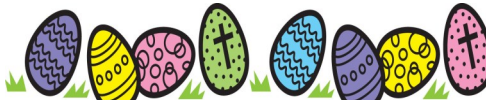




The Wesleyan Star

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



April 2017



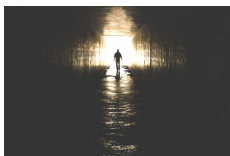
"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you.'" Matthew 28: 5-7



the day before.

Resurrection happens in the dark. When it is still pitch black, when only stars light the way, when it seems like morning light will never come, resurrection happens. In the dark, you hear every noise. In the dark, you replay each word that was said. In the dark, you reprimand yourself for not being asleep. In the dark, small challenges seem to be fertilized and grow exponentially bigger than where you left them just

Art depicts resurrection in the bright daylight; however, we can not forget that was when the disciples came to the tomb. The women who came to prepare Jesus' body for burial after their time of Sabbath, came in the light of day, and discovered Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The disciples who sought to verify the story of the women came in the light of morning.



Why does the light and dark matter? Sometimes you and I need a reminder that even though we feel as though like life is overwhelming and out of control: Resurrection is still among us! Jesus still rose from the dead for you and is redeeming the world!

Sometimes resurrection is clear, and signs of new life are undeniable. We are amazed by miracles in our own lives and can not help but tell everyone. It is like a great restaurant, a new game, a fascinating book, a catchy tune that we can not help but share. Signs of resurrection are in the undeniable new life of those who have known miracles of healing of body, mind, and spirit!



Other times, it is like you and I are watching resurrection happen freeze frame by freeze frame. We may find ourselves wondering if we can believe our eyes. We feel this deeply when we are days have been filled with more Maundy Thursday and Good Friday moments than resurrection. We begin to feel as though we may never see resurrection.

But hear the good news... Easter is coming! No matter how dark Good Friday has been. No matter how heavy the news feels, how many deaths we are caring, how challenging it is say to day, EASTER is coming! Christ has overcome the world! Jesus is risen from the dead, and he is Lord! Jesus will not leave you forsaken or lost.



In God's Love, Pastor Monica



Prayer is a great gift to be in constant communication with God. How should we pray?
Turn to Jesus!

Sunday, April 2, 2017
Communion Sunday

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

Scripture: John 11: 1-45, Psalm 130
Sermon: "Pray Like Jesus: Pray with Questions"

Sunday, April 9, 2017
Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11, Matthew 26-27
Sermon: "Pray Like Jesus: Pray with the News"

Thursday, April 13, 2017
Maundy Thursday

Scripture: Matthew 26: 36-46
Sermon: "Pray with Others"

Friday, April 14, 2017
Good Friday

Scripture: John 18-19
Sermon: "Can I Even Pray?"

Saturday, April 15, 2017
Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil

Scripture: Matthew 28: 7
Sermon: JESUS IS ALIVE!

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28: 1-10
Sermon: "Answer to All our Prayers"

PSALM 23: God leads us, even today, as a shepherd leads sheep. Take a fresh look at this psalm through sheepdog eyes!

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Scripture: Psalm 23:1, Matthew 2:1-6
Sermon: "The Lord is My Shepherd"

Sunday, April 30, 2017

Fifth Sunday Coin Collection Benefits Mpasa
Scripture: Psalm 23:2, Matthew 11: 28-30
Sermon: "Sabbath Shepherd"



LENT

Lent Wednesday Night Fun!

Join us for potluck dinner and activities to prepare for Lent.

Families can get a night off of cooking by coming to the church for a potluck dinner of whatever assortment of dishes show up. All beverages will be supplied. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, it will be appreciated, but by no means mandatory. The event is totally free.

- April 5—Give Back Day—An experience of global missions—HERE!
- April 12—Packing Care-Ware Boxes.

Join us!

FIRST SUNDAYS: Our Emergency Food Pantry serves our community and provides much needed food and supplies to families in our area. Your donations are appreciated. An Emergency Aid donation envelope can be found in your bulletin on First Sundays as well. The funds collected help others in need with rent, utility bills, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

First Sunday

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
Hosted by the
United Methodist
Women



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.



