



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove
United Methodist Church
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PEACE LOVE December 2015 HOPE JESUS



*"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified." Romans 8:28-30*

This summer, I had the opportunity to return to the Brandywine River Museum, a favorite museum of my childhood. The first time I returned, an exhibition on the artwork of Horace Pippin was predominately featured in addition to the works of the Wyeth family. At the end of the retrospective of Pippin, artwork incorporating his military service in World War I and the

passages from the prophet Isaiah regarding the peaceable kingdom were discussed and displayed. His experiences in the First World War shaped his imaginings about God's peaceable reign. I found myself using his model as a way to think about the multitude of art works illustrating the story of Christ.

Some of the oldest images of our faith come from stained glass windows. The stained glass windows that are familiar today did not come about until the 10th century, with the construction of Gothic cathedrals. The oldest complete stained glass windows were those of Augsburg Cathedral in Germany, constructed in the late 11th century. Subjects of stained glass windows being made during this time were mostly religious in nature and served to tell Biblical stories to lay people that could not read, as well as beautifying the churches. It has been speculated that the stained glass windows probably had a more profound impact on the people than the sermons themselves. Stained glass was a visual way of making the detailed stories of the Bible come to life in image.

Artwork illustrating the stories of the Bible and faith-filled adventures have expanded since then. Many of us have Nativities and crèches in our homes. Some of us have artwork in our homes that depict our faith and call us to aspire to even greater heights. Our children even follow the impulse to draw and color scenes of Christmas in this season. As we prepare together for the Advent of Christ, notice the variety of images of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Artists have imagined the full realization of God's kingdom in many different ways. Consider the many ways God has to draw your attention to picturing, praying for, and preparing for the Advent of Christ.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



December Worship at West Grove UMC



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

Picture the Advent of Christ: Using traditional, modern, contemporary, and evocative artwork, we will prepare for the Kingdom of God by picturing Christ's coming.

Second Sunday in Advent—December 6

Communion Sunday

Emergency Food Shelf Sunday

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-20, Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: "Ways in the Valley"

Image: Prepare by Jan Richardson

Third Sunday in Advent—December 13

Scripture: Luke 3:7-18, Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sermon: "With Spirit and Fire"

Image: John the Baptist by Caravaggio

Fourth Sunday in Advent—December 20

Scripture: Micah 5:1-5, Luke 1:39-55

Sermon: "Expecting Joy"

Image: Joyful Mystery #2: Visitation, Jim Janknegt,

Blue Christmas—Monday, December 21

Scripture: John 20:24-29

Sermon: "Hope in the Dark; Light to Lead"

Image: Candle in the Dark

Christmas Eve

12:00 Wiggly Giggly Service

6:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with Pick up Pageant and Memory Bells

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond

8:30 Contemporary Candlelight Service

11:00 Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Sermon: Picture This!

Scripture: Luke 2:1-21, Isaiah 9:2-7

Image: The Star of Bethlehem by Edward Burne-Jones

First Sunday of Christmas—December 27th

Pastor Jim preaching

Sermon: "Shepherds and Wise Men"

Scripture: Luke 2:8-10 and Matthew 2:1-12



Blue Christmas

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

Perhaps, as you prepare for Christmas, this season has not felt as joyful for you as it does for others.

Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, divorce, separation, or physical, emotional, spiritual pain.

Perhaps, the news that fills our media weighs heavily on your shoulders.

Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts is welcome.

The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls.

Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.



**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP
Hosted by YOU,
The Congregation
On Sunday, December 20
after both services**
Please bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share at our fellowship time!

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.



Worship With Us
Christmas Eve



Sunday, December 6th – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, December 21st – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

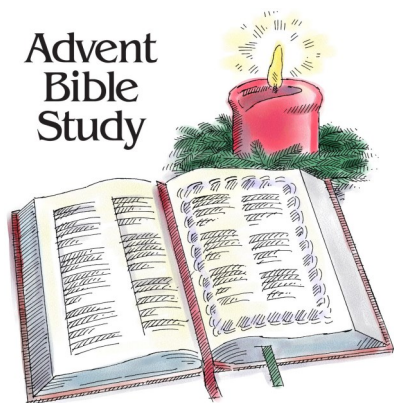
12:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service

6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service with Pickup Pagaent and Memory Bells

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Advent
Bible
Study



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY AT

West Grove UMC and Jenner's Pond

Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a Bible study entitled

BACKGROUND & EVENTS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS
West Grove UMC Bible Study, Monday's Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room #1

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**Jenner's Pond Bible Study, Monday's Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

**10:00 – 11:15 A.M. Alison Theater**

#### **Nov. 30: GOD'S COVENANT WITH US**

God's covenants with mankind. New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-34  
The WORD made flesh – John 1:1-6, 14 [1-18]

