in the picture:

Matthew McLaughlin, Cecily Eason, Alisabeth Guepet, Peter Guepet, Riley McLaughlin, Olivia Eason



Books Overheard in Chapel Time

In God's Name by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

The Cool Cat by Merrill Farnsworth (a modern "tail" of the Good Samaritan)

Thank you, God by J. Bradley Wigger

If Jesus Came to My House by Joan G. Thomas

You Wouldn't Love Me if you Knew by Jeannie St. John Taylor

Love You When You Whine by Emily Jenkins

Am I Making God Smile? by Jeannie St. John Taylor

Music Overheard in Chapel Time

Jesus is Alive (to the tune of Farmer in the Dell)

Jesus is Alive

Jesus is Alive

Stone Rolled Away

Praise God today!

Jesus is Alive

B-I-B-L-E (to the tune of B-I-N-G-O)

*There were some friends who loved God's book
And Bible was it's name-o*

B-I-B-L-E

B-I-B-L-E

And Bible was it's name-o!

We had a guest Chapel Time reader on April 23rd (Take your Child to Work Day). Alisabeth read the story to the children, who sat in rapt attention!



As requested, we are including part of the mother's day prayer in the newsletter:

A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God,

We praise you for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we offer you our grateful praise. for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in rearing us, cared enough to correct us, and blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children.

We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your love, and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we are all in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, we give you thanks, for they have blessed us.

We think O Lord of all those who mother:

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains – we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst

To those who step-parent – we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who are raising grandchildren in the daily challenges of life – we thank you and acknowledge joy and challenge alongside each other.

To those who play games with grandchildren, teach knitting and bake cookies – we delight with you.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren -yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you

To those who placed children up for adoption — we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you
Nurturing God, we give thanks for those who enrich our lives by their presence who teach us about your abundant love who encourage us to journey in faith. God, as we seek to be your hands here in the world, help us to walk with all, male and female, young and old, who seek to mother. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.

Amen.



Thanks be to God for the generous donations from West Grove to the Bridge.

The need is great and you have all been faithful in supporting the

need.

There is a specific need at this time for diapers (sizes 4,5) as well as for fresh produce.

Please consider tithing from your garden or helping us care for the community garden that will provide fresh healthy produce to the Bridge.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica

A Thank You from Dot Week

To My Church Family,

Dear Friends—thank you for your visits, flowers, gifts and the many birthday and get well cards. I am home now, but upstairs most of the time. Thus, I'm unable to get to the door to answer it.

Let's have phone visits, 610-869-9155. I'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for making my recovery more pleasant.

In God's Love, Dot Weeks



Family Devotions for Father's Day

By MaryJane Pierce Norton

- Read about fathers in Scripture. Select one or more of the following Scripture passages and read them together. Name

traits you see in the father whose story you have read. Name both good and bad traits. Pray together, giving thanks for these fathers in scripture: Genesis 37:1-11; Joshua 24:14-15; Matthew 2:19-25.

- Think about men who have helped you grow in faith. These may be men in your biological family, in your church family, or in community. Write a note of thanks to one of these men who helped you grow in faith.
- Read together a children's book about fathers. Here are a few that are good: [Daddy All Day Long](#) by Francesca Rusackas, Priscilla Burris (illustrator); [Daddy Kisses](#) by Anne Gutman, Georg Hallensleben (illustrator); [The Very Best Daddy of All](#) by Marion Dane Bauer, Leslie Wu (illustrator); [Guess How Much I Love You](#) by Sam McBratney, Anita Jeram (illustrator).

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.

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



NURSERY WORKERS

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.

THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Tuesday, June 23

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



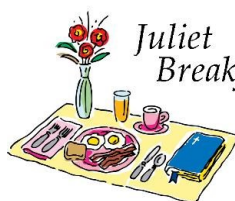
Everyone is welcome!

Please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby where you can choose how to help: donating your time to serve a meal to friends in our community, wash dishes, help to set up or clean up, or donate a needed food item for the day's fare.

All are invited to join us for a healthy, delicious meal homemade meal. Reservations are suggested by calling the church office at 610-869-9334, but are not required. Walk-ins are welcome.