Give | Serve | Restore

March 1-April 16, 2017

1



1 Service Project

2



2 Pounds of Food

3



\$3 (Kids)
\$30 (Adults)

WHAT IS GSR?

Give | Serve | Restore is an annual project that gathers churches of Southern Chester County to bring hope and healing to our community during the season of Lent.

WHY DO GIVE | SERVE | RESTORE?

The goal of Give | Serve | Restore (GSR) is for people to work together to bless our community!

West Grove UMC is again participating in GSR this year as follows:

1 Service / Good Works

The wall in the lobby is set up for everyone to be encouraged to do small or large acts of kindness and service to others during Lent. Please fill-out a post it note with your kind gestures noted and place on the wall.

2 Pounds of Food

We encourage all to bring in 2 pounds of non-perishable food to help stock our Emergency Food Cupboard. We have a goal of collecting 200 pounds. You can watch our progress on the goal board in the lobby.

\$3 (Kids) / \$30 (Adults)

We encourage you to use that \$30 to help our community thrive! This year, donations will benefit Casa Youth Advocates -a local non-profit organization working for the restoration of our community. Casa Youth Advocates believes that every child needs an advocate. They aim to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are involved in the family courts, and do so by mobilizing and supporting quality volunteers to serve as advocates for the children they serve. Casa serves Delaware County and is expanding their service into Chester County. Please note on your gift that it is for GSR.





Holy Week



Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, April 9

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

11:00 worship featured the cantata: "Footprints in the Sand"



Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday, April 13

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion



Good Friday ~ Friday, April 14

24 hour Prayer Vigil - 9:00 a.m. through Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Stations 1:00—3:00 p.m.

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.



Holy Saturday ~ Saturday, April 15

Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil 5p.m.

Easter Sunday ~ Sunday, April 16

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

Celebration Service at 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service at 11:00 a.m.



Easter Flowers

It's Easter Flower time and you may order yours by placing a check or cash in the "the collection plate or the church office.

We offer Tulips or Daffodils in 6" pots for \$5.00 each. Lilies with 4-5 blooms in 6" pots are \$9.50 each. **Last date to order flowers is Sunday, April 9.**

<u>Price each</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tulips \$5.00	_____	\$ _____
Daffodils \$5.00	_____	\$ _____
Easter Lilies \$9.50	_____	\$ _____

Please designate below how you wish to offer these flowers, so it can be recognized in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Contact the church office with questions or concerns .

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

Your Name: _____

Total Amount \$ _____

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road ~ West Grove ~ PA ~ 19390

610-869-9334 ~ www.westgroveumc.org

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBEQUE

1/2 chicken served with a baked potato, coleslaw, and dessert!

Saturday, April 22, 2017

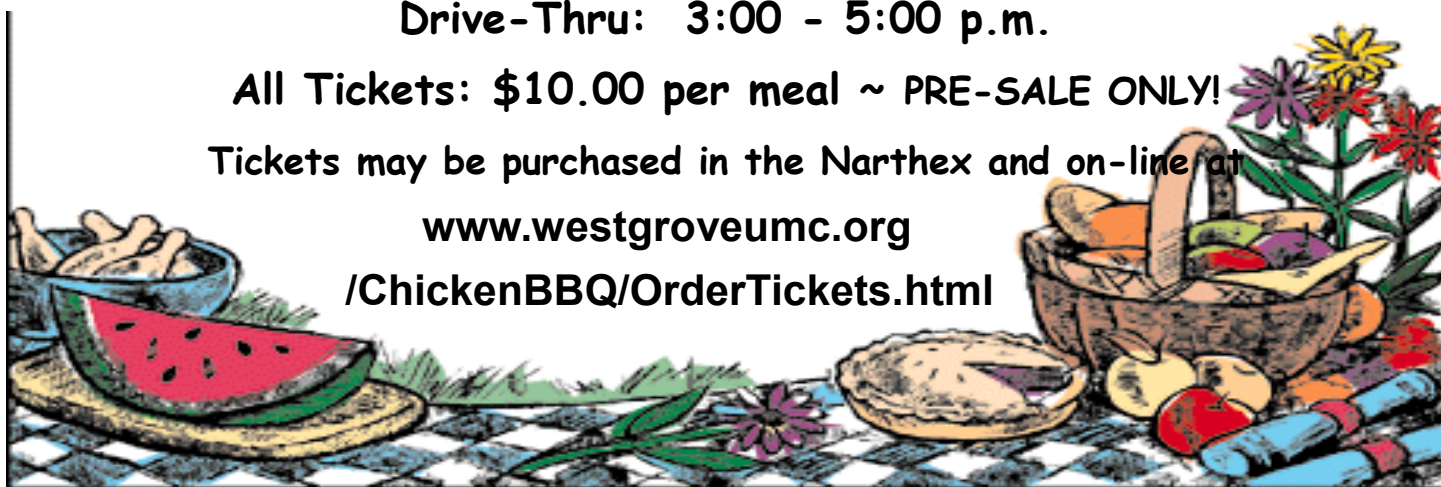
Drive-Thru: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