#### **Dec. 7: PREPARING THE WAY**

OT Prophecies. Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 40:3-5  
Birth of John the Baptist. Birth foretold – Luke 1:5-25  
Birth of John – Luke 1:57-80  
Genealogies Of Jesus. Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

#### **Dec. 14: BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD**

From Mary's point of view – Luke 1:26-56  
From Joseph's view point – Matt. 1:18-25

#### **Dec. 21: BIRTH OF JESUS**

Events of the birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-20  
Visit of the Wise Men – Matt. 2:1-18





# Pastor Jim as Guest Chaplain



PA STATE CAPITOL

Mr. Speaker, thank you for inviting me today. It is a privilege and an honor to stand before this body of men and women who represent the people of this great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Join me in prayer.

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, we come invoking Your presence. We ask Your blessings on this body as they establish just and right laws. To this end, we pray for each Representative, their families, and their staff. We lift up those who are sick or physically detained, that You may raise them up to good health and spirit.

We pray for the officers as they guide, direct and mold the functions of this body. Give each Representative the grace to compromise, and may they be filled with wisdom and knowledge, a spirit of goodwill and cooperation, that good and proper solutions might be arrived at together.

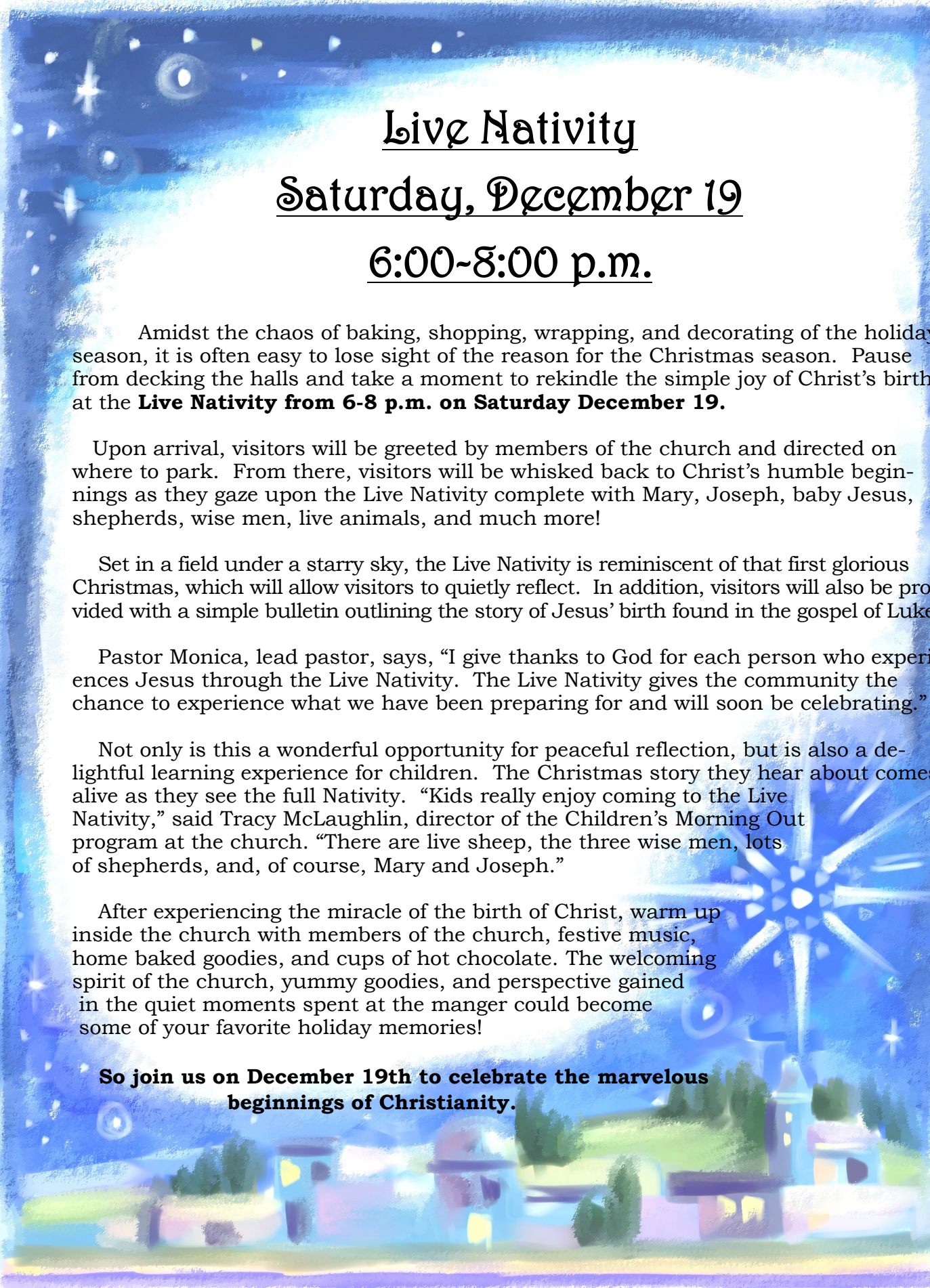
Gracious God, we pray for the work that is before this body, especially for the current budget and the ensuing tax burden to fund it. We call upon the Governor, the Senate, the House of Representatives and the diversity of the parties to work together for the common cause of this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Holy and loving God, we pray for those who may be suffering hardships because of this budget stalemate. So Gracious God we call upon You in this time of need to give wisdom to all in this matter.