The June meal will be the last one until fall on October 27, so don't miss it!

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

June 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.

Care Givers Group

June 10 @
7 p.m.

Caregivers meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is on June 10 at 7

p.m. in room #16. Please join us if you are caring for a loved one, close or from afar. Find love and support from others in your situation. **Thank you.**



Retired Active People R.A.P.

On summer hiatus!

Retired Active People has been gathering monthly for over 15 years. We come together for fun, fellowship, and food. Each month, we have a guest speaker or entertainment. The committee has already been hard at work planning next year's events.

We are taking a break for the summer, but look forward to gathering back together with you all in September!





World Cruise Summary

Many have been asking about our world cruise. It is difficult to tell you about this adventure in a few short paragraphs, but let me share the highlights.

1. It was 95 days. We flew to Los Angeles and boarded the Pacific Princess Cruise Ship. It is a small ship holding 640 passengers. We sailed West around the world and disembarked in Fort Lauderdale.
2. We visited many different countries and cultures: Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Borneo, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Bangkok, Singapore, India, Dubai, Oman, Jordan Suez Canal Malta, Sicily, Italy, France Spain Madeira Islands and Bermuda.
3. I had the privilege of conducting and preaching the ship's Interdenominational Church Services. There were 10 Sundays that we held worship services. It was a great joy in meeting people from around the world coming together to praise the Lord. On Palm Sunday we celebrated Holy Communion and on Easter we had a wonderful service celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.
4. Hopefully at a later time we will have a travelogue prepared to share with you about our journey, showing pictures of our trip. If you have any questions please ask us. We would love to tell you about it.

Betty and Jim Mundell

**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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 13-17
9 a.m. to Noon

Groups

EVEREST

**Conquering Challenges with
God's Mighty Power**

Register Now!
3 years old through 6th Grade

**Sign up now in the
Narthex!**



West Grove UMC

300 N. Guernsey Road, West Grove, PA 19390

C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



UPDATE!

Youth Update from the Director

I can hardly believe we are ending another school year!

Although I am

excited for summer as I'm sure many of you are as well. We had a great year here at West Grove UMC with the youth. Lots of fun youth meetings, some good dodgeball games, wonderful conversations about how to live more for God, a confirmation class that have become new members of our church, sometime spend at Gretna Glen for a youth retreat and a confirmation retreat, a service project weekend down in Philly with the Philadelphia Project, a trip to St. George's, lots of fundraising and lots of laughing and growing in our faith together. Phew! Good thing summer is coming! We will continue with our youth program over the summer with a mission trip, our **4th West Grove Project**, summer fellowship on Wednesday nights and youth fellowship on some Sunday nights. Let's see what God has to teach us this summer about him and how he loves us.

Incoming 7th Graders!

Welcome to Youth Group! Starting in July – all incoming 7th graders are invited to join the youth ministry program. Spread the word, invite your friends and gear up for our summer ministry program! I'm excited to get to know you all and welcome you into the youth group.

hello **seventh**
GRADE



Union Beach Mission Team Meetings

We will meet together as a team on June 9th and June 23rd. 7 – 8:15

in the youth room. This is an important time together to prepare ourselves for our mission trip and to educate ourselves on what we will be doing and how to do it! Please make every effort to be there.



Summer Youth Fellowship

We will meet together as a youth group on Sunday

evenings in the summer. Watch the bulletin/emails/calendar for details about where we will meet. If anyone is willing to host their pool for a pool party – let me know! The dates are **July 12, 19, 26th and August 2, 9, and 16th**

Pool Party

Summer Youth Bible Study

If you are interested in growing in your faith this summer, spending intentional time in prayer and getting to know one another more, then join me for a summer youth bible study on Thursday evenings at my house (Jamie's). We will begin July 9th.



WGUMC's youth ministry is for all students in grades 7th -12th grades. You are always welcome to bring friends!