All Tickets: \$10.00 per meal ~ PRE-SALE ONLY!

Tickets may be purchased in the Narthex and on-line at

www.westgroveumc.org

[/ChickenBBQ/OrderTickets.html](http://www.westgroveumc.org/ChickenBBQ/OrderTickets.html)



What does WGUMC mean to you? Is this just the place you come on Sunday for

worship? Is this your home, God's house, and your extended church family? No matter how you answered, this is everyone's place to deepen their relationship to our Father and exemplify His work through our missions that reach to our community.

This is your opportunity to help us support this material house, all of our missions and community outreach, to touch the lives of all who enter our doors on Sunday and throughout the week. One significant way to help us to maintain the budget for building maintenance, food and shelter for families in the community, and a place to meet for all the groups that use our house is to purchase and sell tickets to our Chicken Barbeque to take place on April 22, 2017 with the support of Javelin Caterers. We need to reach our goal of 500 presale tickets and there are many ways you can help.

A Special Note From The Trustees About Our Chicken BBQ!

Invite a family of one of your children's friends and purchase BBQ for everyone. Turn it into a picnic and a time to spend with friends.

Plan an extended family get together to celebrate the spring weather and purchase the entire meal through us, dessert included.

Purchase extra tickets and donate the meals to someone in the community, at Luther House, Jenners Pond, or even a family in need.

WGUMC will be hosting **Family Promise** that week so **consider purchasing and donating the tickets** to feed one of our families staying in our house this week.

If your child participates in one of the groups that meets here during the week, reach out to those families to purchase tickets.

Through a concerted effort by everyone, we can achieve this goal of 500 tickets sold in advance.

If you have any questions, please contact any Trustee member for information.

CARING FOR OUR CHURCH ~ A FEW REMINDERS



Thank you for being an important part of our church and our community.

There are so many folks who use the church both for church meetings and community groups.

Some reminders so that we can all take good care of the church:

- Please make sure **to turn off lights**, close windows and **lock up the church** behind you as you are leaving. Even if other groups are in the church, they may not have used the door you unlocked or even have the same key, so be sure to lock up.
- If you have projects that create messes, please make sure to **take time to clean them up!** The kitchen closet has the tools for cleaning as well as extra trash bags. Please be sure to empty the trash and deposit them in the cans at the rear of the church by the Admin wing.

We appreciate you leaving our HANDICAP SPOTS for those who need them most. Urgent need is under-stood, but we want to be sure that they are available for those who truly need them at all times of the day or night.

Most of all, THANK YOU! We are blessed to have so many wonderful, caring people using the church for the betterment of our entire community! Should you ever have any questions or concerns, please call Donna in the church office and she will do her best to address them. 610-869-9334 or office@westgroveumc.org

SCRIP gift cards are is a great way to help our congregation.



Do you order books from Barnes and Noble for school or pleasure? Buy a gift card from SCRIP though the church. If you buy a \$100 gift card, SCRIP sends \$9.00 to the church! See John Boyd for more details!