As this body is called into session we pray that Your will be done. This we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen and Amen.

*Prayer that was offered to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on October 27, 2015 by The Reverend Jim Mundell, West Grove United Methodist Church, West Grove, PA*





# Live Nativity

## Saturday, December 19

### 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Amidst the chaos of baking, shopping, wrapping, and decorating of the holiday season, it is often easy to lose sight of the reason for the Christmas season. Pause from decking the halls and take a moment to rekindle the simple joy of Christ's birth at the **Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday December 19.**

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

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

Pastor Monica, lead pastor, says, "I give thanks to God for each person who experiences Jesus through the Live Nativity. The Live Nativity gives the community the chance to experience what we have been preparing for and will soon be celebrating."

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

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

**So join us on December 19th to celebrate the marvelous beginnings of Christianity.**



## THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

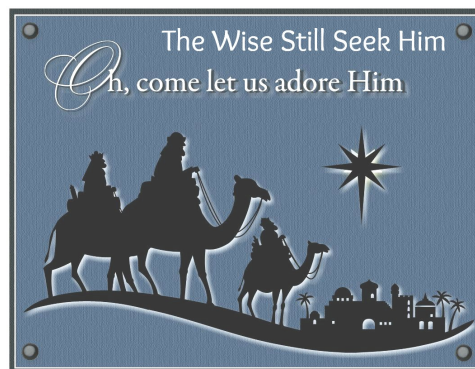
**Our church's  
free meal  
ministry**

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

**A combined  
Holiday Celebration!**

Please see the sign up  
sheets in lobby for ways  
that you might help!

Donations needed!



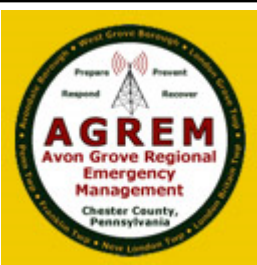
## LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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

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

Sign up to bake cookies, provide hot beverages, lend a hand to set up or take down the Nativity scene, greet people as they arrive, or even dress as one of the many Nativity characters.

For more information, **or to sign-up,**  
**contact Lori McClain at 610-869-7812 or**  
**llmcl@verizon.net** or sign up in the Narthex.



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

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

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



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



Did you miss a sermon? Want to check a resource? Hear it again? On our website, [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org), we have **three ways** you

can do this:

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

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

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

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



## Worship at Jenner's Pond

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

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

## Congregational Christmas Tree

Once again, we will hang personalized family and/or individual ornaments on our Congregational Christmas Tree to be enjoyed by all in the church lobby.

The ornament should bear either your family name, picture, or something symbolic to your family and can be



homemade or purchased.

Please feel free to bring in your ornaments and hang them on the tree during any of our Advent Worship Services. You

may also update the ornament you hung on the tree in years past. Leave the old one or take it with you.



Our Church Office will be Closed to celebrate Christmas on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25.

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



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

POINSETTIAS



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

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Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in the **Sunday, December 22** bulletin. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 27 after the 11:00 a.m. service. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

### Christmas Poinsettias Order Form



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## CMO PRESCHOOL

Although, we are thankful throughout the year, November is a time when we focus on thankfulness. This month, the children have continued to learn about Fall and began to learn about

Thanksgiving. Our hallways are decorated with beautiful artwork where the children were able to express their thankfulness. Some of the ideas they came up with were family, friends, God, food, and toys.

As a preschool family, we were able to donate three baskets full of food to local families for their Thanksgiving meals. I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. I am thankful to be part of such a wonderful program and church.

In December, the children will prepare for Christmas and Jesus' birth. We will end the month by having our Happy





A BIG thank you to Linda Shiplet, Della, Connie Simcox, Pat Heist, Linda Peirson, Kim Smith, Kay Yates, Jeannie

Sullivan, and Marilyn Street for their monumental efforts preparing the kitchen for our annual Health Inspection. Every nook and cranny has been scrubbed, polished, and organized. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!