Tyler Curtis

On May 20th 2001 I was born. I was born into a Christian family and grew up going to Church and Sunday school every weekend. Then while I was still young I transferred churches from West Chester to WGUMC. I've been going to this church ever since. One of the things that really made my faith grow was in the fall of 7th grade I did my first event with the youth group which was the Philadelphia Project. The Philadelphia Project is a ministry where churches come in and do service projects and help out people in and around Philadelphia. When I was there I was lucky enough to get to help out a family called the West's. They needed the ceiling in their kitchen redone as well as a bathroom. While there I met Mr. West. He was a very nice man and meeting him changed me. He lost both of his legs to a disease. What really surprised me was his view of life. Even though he hasn't had much luck he still has an amazing outlook on life. He is thankful for everything he has and doesn't ask why it happened to him, he knows that it was God's plan for that to happen. That just opened my eyes because there was a man who lost a lot but still saw that it was all part of God's plan for him. Listening to him and hearing his story just opened my eyes.

Although that experience helped my faith grow I have also had moments where I questioned what my plans was about a year ago I was tripped playing soccer and injured my shoulder pretty bad. I went to the hospital and they said it was fine and I was so happy. Unfortunately this past fall I was tripped again and this time the news wasn't good. They told me that I tore my upper and lower labrum and I would need surgery. All I could think about after that was why me? What did I do to deserve this? I went to church on Sundays and did what I was supposed to. Why was God punishing me like this? Then I started thinking. Over the summer and fall I had been putting soccer first and not paying as much attention to him. Maybe this was a sign telling me that I needed to focus more on what matters most to me and that should've been my relationship with god. Over the time I was out recovering I put more of my

Confirmation Class



FAITH STORIES

attention towards my relationship with god and working to strengthening it.

Being confirmed means a lot to me. Not only will I be a member of this church but I will be closer to God. I know I will feel closer simply because I gave myself and everything I have to him. I can only hope that as I get older I will keep growing towards and be one with God.

Olivia Eason

When I was about 6 years old, I started going to West Grove United Methodist Church. I woke up at 8:00 every Sunday morning and got ready for church. I always looked forward to the music and when Mrs. White, aka Mrs. Purple, would make her brownies and cookies. After church, I would go to Sunday School and learn more about how Jesus will always love me and take care of me. As I got more involved into swimming, it made it more difficult to attend Sunday School. I have always enjoyed spending time with my church family but never realized how much I need them until this past October.

On October 29, 2014, I was injured in gym class. After many tests, the doctors were happy to report that my neck was not broken, but I had a severe concussion. This was my second concussion in the last two years. As part of my recovery, I had to miss many days of school, swim practices/meets, dances, field trips and many of my other favorite activities.

I knew my family and friends were very concerned about my recovery. When I went to church, I could feel God's love. God's love came to me through every member of my church family showing care and concern. When I saw my name on the prayer chain, I knew God was answering their prayers. I am grateful for God, not just being here for me but also for my doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers and family for giving them the wisdom, patience and guidance to help me have a speedy recovery.

Through this experience, I was reminded of what I learned when I was 6 years old in Sunday School. Jesus will love and take care of me forever.

Psalms 136:1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.

Mya Ditzel

Faith is something all of us have. It might be in our friends, family, and or religion. Whatever it might be, we all have a story behind it. This is a story about my faith. I was raised into a Christian family, so I've knew about God my whole life. I was baptized and went to church every Sunday. I've had a pretty normal life. If it weren't for my parents bringing me to church, I would have never known about God. I think God is our creator the one who made us all and loves us. Everything He has ever done was for a reason. He has a plan for all of us and we should except that. I'm very thankful my life has turned out the way it has. It's been pretty easy and I'm so thrilled to know that's how He wanted it to be.