House Blessings



"And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it

may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever." 2 Samuel 7: 28-29

From biblical times, when someone moved into a new dwelling, words of blessing were offered over the new home. Home blessings involve prayers, scripture reading, and movement throughout the house.

If you are interested in a home blessing, please contact Pastor Monica.

YES Youth Retreat

Save the Date: April 16, 2017

Time: 10:00 am – 4:30 PM

Location: Cedarville UMC

1092 Laurelwood Road
Pottstown, PA 1946



God is calling youth into ministries – lay, licensed and ordained. Are your young people tuned into God's voice?

At the YES Retreat, youth will be exposed to a wide range of ministry options from pastoral to chaplaincy, youth work to prison ministry, a foreign mission field to teaching in a college or seminary, yes, and even business, factory, office and farm. We will worship together and act out some call stories in the Bible. They will have the opportunity to interact with other young people and enjoy indoor and outdoor games.

Students will get to meet the Bishop, District Superintendents, members of the District Committee of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry. It will be a great day with food and lots of fun. This is for youth in grades 9-12. Individual youth or your whole senior high group or class are welcome.

One Generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

~ Chinese proverb



Please remember West Grove in your will

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!



Worship on the second Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Allison Theater is led by Karen Hruz. In April, the service will be led by Karen Hruz while Pastor Jim and Betty are on vacation. Join us there!

**Sunday, April 9th
11:00 am**

DO YOU LIKE TO WELCOME GUESTS?

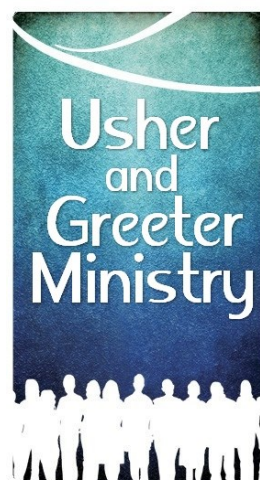
CAN YOU HELP OTHERS FEEL COMFORTABLE?

USHERS AND GREETERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS.

**Rain Catoia is our coordinator for
8:30 am worship. Email her at
raindowdy@aol.com**

**Joan Saller is our coordinator for
11:00 worship. Email her at
ssaller@comcast.net**

You can also call the office at 610-869-9334.



Books mentioned in sermons

Praying Circle s Around the Lives
of our children by Mark Batterson

50 Ways to Pray: Practices from
many Traditions and times

by Teresa Blythe

Praying in Color

by Sybil MacBeth

Sunday School Roamers Needed!

Our church uses a "roamer" to help out during the Sunday School hour. The roamer can be the second adult or helper working with the Sunday School classes. The Roamer doesn't teach, but is just available by walking in hallway or waiting in the lobby to be called if needed.

If you could help by being a roamer, please contact Fran Miller.



Visitation Ministry

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



Visitors bring joy to the homebound and those who are lonely or isolated. Did you know visiting has been a part of the Church's practices since our beginnings?

Visiting is the works of mercy. Jesus speaks of them, "I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink . . . I was sick, and you visited me . . ."

Visiting the homebound is not only 'a good deed,' it's a privilege that the Lord bestows on each and every one of us, if we choose to accept it.

I know it can be daunting to go into a stranger's home for the first time, but in general I have found that they are grateful for a chance to chat and have a visit. It brings us close together as children of God and as members of the Body of Christ.

This is a rewarding ministry, meeting others, getting to know the people and their families. If you are interested in visiting the homebound and the lonely, please contact me, Pastor Shirley Daddario at Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org or call 302-420-4032. West Grove UMC would love for you to join in this privilege.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Shirley



The United Methodist Women are looking for someone to lead our UMW Unit. If

you feel led or would like information on what is required or information on helping with future events and programs, please see Cindy Haley.



Looking for someone to coordinate our Community Garden!

Great ministry to feed yourself and others as well as be out in God's creation!

See Pastor Monica for more information.