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

## Advent Bags for Our Homebound Thank You!

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



Advent Bags

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

With appreciation,  
The United Methodist Women



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

**When:** Sunday, December 13 from 3:00—6:00 pm

**Where:** At WGUMC

**Cost:** a suggested donation of \$10 per child

*Any money that is donated towards this event will be used to help offset the cost of the 2016 youth summer mission trip*

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

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

### Parents Date Night Sign-Up

Child/Children's Name & Age

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies or Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

# WGUMC SOUP SALE



## December Soup Sale

We will make two favorites

**#1– Ham and Bean Soup**

**#2– Potato Leek Soup**

*Sign-up is until Thursday, December 17*

*There is a sign-up sheet  
hanging on the blackboards in the lobby,  
or you can call the church office at  
610-869-9334.*

**Pick-up is on Saturday, December 19**

between 2 & 4 p.m.

or Sunday after Worship Services

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

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

# ADVENT

## Wednesday Night Fun

Join us on the  
Wednesdays in Advent

December 2nd

December 9th

December 16th

December 23rd

From 6-8pm

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

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

Each week, we'll do something to  
prepare for Christmas.

**Come one week,  
come all of the weeks!**

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



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

**JULIET...Just us Ladies  
Interested in Eating  
Together**

**December 12 at 9:00 a.m.**

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



**Luther House  
Bible Study**

## Hear the Stories!

Luther Class is for men and women who are interested in coming together to learn the stories of the Bible. All are welcome. We meet every Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 pm at Luther Building #1 in the parlor, right inside the door. Come join us! Bring your friends. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Haley at: [chaley@zoominternet.net](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net)

## Care Givers and Grief Sup- port Group December 9 @ 7 p.m.



**Caregivers and Grief Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Conference room. The next meeting is on December 9 at 7 p.m.**

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

Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (R.A.P.) FRIDAY, Dec. 11 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m.

Our RAP group and friends will be having a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a favorite dish to share. **"John Clayton and the Revelators"** will entertain us with their exceptional musical talents. We will fellowship, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate the Christmas season with beautiful music--including several of our Christmas favorites! Please contact Sara Ann Ramberger with any questions.

**We meet on the second FRIDAY of every month September through May.  
See you on Friday, December 11th at Noon!**



**R.O.M.E.O.**

## R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men  
Eating Out**

**Due to the Christmas holidays, the Retired Older Men Eating Out, will meet on Thursday,**

**December 17.** If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEOLunch. We get together to eat at Perkins in Avondale on Rt. 41 on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.. **Call Roger Bates, at 610-869-7638,** if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.

## Avon Grove Seniors Invite to RAP and Friends

On Wednesday, December 16th, at 9 a.m., we are invited to travel by bus to the American Music Theatre Christmas Show "Deck the Halls" at 10:30 a.m. After the show, a meal will be enjoyed at the Bird in Hand Restaurant at 1:30 p.m. Total cost is \$60 (Includes bus, show, and meal). Write your check to: Avon Grove Seniors. Please contact Sara Ann Ramberger **ASAP** for additional information and reservations at 610-869-3863 or [sar57ver@verizon.net](mailto:sar57ver@verizon.net). A few more reservations are available--first come, first served!





# Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 6th ~ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us!

Bring your family and invite your friends!

Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m.  
allows **all ages** to join in the festivities.

Welcome the Advent Season with music by  
the Chancel Choir, Memory Bells Handbell Choir,  
special musical numbers  
and, of course, a carol sing-along.

Stay after for delicious, homemade  
Christmas cookies and cider!

Invite your friends and family  
to get in the Christmas spirit!





# C.I.A. Youth Ministry News

## Youth Newsletter for December 2015



### ROOTED UPDATES:

November Brief..... In November, the youth of WGUMC gathered together for Rooted Sunday School and worked on putting

together a spoken word on the creation story, met in small groups and handed out Advent bags to some of our older members during a Serving Sunday.

We played dodgeball, had youth fellowship and met together to see Peter Pan at AGHS. And, some of our students even won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Dodgeball for Donkey's tournament at Avon Grove Nazarene, all while participating in some fun competition to raise money for families on poverty stricken countries! **Well Done Youth!**

# kudos



### \* **ROOTED in ADVENT:**

Our Sunday School program ROOTED will begin a series of lessons for ADVENT on **November 29<sup>th</sup> and through December.** We will play some minute to win it games, eat some snacks and spend time focusing on the idea of

waiting in hopeful expectance for the birth of our Savior and what that means for us even today. I hope all youth will join us for this special time of celebrating Advent. 9:45 in the Youth Room.