Jayna Bruno

Ever since I was a young child, I was taught the word of God. Most Sundays my mother, brother and I would come to church where I would attend children's worship during the service, and Sunday school afterwards. Sunday school is where I believe my faith journey began. In Sunday school, I learned about God and who he was in a way that I could understand. I was taught that God was always with me and that I could pray to him at any time. Typically each week before we left, my Sunday school teacher would ask us to try to perform some kind of task that would help others or help us grow in our faith with good. Most of the time, these little challenges left me when I stepped out of the room, but a few times I tried to follow through with them. I can remember one week, when I was about 10, we were given a bracelet and were told to wear it throughout the week. Each time that we sinned, we were to move it to the other wrist and the goal was to switch it as little as possible. I took myself up on this particular challenge and it shocked me how many times I sinned throughout the week. I remember thinking "How come I sin so much, but God still gave me good things?" after winning my soccer game that weekend. This taught me that God forgives our sins. Through this one experience, and all of my years in Sunday school, I was able to see how amazing God is and how much he loves us. Sunday school taught me to love and worship God, because he loved us so much. I truly think that Sunday school helped me grow closer to God and stronger in my faith.

In the fall of 2013 I suffered from an injury that took months and months to heal, but really help me grow in my faith. On October 8th, I was playing

Confirmation Class



FAITH STORIES

a soccer game, ready to score, when the goalie and I made contact with each other, resulting in a broken leg. While I was on my way to Chester County hospital, I remember the EMT that was sitting beside me that it was all going to be ok, but her telling me that I was going to be ok just was not enough for me. So I prayed. I prayed to God asking him to watch over me and keep me safe. In the emergency room of the hospital, nurses and doctors were running everywhere. When the doctor told my family and me that the fracture

looked as if it was going to need surgery, I again prayed. I said to God "God, you created my body, and you have a plan for everyone on this earth. Whatever happens here and from this day forward, I trust that it is in your plan for me. My body is in your hands now and my fate is for you to decide." Within minutes of praying, the doctor came out and told us that he wanted me to be taken to A.I duPont were they would have a better idea as to how to treat my fracture. I knew this was part of God's plan. There, I was put in a long leg cast and sent home within a few days. Over the next few months and doctors' visits, we saw no new bone growth and surgery was looking like what was needed. Although over these few months I questioned God's intents, as I look back I see one good thing that came out of my broken leg that I am sure God intended. My mom was the person that took me to nearly every doctor's visit and helped me around the house. Many times after doctor's visits, we would go out to eat and just talk. Over my entire injury, she was so loving and did much more then I would have ever asked. Throughout the many months of my injury, my mom and I grew such a bond that can't be broken today, and I know that this was all part of God's plan. Breaking my leg, although an unfortunate experience, was something that was part of God's plan, and I am thankful for it. This experience taught me to trust in God, for he has a plan for all of us and to love others the way he loves us, because they love you more than you even know. I had to trust that God had a plan for me and that I would be ok, and his plan did work out. This experience allowed me to trust God more than I had before, and learn that my faith is decided by God, and just to trust him.

All throughout my life, God has guided me and taught me how to trust him. These two experiences in my life have brought me closer to God. He has kept my family and I safe, which is why I am trusting him with my life and going to live my life committed to worshiping him and serving others as a member of West Grove United Methodist Church.

Luke Reynolds

On May 3rd, 2001, I was born. Soon after I was born, I got baptised at Kemblesville United Methodist Church, which was the start of my faith journey. Growing up, I kept going to this church and learning about God and Jesus. My parents also always taught me about God and Jesus and shared with me their beliefs as I grew up. This had the biggest impact on me, because I looked up to my parents and listened to what they had to say. Their beliefs had a huge influence on what I believed and what I still believe. After going to Kemblesville United Methodist Church, we stopped going for a little while. Even though we weren't going to church, I still learned from my parents and was able to pray every night. This was important so that I was able to keep my faith from dwindling. While I wasn't as close to God as I would have liked to have been, I was still in touch with him. I realize now that God purposely kept me in touch as part of his plan for me. Finally, after trying out a few different churches, the Curtis' invited my family to come to West Grove United Methodist Church. This helped my family and I to get back on track with our faith. We started going to church more often and I got closer to God. I learned more about God and eventually joined the youth group. This impacted me greatly because we did many fun things that helped my faith to grow. One of the things that was my favorite was going to Gretna Glen on the Confirmation Retreat. While we were there we did lots of fun activities at the camp that helped us learn more about God. Being surrounded by lots of other Christian youth who were also growing in their faith helped me tremendously. I learned lots of stuff from some of the other kids and also taught them a few things. I also had a pastor as one of the adults in my cabin. While I was back there one day I had a long talk with him about God and my faith. He taught me how everyone has their own individual faith, and how I can worship God in my free time in whatever way helps me best. Now I can spend time with God in my free time however I am most comfortable, not just how other people say I should. Having conversations like this with people at the camp helped me to grow in my faith. While on the retreat we also went out into the community to do some work. My group went to a Christian organization that helps people recently released from prison get back on their feet. We went to help clean up one of the buildings that they used to house some of the people being helped. We got to talk to one of the people who lived there. While talking to him it was clear how much God was helping him to get his life back on track, and the man realized this too. This