Opportunity List

The list below comes from the dreams and visions of various teams in the church. We encourage all giving to be above and beyond your regular tithe and offering.

Item	Quantity	Approximate Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80")	2	\$ 4,000
Monitors- Narthex (42" - 46")	3	\$ 4,000
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$ 15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$ 50,000
Fireproff filing cabinet	2	\$ 2,500
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms	25	\$ 500
Postage stamps (one full mailing)	250	\$ 120

Please see Pastor Monica with questions, interest, or ideas.

If your team has ideas or contributions to the opportunity list, please submit them for review to the Administrative Council chair, Carol Whelan.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has shared lots of information on various camps across our region. These

camps are committed to providing the children and youth from our community with life-changing, Christian experiences in a healthy environment. The camps provide a safe place to explore reaching out to others, creating a community, and affirming our differences.

Carson Simpson Farm in Hatboro, PA for pre-school through 6th grade, offers day and overnight camps. Their 10 week program theme is "Walk This Way" featuring Micah 6:8 as the summer Bible verse.

Gretna Glen of Lebanon, PA for kids ages 4 through graduated high school seniors, will host 43 different programs this summer. All programs offer opportunities to participate in new adventures, make lifelong friendships, discover how God loves them and has plans for their lives.

Camp Innabah of Spring City, PA provides a variety of camps over 7 weeks. Children can enjoy science, adventure, sports, water fun, and fishing to name a few.



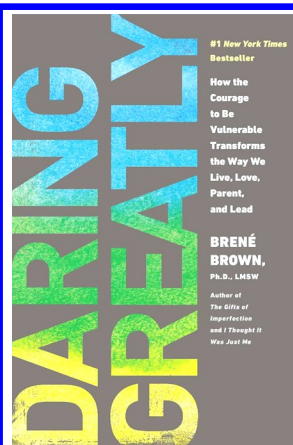
Pocono Plateau of Cresco, PA provides children ages 3 (Mommy & Me) through 12th grade traditional (sports, fishing, canoeing, swimming) and themed

(Young Children, Music, Pioneer, Trailblazers, and Night) camping experiences.

Last year, over 4,000 children and youth were touched by God through camping. EPA Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry is a primary resource for churches and communities to make, connect, and renew disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This ministry also provides many leadership opportunities for young adults in summer staff positions and adult volunteers as counselors, support staff, van drivers and local church advocates.

There is a poster in the lobby with individual camp information or you may contact our district's camping liaison, Carlen Blackstone, via email at crmcontact@epaumc.org or 610-530-1962.

For Scholarship information, please see Pastor Monica.



NEW BIBLE STUDY -

"DARING ABUNDANTLY"

STARTING SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD AND SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

We are told by the Bible that adversity brings with it great blessings. The book Daring Greatly, by Brené Brown, explains to us how we can use our emotional vulnerability to "lean into discomfort" and begin to understand the tensions which sometimes occur between ourselves and others –often based on shame, guilt, or blame, which often cause us to be afraid to live a wholehearted life. Brené encourages us to "show up, and be seen".

With proper practice, we can build the courage to live fuller lives in connected -ness with others. Jesus taught us how to experience love, compassion, and belonging which can occur when we can be our authentic, unique selves. This can only be found when we are able to be vulnerable, resilient, and compassionate toward others.

We will be reading and exploring this in a 6 week Sunday School Class beginning April 23rd at 9:45 a.m. and Saturday mornings beginning on May 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us. Inquire or sign up at the table in the Narthex after services, or Call Peter Mullen at 610-299-8899.

Take a look at a Youtube of Brené: <https://youtu.be/qQiFfA7KfF0>

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, 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.

Pastor Monica challenged us to read the Bible in a year.



If you have taken this challenge, you have already read almost 1/6 of the Bible – GREAT JOB! You have read some heart-warming stories and some familiar passages, as well as some usual passages and things you had no idea were in the Bible.

Some people reading through the Bible would like to get together and discuss.

We are considering getting together on Tuesday or Thursday evening. Let us know what would work for you.