## Youth Fellowship

\* **December 6<sup>th</sup>** is our annual **Advent Music Celebration** at

church. Youth Fellowship will not meet – but be sure to come and enjoy the music as we celebrate advent with our church community.



### \***December 20<sup>th</sup> – YOUTH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!**

DETAILS: We are going to begin our Christmas celebration by heading to the Luther House to help residents wrap presents! Then we will return to Jamie's house for some sloppy joes, yummy treats, a competitive and silly yankee exchange and definitely some fun! Watch for details for the time and to RSVP.

### **DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> — FAMILY DODGE BALL NIGHT!**

*Family  
Dodgeball  
Night*



**The Youth are hosting a FAMILY DODGE BALL NIGHT on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

- \* **6:30 – 8:30**
- \* **Pizza and Dodge Ball Fun**
- \* **\$2 a person or \$10 max for a family**

Questions? Interested in being a part of the WGUMC Youth Leadership Team – Contact Jamie Lindtner by calling 610-937-7932 or emailing:

[JamieLindtner@gmail.com](mailto:JamieLindtner@gmail.com)





Please visit our **Christmas Gift Tree** in the Narthex. On the tree, there are gift tags for families and individuals from our community in need. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season. **Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 20.**

To the West Grove UMC congregation:  
Much thanks for your prayers and to the rest of your congregation. I know many of them personally. God's Best,  
Maureen Cooney

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, that anyone could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts. We thank you so much whatever the part. The family of William J. Cooney*



## Food

Our community has deep needs with which we can help!



## PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls for specific needs

for our pantry.

Thank you to Karen Hruz who has begun coordinating our Emergency Food Pantry.

Thank you to Gene Aucott for the rolling shelves donation to organize our pantry.

### How can you help?

There are copies of a shopping list of our current needs clipped to the shopping card in the Narthex. Pick up the list and include one, some, or all of the items with your shopping to serve those in need in our community.



### Thanksgiving Food Baskets

We give thanks to our CMO families who supplied three families in our community with the makings for Thanksgiving through their

donations of thanksgiving baskets! Thank you for being a vital part of ministries to the community.

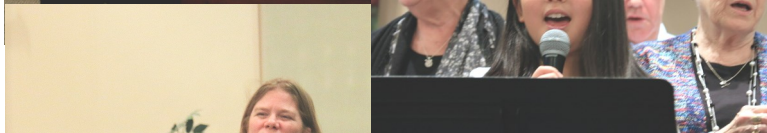




# Community Thanksgiving Worship



## Speaker, Rev. Jose Tirado





**DID YOU KNOW .....**

# THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

.....That Upper Rooms are available at our Information Stand in The Foyer?

.....That each seasonally attractive Upper Room contains daily devotional guides for two months at a time?

.....That you may pick up an Upper Room and pay for it by placing the money in an inserted envelope and give it in the offering, and no, it's not tax deductible even though your donation to the church is deductible?

.....That the number of our church's order of Upper Rooms has increased regularly over this year?

.....That The Upper Room also produces children's Pockets, youth's Devozine, young adult's Alive Now and Serious Student's Weaving devotional guides?

.....That Upper Rooms are available in over 100 countries of the world in their own languages?

.....That Upper Rooms are written by everyday writers like us under the guidance of The Upper Room Staff who also write great Christmas present books that are published and sold by the Upper Room?

.....That The Upper Room's daily devotional guides may be read free on the [Upper Room](#) website?

.....And that there are many inexpensive and reputable books available on the Upper Room website that make great Christmas presents?

Your Hospitality Team Coordinator, Don Hurst



## WGUMC Fantasy Football League Standings



| Team                                      | Team Manager       | W-L-T | Points For | Points Against | Streak |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------------|----------------|--------|
| Team Knucklehead                          | Ken Rinehimer      | 7-3-0 | 1231.34    | 1066.43        | W-4    |
| groves 3 and 2                            | Jeremy Moore       | 7-3-0 | 1191.82    | 1138.16        | W-1    |
| sulli's skins                             | Fred Sullivan      | 7-3-0 | 1120.86    | 1064.65        | W-2    |
| Duct work                                 | Rob Catoia         | 5-5-0 | 1165.49    | 1167.74        | L-2    |
| Ten Plagues                               | Tim Bushnell       | 5-5-0 | 1094.07    | 1041.45        | W-1    |
| doop                                      | Luke Chalmers      | 5-5-0 | 1078.21    | 1170.14        | W-2    |
| jerry's boys                              | Reed Smith Sr.     | 4-6-0 | 1152.68    | 1233.66        | L-2    |
| soundcurfew                               | Lee Arter          | 4-6-0 | 1098.88    | 1079.66        | L-1    |
| The Rogue Elephants                       | Doug Alan          | 4-6-0 | 1043.12    | 1042.99        | L-5    |
| Even up*                                  | Pastor Jim Mundell | 2-8-0 | 947.24     | 1118.83        | L-1    |
| *became team manager after season started |                    |       |            |                |        |



Thank you to all who have served and given generously to our Funeral Luncheon Ministry!