Confirmation Class



FAITH STORIES

was huge to me because it made me realize how merciful God is. The man had been in prison but God still helped him to get a better life when the man asked for his forgiveness. I thought that was wonderful. After my great experience at Gretna Glen, I was excited to find out I would be going to the summer mission trip at Union Beach. I didn't think that I would be able to. I was going on vacation for the whole summer except for one week, so I assumed I would be busy. But it turned out that the one week I would be home from vacation was the week the mission trip was on. I knew

immediately that God had purposely planned it this way, and I am excited to see what God has in store for me that week. I had learned a lot from the weekend mission trips already, so the full week one should be a great experience. I am so grateful that I was brought to this youth group and church by the Curtis'. It has impacted my life and helped me greatly. When I am closer to God I feel a lot happier and more secure. I love learning about God and I love to see how God is impacting my life positively. Even though he hasn't done something major, it is just the little things that seem to go better when I am closer to God. I enjoy spending time with God and I am happy that my faith turned out the way it did. I am happy that God has led me down the right path and even when I got a little bit off the path God helped me to get back on it.

Brian Barrett

I was born into a Christian family in 2001. I was raised going to church. But in 2013, my family joined West Grove United church. This church was different. I joined the youth group and went on mission projects and trips. I went on retreats with the rest of the youth group, including my brother and sister. I helped out with fundraisers. And I went to and enjoyed church more than ever, and I felt like a community. Joining WGUMC has certainly helped my faith journey, more than anything else. A close 2nd, though, is the Philly project. I learned that a little help can go a long way. I, as well as 5 other youth members, painted a lady's wall. She was so appreciative for such a little act. Also during the Philly project, they did this really cool thing where everyone had their hand painted by a youth leader, and then they stamped it on a cloth. It was a statement to God; it could be a confession, an affirmation, or just any statement of faith. It was really touching how you could see all those people making a statement to God. This has definitely affected my faith journey, but my faith story will continue to grow as I meet new people and encounter God more.

Rebecca LeStourgeon

I was born on May 12th, 2001. On August 26th, 2001, I was baptized at Quickel's Evangelical Lutheran Church. I started attending Sunday school after church at the age of three. My parents made sure I said my prayers each night before I went to bed. I also went to Vacation Bible School every summer. At the age of nine I started being an acolyte for our church. Recently I've worked at the food pantry with the Girl Scouts. While we were there we sorted the food and got it ready for distribution. I also went on the West Grove Project last summer and helped people and animals in the area. We visited the nursing home and helped out at the Bridge, where we got food, clothes, etc. ready for those in need of it; later that day we helped serve those people. Serving the community is important to me because it gives me a good feeling that I am helping those

Confirmation Class



FAITH STORIES

around me and making a difference. During confirmation class we have done lots of things that have strengthened my relationship with God. We learned about how He created man in the image of Himself and decided that it was very good. We also went on a retreat to Camp Gretna, where we learned about trusting others and God. It helped me to learn about God by comparing life to the trust trail. If you stray away from the path you will get lost, in the same that if you stray away from God and his plans for you, you get lost. It showed me that there will obstacles in

the way, but there are others there to help you get past them, whether they are big or small. Over the years these events have helped my relationship with God grow into what it is now. Joining the West Grove United Methodist Church means a lot to me because I know it will strengthen our relationship even further and it will help me get to know and understand God better.