Questions? Comments? Please see Karen Hruz or Pastor Monica for more information.

THE WORLD
IS MY PARISH
- JOHN WESLEY



In our United Methodist connection, we believe our clergy and lay people should be connected in ministry in the church, in the community and beyond the walls.

What's been going on recently?

Pastor Shirley is serving on the Minsiterium's efforts to enliven the National Day of Prayer.

Pastor Monica serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry, who evaluate candidates for ordained ministry. She is the chair of the District Committee on Ministry, supervising licensed pastors. Pastor Monica is also co-coordinator of Annual Conference Worship.

Pastor Jim is offering worship and Bible Study on ship as he and Betty cruise around the world.

Please let Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our pastoral team shares pastoral care.

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. Thank you!





Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Set-Up on Thursday, May 4, 12:00 p.m.

Sale, Friday, May 5: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sale, Saturday, May 6: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

How can you help?

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

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

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the lobby.

We will be setting up on Thursday, May 4 at 12 p.m.

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

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

EASTER "EGGS"TRAVAGANZA

Sunday, April 9

3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Come one, come all! All ages, all families, friends and relatives, neighbors and guests...you are all invited to our annual

"Eggs"travaganza!

So many exciting things to do and see and learn! And of course, our egg hunt with more than 3000 eggs!

Children throughout the area are invited to get their Easter baskets ready and take part in the Easter Eggstravaganza at West Grove United Methodist Church at 300 N. Guernsey Rd.

There will be crafts, games, a giant inflatable, face painting, prizes, toddler areas, refreshments and, of course, egg hunts! Activities will occur continuously, so come as time allows.

All activities are for children ages toddler through grade 4. There is even an "egg pit" for the infants!

Our egg hunt is well-organized and safe for everyone! It occurs all afternoon, so there is no rush nor trampling of one another! Come and hunt at your pace!

Our event is "rain or shine"!

We are looking forward to another wonderful community-wide Easter celebration this year!

For additional information or directions, interested readers may call the church office at 610-869-9334 or visit the church website: www.westgroveumc.org

*****All candy donations need to be at the church by April 9th! Monetary donations are gratefully accepted to purchase items not donated. Please mark "Eggstravaganza" on your donation.**

THE ORIGINS OF THE EASTER EGG



Of course, neither rabbits nor hares lay eggs, nor are eggs involved in the biblical story of Easter.

One theory is that eggs relate to Easter symbolically: Just as a hard shell contained new life, so the tomb of Jesus contained his resurrection body.

According to another legend, an egg merchant named Simon of Cyrene was forced to put down his egg basket in order to help Jesus carry his cross to where he would be crucified. When Simon returned to his basket, he found that his eggs had been miraculously decorated.

What is clear is that by the 13th century, it was customary for Christians to abstain from eating eggs during Lent — the 40-day pre-Easter season.

Hens, of course, did not abstain from laying eggs during Lent, so by Easter Sunday a typical village would have a massive egg surplus — making egg-related festivities convenient and practical even if they lacked a clear logical connection to the biblical text.

The Easter tradition of egg dyeing, though, probably originated in ancient Christian communities in Mesopotamia that colored chicken eggs red to symbolize the blood of Jesus. (To this day, Orthodox congregations continue this practice.)

Christians also may have picked up the egg symbol from Passover — the hardboiled egg is one of the seven symbols set out on the Seder plate.

Easter and Passover are strongly connected to each other — the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples just before the crucifixion was a Passover Seder.

After the disciples began proclaiming Jesus's resurrection, they continued to celebrate a yearly Passover in the way Jesus had instructed them to, remembering his death and, more importantly, what his death and resurrection meant for the world.



Save the Dates: **HERO CENTRAL VBS** July 10-14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Get ready for an action-packed 5-day super hero training camp where kids discover their strength in God! *Hero Central 2017 VBS* from Cokesbury prepares kids to *Do good! Seek peace and go after it!* Ps. 31:14B (CEB). Kids at **VBS Hero Central** learn God's heroes have Heart (Samuel Anoints

David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus Goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories!