It is your making casseroles, setting up coffee, and taking the concern of food off the shoulders of our grieving families that supports them in their times of need.



# Created to be Generous

Indeed, we give thanks to God for the generosity of God's people! We were created to be generous and God's people have responded! We give thanks for God for the commitments received to this point.

**We have received 61 pledges to date.**

**19 of those pledges are new pledgers.**

**19 pledges increased over last year's pledge.**

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

Perhaps, you have not yet had a chance to make a pledge, bring in your commitment card to worship or send it into the office.

If you are still contemplating your commitment, **please prayerfully consider offering it in the next few weeks' offering.**

**Thanks be to God!**

Look for your 2016 giving envelopes in  
**Mid December.**

More information to follow.

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

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

This helps us save on postage!



## THE WEST GROVE UMC ENDOWMENT FUND

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

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

### Covenant Prayer

*From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780*

*I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

## Building To Serve

### Building Maintenance Reserve Fund

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

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

Please consider making donations regularly.

## Daily Meditations



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

May your relationship with God be enriched.

They are also available on Facebook and our website!

### Notes from the Financial Secretary

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

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

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

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



### Giant Gift Cards

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

The cards are sold for

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

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

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

### Advent Devotionals

Don't forget to pick up your Advent devotionals in the Narthex.

Picture the Advent of Christ is a devotional written to accompany the sermon series throughout Advent and Christmas. It looks at a different art image everyday.

There is a special 3D devotional for children as well.

### SCRIP PROGRAM

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



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

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

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

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



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

Thank you to our 3rd-6th grade  
Sunday School  
who made hats  
for Halos of Hope



"I was  
**sick** and  
**you visited**  
**me . . .**"  
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

Please let Pastor Monica, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

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



## CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

**Area preliminary total of donations is over \$22,000!**

**That is an increase of over \$8,000 from last year!**

**WOW!**

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



United  
Methodist  
Women

United Methodist Women are thanked for their Donations.

"On behalf of the patients and staff at the Perry Point VA Center, I wish to express my appreciation for your recent contribution to the VA Maryland Health Care System. Your donation will help enhance the everyday lives of the Veterans in our care.

Donations are utilized in many ways and in numerous areas to brighten the lives of our Veteran patients and assist them in their recovery. Your gift will be used to support the needs of the Veterans at the Perry Point VA Medical Center.

Thank you again for your generous donation and for your interest in the welfare of our Veteran patients.

Sincerely,

Brandi Sima

Voluntary Service Specialist

Perry Point VA Medical Center

Donation: Used clothing, New Quilts and Walker bags.

Received: 10/23/15



# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

## The United Methodist Church

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

More than 500 Eastern PA Conference members took care of unfinished business at their Annual Conference adjourned session Saturday, Nov. 14, at Bethany UMC in Macungie, Pa., approving a 2016 budget and electing delegates to the 2016 General and Northeastern Jurisdictional conferences. But beyond budgets and ballots, they also raised a surprising \$40,000 for The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria campaign, inspired by two special guests who were largely responsible for the genesis of that campaign, Lynda and Katherine Commale. The mother and daughter team came to help promote the conference's support for Imagine No Malaria, The United Methodist Church's campaign to raise awareness and \$75 million by 2016 to help end malaria, a lethal but preventable global disease that continues to take thousands of lives.

With remarks and video clips, the Commales recalled how 10 years ago, then 5-year-old Katherine and her family, inspired by a television program, began promoting and raising money for specially treated bed nets to help protect African children from malaria. They thanked the Eastern PA Conference and their own church, Hopewell UMC in Downingtown, Pa., for giving ongoing support to an effort that helped spawn two global campaigns: the U.N. Foundation's Nothing but Nets and the UMC's Imagine No Malaria.


Katherine, now 15, said she is most proud of how the reported death toll for young victims of malaria has dropped from one every 30 seconds to one every 60 seconds. Lynda Commale recalled visiting a Ugandan village years ago where she painfully encountered a mother whose infant had just died for lack of a bed net. "It made me committed to go back and work harder to help remedy this deadly disease.

"This has been a marathon, without a doubt, and we are in the final lap," she said. "We've come so far, raising \$66 million and collecting 2.3 million nets to protect families in Africa. Only \$9 million more to go.

"We know the power of what one person can do," she said, pointing at her daughter. "And now we know the power of many, the power of 'we.'"