**West Grove
United
Methodist
Church**

**Welcome
New Members**

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Our New Members Contact Information

Mr. Jerry Gula & Mrs. Elizabeth Gula
Mr. Max Gula
Miss Megan Gula
315 Clearfield Drive
Lincoln University, PA 19352
Home: 610-869-4239
Jerry's Cell: 610-613-9486
Family Email: jereliz@verizon.net

Ms. Chris Hilgar
23 Worthington Drive
West Grove, PA 19390
Home: 610-869-2263
Cell: 610-331-2638
Email: chilgar@yahoo.com

Mr. Keith Schneider & Mrs. Karen Schneider
117 Skyline Drive
Landenberg, PA 19350
Home: 610-274-8513
E-mail: keithpa@comcast.net
karensemail88@gmail.com

Mr. Dick Stuhrke & Mrs. Caryl Stuhrke
3705 Valley Brook Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808
Home: 302-239-1743
Dick's Cell: 302-598-5959
Caryl's Cell: 302-383-5900
Email: spikoe@aol.com

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*

Annual Conference Pictures



CMO Preschool

Our CMO and Preschool year ended for this school year on May 21st with a joyous celebration. The children sang some of their favorite songs from the school year for their parents. It is always wonderful to see the joy in their faces during this celebration. The children are so proud of all that they have accomplished this year and I am so proud of them too.

During the End of Year Celebration, we recognize in a special way all of those children who will be leaving our preschool to go off to Kindergarten in the Fall. We know that they will do great in this new adventure, but we are sad to see them leave our preschool. Many of these children and families have been with us for a few years and it is always hard to say good bye. We feel so fortunate to have had these children and families in our program and we wish them all the best.

Have a wonderful summer!!

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!



United Methodist Women's Meeting

The UMW will meet on Wednesday, June 3, at 11:00 a.m. in the church conference room (Room #1) . If you are interested in United Methodist Women and wish to be a part of the mission and purpose of UMW, we invite you to attend so we may put together a calendar of events for the coming year.

If you are unable to attend, but wish to be informed, please let me know. Thank you for your continued support of the United Methodist Women.

Cindy Haley, President (484-702-7071) or chaley@zoominternet.net

The United Methodist Women thank everyone who donated items, and helped with the sale, setup and cleanup of the Spring Rummage Sale. Your help was truly appreciated in order to make the Rummage Sale a successful fundraiser for the UMW.

We profited approximately \$1,300.00 which will be used for various mission projects.



UrbanPromise
believe. become. belong. be promise.

Urban Promise Meals

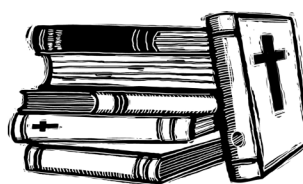
We will be preparing meals on **June 19** for the Urban Promise summer interns and street leaders. This will be our 5th year

preparing meals for their summer training retreat. Sign-up sheets will be posted for opportunities to provide food donations and for ways in which you may be led to help. If you have questions or desire more information, please see Cindy Haley. Thank you for serving those who serve others!



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

Remember, if you are retired, then you could be a R.O.M.E.O. 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



What's Going on in Our Community?

Did you know that Young Moms served 35 moms and 35 plus children in 2014 in Southern Chester County? Their mission statement says, "Young Moms provides academic, vocational, relational, and parenting support to a diverse group of teenage mothers navigating the tough challenges of both adolescence and motherhood." Each month at the ministerium, we get an update about how this vital program is making a difference in the lives of young women.

Thanks be to God for those who serve in this way!



YOUNGMOMS Job Opportunity

YoungMoms is a non-profit ministry serving teen mothers in Southern Chester County. YoungMoms empowers teen moms to reach their potential as women and mothers through a combination of individualized support

and advocacy, one-to-one mentoring, case management services, life skills instruction and community building activities/events. YoungMoms is currently looking for a case manager to work directly with teen moms in the Oxford area. The ideal candidate would possess a degree in Social Work/Human Services and be bilingual in Spanish. If interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact the Director, Linda Mercner, at linda.mercner@youngmomscommunity.com.

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.