Volunteers are needed, so please look for sign-ups on-line and in the lobby!!



CMO PRESCHOOL

It is hard to believe it is April already! We are looking forward to our last two months of preschool. In April, we will have our **Second Annual Art Show**. On **April 25th** beginning at **5:30 p.m.**, all are welcome, church members, preschool families, and friends to come and see

the beautiful art work of our preschool children. Many different pieces of art will be on display as well as class projects that will be auctioned off. The class projects are truly amazing!! From **6:00-6:30 p.m.** all are welcome to bid on these class projects during a silent auction. Here is how it will work. There will be a bid sheet by each project and you simply write down your bid for that project. At the end of the time (6:30 p.m.) the **person with the highest bid on that project wins that beautiful piece of art work!** The money raised will come directly back to our CMO and Preschool program. We are saving for a new permanent playground set. I hope you will be able to join us for this event.



As I begin to look ahead to next school year, I am excited to be able to say that many of our classes are already full. We do still have a few openings in some of our classes, so if you or anyone you know is looking for a preschool, please reach out to me. I am so glad that we are able to provide such a wonderful program for so many children.

As always, thank you all for your support of this mission of the church. Your support allows the CMO and Preschool Staff to provide a wonderful early learning experience for so many children. Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director

CMO Chapel Time with Pastor Monica In March

Our Song: This Little Light of Mine

March 1/2 - Read Aloud Bible Stories vol. 5 - The Sheep that was Lost

March 8/9 - The Boys and Girls and Jesus Read Aloud Bible Stories vol 1.

March 15/16 - Stumpy Stomps Off A Retelling of the Parable of the Prodigal Son by Simon Smith

March 22/23 - The Man Who Couldn't See in Read Aloud Bible Stories vol. 1

March 29/30 - The Boy Who Shared His Lunch in Read Aloud Bible Stories vol. 2 , Loaves and Fishes Usborne Bible Stories



As Pastor Jim and Betty are traveling, short update:

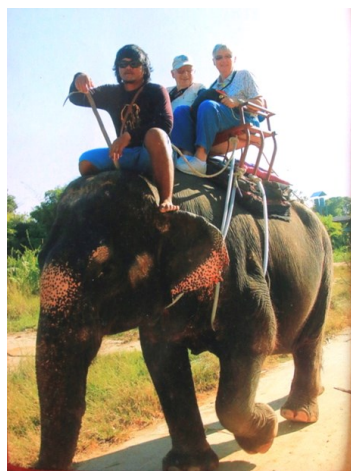
Since our last update, we have traveled to Phuket, Thailand, Cochin and Mumbai, India and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Since Los Angeles, we sailed 20,508 miles in 57 days to Dubai, at a speed between 18 to 21 mph. Sometimes it seems to be like a "slow boat to China".

The 8:15 AM daily Bible study had 4 people leave us at Dubai but to our amazement we had even more join us. Our 15 – 20 attendance has now jumped to 25 people. We ended our study on Psalms and began a study on the Book of Ephesians. I'm using a powerpoint program which I developed. This study is about the Unity of the Church during the time of Paul. He was trying to unify the Christian Jews and Gentiles who were members of the same church, but the Jewish held on to their law and rituals and this caused a separation between them.

Our church service on Sunday, March 26 had about 115 in attendance, the most we have had on this cruise.

Our Bible study group. Many use their I-pads which has the Bible on as an app. Some had their own Bible. What a great study and discussion we are having and what a challenge it is to me in answering their questions.

We are now heading up the Red Sea towards Aqaba, Jordan, then through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea.



SAVE THE DATE

On May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Penn Park, West Grove (across from the YMCA) several churches from all faiths will be a part of National Day of Prayer. West Grove

United Methodist Church is one of the churches participating in this national event.

We will be at the pavilion for prayer time, and live music by the Community Choir from New London UMC.

National Day of Prayer calls on all people of different faiths in the United States to pray for the nation and its leaders. . National Day of Prayer is a time for people of all faiths to pray together .

It is held on the first Thursday of May each year.