Inspired by her words the conference collected an offering onsite of \$10,000. The Rev. Steve Morton, Hopewell's pastor, then pledged \$5,000 more as a matching donation if other church leaders could add another



CHILDREN'S  
CHOIR

The children's choir will be singing at both services on Sunday, December 20th. They will rehearse at 10:45 in Room 4 on November 29th, December 6th, and December 13th. All children are encouraged to join us. Please email Joan Leaman ([jmleaman@comcast.net](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net))



**EVERYONE IS INVITED – COMMUNITY EVENT**  
**SATURDAY December 5, 2015**  
**HELP FEED THE HUNGRY**  
**Lincoln University Wellness Center**  
**10 am – 12 noon**  
**1570 Baltimore Pike Lincoln University, PA 19352**

Food Packaging for the World's Hungry  
 Food Collection event for the Neighborhood Services

Stop Hunger Now is a mission providing packaged meals that provide the greatest nutritional value in the most efficient shelf-stable package. At this event, you will help make those packaged meals and feed someone who would otherwise go hungry.

**Come Join the Fun – Come Make a Difference**  
**Bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry**  
**Refreshments available**

**Sponsored by the United Methodist Church Mission ConneXion of Southern Chester County**  
**Hosted by The Lincoln University Women's Center**  
**Need more info? Contact (Jorge Chamorro @ 484 368-4169) jorch@oppy.com**

## Southeast District Mission Project 2015-2016



## MPASA, Congo Pediatric Clinic Phase II: Furniture & Equipment **PHASE II DISTRICT GOAL: \$50,000**

Last year, the Southeast District raised the funds to build a pediatric unit in Mpasa, Congo! Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Our next step is to raise the funds to furnish the inside operations of the Mpasa Clinic. From cribs for children to medical equipment for safe labor, the Southeast District will enable the Mpasa clinic to meet the needs of children and families. As the early Methodists built hospitals, so too, we are returning to our Wesleyan roots as we bring hope and healing to the children of Mpasa, Congo.

Our congregation pledged to supply \$600 for a wheel-chair and a sterilizer. We will gather through collection times and your generous gifts. Through the Southeast District Mission Project, YOU are helping to transform the lives of children in Mpasa, Congo. **One life at a time.**

## A Letter From The Les Family

Hello dear brothers and sisters in Christ of West Grove United Methodist Church!

We want to thank you for your financial support. You are a great blessing sent from God. And we always thank God for all of you and we pray for God to bless you richly! You are always in our prayers.

We are doing fine. Our church has recently had a Thanksgiving day. There were many people at the service and a few new people have come to hear the good news. We had a night service where the kids of Sunday School took part. We had a great time together. And all the children got a small gift. We and our church band keep going to different villages for sharing the Gospel. We have recently held a thanksgiving service in one of the villages which is close to our town. God blessed us and we are happy we can tell people about God.

We want to thank you one more time for your support. You help to make God's Kingdom bigger. May God bless you all richly! You are always in our prayers!

Stay blessed! The Les Family



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

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

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

**Thank you for serving!**

Our first set of families will be arriving Sunday, December 6. We need your help to make this a success and a welcome place for families in a serious time of need. Please help in the following areas:

\* Provide donations of \$100 for a dinner, \$50 for a lunch, \$50 for a breakfast or an amount of your choice for supplies

\* Sign-up to volunteer to work with the families:

Breakfast prep/clean-up 6:00am - 7:30am 12/7-12/13; Dinner Set-up / Servers 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Evening Hosts 5:30-8:30 pm; Overnight Hosts 8:15pm - 7:00am

\* Respect the peace and privacy of the families by staying out of the Sunday School wing during this week

If you would like to see the set-up for the families prior to their arrival, please come to the church at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 6 for a quick tour.

### **Family Promise President of the Board Report**

*One Journey Concludes. Another Journey Begins...*

Each of us goes through a variety of journeys in life. And so it is with organizations, too...

Our first journey began as a community simply discussing the need for a solution to address the challenge of family homelessness in southern Chester County.

Our second journey began when we found Family Promise, a nationally respected organization that provided an effective and reliable framework that could alleviate family homelessness in our area.

Thus began the actions of hundreds of volunteers to enroll congregations, create a Resource Center, acquire transportation, solicit funds and create an extraordinary organization.

Our third journey began quietly on November 1, 2015 when a mother and her child arrived at the freshly painted, warm and friendly Resource Center in West Grove. Mom and child were looking for a solution to get a new start in life. Our first steps together took them to settling their belongings, meeting the staff of Family Promise, enjoying dinner and spending a safe night at the welcoming Unionville Presbyterian Church. Arising early the next morning, they returned to the Resource Center in order for the child to make it to school on time. This "normal rhythm" (something many of us take for granted) begins their first steps towards stability.