Good afternoon,

At the Ministerium this morning, we heard from the Rotary president-elect that the Rotary clubs of Southern Chester County are working together to raise the funds for the 15 passenger van needed for family promise. Wanted to share good news! Pastor Monica



REACHING OUT MINISTRY/ MOROGORO

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

Umba I. Kalangwa, Missionary number 14211Z,
Email: ukalangwa@umcmmission.org
Ngoy M. Kalangwa, Missionary number 15162Z,
Email: nkalangwa@umcmmission.org



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Receive our sincere greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are thankful for your supports, for your prayers, and for your greetings on Ngoy's birthday.

Even the distance between Kigoma and Morogoro, Our ministry is going well in both areas.

First of all we are very thankful for your prayers and your supports. May God bless you very much as you are serving God with us in His ministry.



Kigoma district is facing many challenges of lacking good building infrastructure of United Methodist churches. Mwanga united Methodist church (the first UMC congregation in Tanzania) is not good conditions and was started to rebuild in Kigoma .Any support is welcome to build churches in Kigoma District. And in DODOMA (a Tanzanian capital).

Youth program and Sunday school children are going well .Thank you all in participating in this program.

Through your supports, Wesley primary school has started building the library.

As some children they are going so far, the school needs a van . Any support is needed to buy a van and help some vulnerable children in transportation.



Susannah Wesley Health Care (specially the pharmacy) is going well. We are still renovating rooms for the clinic .



At Susannah Wesley education center, the sewing class is going well . Some women expect to finish their training in July. The grinder has been repaired and soon the nutritional program will start.



Some activities in JUNE and JULY.

Morogoro is expecting to host Tanzania UMC annual conference , then pastors' seminar for one week in June. In July we will start student pastors' training in Morogoro for two months. The cost to assist one student pastor (accommodation and transportation to Morogoro) is \$200\$.

Our projects:

Reaching Out Ministry, **advance number 150530**; Morogoro preschools **advance number 15048N**; Wesley primary school, **advance number 3020704**; Susannah Wesley Education and Health Care centre **advance number 3020705**; Church construction in Morogoro **Advance number 15059N** Morogoro Pastors' Training Center **advance number 3020710**.

Thank you for your prayers and for taking part in our mission

Yours in Christ's love, Mrs Ngoy and Rev. Umba Kalangwa



We give thanks to God for the generosity of God's people towards the One Great Hour of Sharing.

As a congregation, we have given \$1331.00

Your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.

When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.

When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through One Great Hour of Sharing.

In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

THANK YOU!!

**It's not a handout –
it's a hand up!**

★Veterans'★ Expo & Job Fair★

Aug. 20, 2015

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Radisson Hotel Harrisburg
1150 Camp Hill Bypass
Camp Hill

Nov. 13, 2015

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Spooky Nook Sports
2913 Spooky Nook Road, Manheim
(Just off Rt. 283 at the Salunga exit)

**These events are in support of veterans of all ages,
active military, and their families.**



New Update!

MPASA PEDIATRIC MEDICAL CLINIC

With joy and thanksgiving, I am delighted to report that the final amount received for the MPASA Pediatric Clinic is \$60,000. Thank you, for your generous and loving support for this project. Any additional funds received will be applied toward Phase Two of the MPASA Project which will provide for the internal furnishing and equipping of the clinic. Watch for an upcoming announcement of the specific needs for Phase Two.

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,

(The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Southeast District Superintendent)



SAVE THE DATES!

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF MINISTRY

Nov. 7, 2015

At Hopewell UMC

Keynote: Mike Slaughter

Watch for more info



**CONNECTING
CHURCH + CULTURE**

Making our local churches relevant to new people, younger people and more diverse people



The Academy for Laity

CSM – CHRIST SERVANT MINISTRY

Basic Course Training

(All are welcome)

August 14 -16, 2015 – There

will be a Basic Course at the Reading Motor Inn as part of the Laity Academy. A Registration form and additional information is expected to be available by the end of May.

For more information about the 2015 Laity Academy contact the Dean of the Academy, Aubrey

Bates – aubreybates@verizon.net.



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



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 - Children's Worship

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