THANKS to YOU – our supporters, volunteers, repair folks, painters, plumbers, HVAC and furnace experts, electricians, computer network experts, fundraisers, donators, our leaders - YOUR incredible efforts made this day so "normal"... and PERFECT!

Dave Haradon, Board President

### **United Methodist Ministry in Tanzania**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings from Morogoro-Tanzania. First of all, we would like to thank our Lord for all the blessings and for His protection.

We thank you very much for your supports and for your prayers. Our God heard your prayers, especially when our son Nathan got a serious Malaria. He was quickly transferred and admitted in Iringa General Hospital. Now he is fine.

In September and in October, we made some visits. Rev. Umba spent most the time in Kigoma area visiting and strengthening the Christian congregations. There is more to do in that area, specifically in construction. Our attention is on the two earlier UMC congregations in Mwanga and Gunguin Kigoma), both don't have church building. Mrs. Ngoy went to Geita and led a women seminar. Two sewing machines were given to Geita United Methodist Women.

We thank United Methodist Women, National Office, for sending funds which allowed us to rehabilitate some rooms at Susannah Wesley Heath Care Center. Our thanks to Dr. Jang who came and treated more 250 patients for two days there. He also treated more 160 patients at Mkan-gazi/Mangae. Now the laboratory rooms are under construction. Dr. Jang at Mangae





## Food Needs at The Bridge

Greetings!

As soon as we are on the other side of Tuesday's Thanksgiving food distribution, we will have some immediate needs at The Bridge.

The number of food donations from scout troops and other groups is down this year, so we are having to use some of our regular food supply for Thanksgiving.

This means we will have shortages headed into the winter. If you would let the folks in your congregation know that we are in need of the following, it would be really helpful:

cans of beans, especially black beans

boxes of pasta

cans of tomato paste or tomato sauce

(less expensive and goes further than spaghetti sauce)

We can always use boxes of healthy cereal and cans of tuna

Thanks, Mike Schutz, Senior Pastor,  
Avon Grove Church of the Nazarene, West Grove, PA

(Home of the Bridge)



Thank you to the generous donors who made a dream a reality.

It was noticed that some members of our community could use some additional hearing assistance in worship. We were able to purchase a system, Audio Assist. This includes individual receivers for hearers.

Frequencies can work with hearing aids.


The soundbooth operators will be trained in utilizing this equipment. We dedicated this

## Family Promise Resource Center

We are looking for some people (retired folks are great) to help staff our Resource Center in West Grove.

I recall your congregation having lots of retired (capable) folks--that, in addition to your proximity to West Grove, prompted me to let you know about this tangible and current need.

People can help out for a couple of hours at a time, any day of the week between 8 am and 5 pm. You can call Betsy Hanna 610-513-4119 or contact Pastor Monica



**OUR FAITH IN ACTION**  
#BRINGCHANGE

ImagineNoMalaria.org

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA**  
The power of The United Methodist Church

**UNITED METHODISTS ARE COMMITTED TO BRING AN END TO DEATH AND SUFFERING FROM MALARIA.** To date, we have raised just over \$68million of our \$75 million goal. Together, we can eliminate malaria.


**GOOD NEWS, MALARIA IS 100% PREVENTABLE**

Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. But there is hope! In ten years, we have reduced the rate of malaria from death every 30 seconds to one person every 60 seconds. Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and together with our partners, our generation can beat malaria once and for all.

We can all work together! Children and adults, families and neighbors can all work together to send bed nets and life to those who malaria threatens to taken life away.

Fill the red box of hope throughout Advent with your coins, your dollars, and add your prayers. Every \$10 provides a bed net to those most in need. As you shop and fill the Christmas wish lists of those you love, add bed nets for children in Sub-Saharan African.

**Let us celebrate and bring in our offerings on December 20th!**



**Young Moms begun Young Dads as well in November! Look for updates on this vital ministry in our community!**



**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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)



*~ Open, Grow, Serve ~*

*At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.*

**The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor**

**[pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)**

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

**[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)**

**Office Hours: Monday—Friday**

**7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Staff**

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

**[Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org)**

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

**[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)**

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

**[davsan5@comcast.net](mailto:davsan5@comcast.net)**

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director

**[Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org)**

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

**[Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org)**

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

**Board and Committee Leadership**

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

John Boyd - Trustee Chair

TBA - Finance Chair

Jeff Curtis - Treasurer

Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary

Cindy Hoover - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Bill Jones - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Don Hurst - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Luke Chalmers- Delegate to Annual Conference

TBA - Lay Leader

Cindy Haley - U.M.W. President

**Open-** Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers

Ad Council Member at Large