Through the efforts of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, more than 35,000 prayer gatherings will be conducted by about 40,000 volunteers across the United States. Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer.

Did you know?

In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

The National Prayer Committee was formed in the United States in 1972. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. According to the Legal Information Institute, the President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.



C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



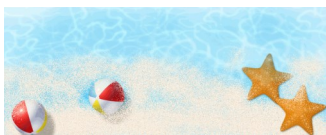
March was a great month! Our Confirmation Students spent the morning down in Philly at St. George's

Historical Church and learned a bit about the United Methodist History. We had a lot of fun spending time together and adventuring in the city.

We also had a fun evening as our Middle Schoolers hosted the Mission Possible group for pizza and dodge ball. We had 16 students who came and the evening was a huge success.



Our summer mission trip is filling up as students sign up to head to Virginia Beach to serve with Team Effort again and we are excited about that! Check out what is happening in April!



April Youth Dates

April 2 - High School Youth Group - 6 - 7:30

April 7 - 9th - Confirmation Retreat @ Gretna Glen

Our Confirmation Students will be heading to Gretna Glen for their great



Confirmation Retreat. We will spend the weekend growing in our faith, learning about our spiritual gifts, serving in the community and having lots of fun!



April 14th - Good Friday Prayer Stations 1:00 - 3:00

April 23 - Middle School Youth Group - 6 - 7:30



April 30 - Middle School & High School Game Night - 6 - 7:30

Any questions or to get involved in the Youth Ministry @ WGUMC - contact Jamie Lindtner - jamielindtner@gmail.com



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church

Rise Up and Pray! is the elevating main theme of the 2017 Eastern PA Annual Conference, which will return to the spacious Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA, from Thursday to Saturday, June 15-17.

Preachers, teachers, musicians, worship liturgists, prayer guides and prayer stations around the meeting hall will all center the gathering in the practice and power of prayer, no doubt invoking the God of eternal

grace to "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour." That centering will receive particular attention when special guest the Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of the Upper Room Chapel in Nashville since 1999, offers a Friday teaching session on prayer.

Three bishops will preach during the 251st session of the Eastern PA Conference, including two familiar voices and a new voice on the Northeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops. Resident Bishop Peggy Johnson will preach for the Opening Worship and Eucharist Service on Thursday afternoon. New Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, who leads the neighboring Baltimore-Washington Conference, will preach for the Ordination Service on Friday night. Bishop Peter Weaver, retired, who led our own conference and the Philadelphia Episcopal Area from 1996 to 2004, will preach during the Memorial Service on Saturday morning.

Special offerings will support scholarships and Methodist Services (formerly the Methodist Home for Children).



West Grove United Methodist Church was issued a \$33.53

donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2016. So friends, keep using Amazon Smile when you shop—doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation!



Save the Date!

May 20th , 2017

Bike Ride to Raise Funds to Support Family Promise So. Chester County

Sponsored by West Grove UMC

8:00 am start for 50 miles

9:00 am start for 35 miles

\$40 Entry Fee

Contact Lonnie Lusavage for more information: lluscavage@gmail.com

This event begins and ends at WGUMC. If you are interested in riding, visit our registration site at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880>

We need volunteers for assistance at the church and two rest stops. Contact Janice Bowers, Lonnie Lusavage or the church office if you would like to help out!

Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.) FRIDAY, April 21 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m.

We thank **Jeanette Stryjewski** for a very fun and informative trip down the Nile during our March meeting.

Due to Easter and Holy Week--RAP will meet on Friday, April 21, at noon.



The program will be provided by **Bob Phillips** who has a passion for

"Birds". Join us as Bob shares his observation and genuine interest in birds. He will be talking about all the birds he saw during a road trip from Florida to Texas.

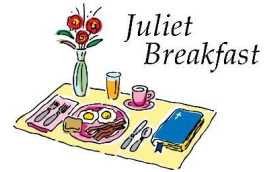
Bring your bagged lunch--desserts and beverages are provided. Invite your friends! Join us for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

Many thanks to all who gather each month to enjoy this time together and to those who help make the afternoon enjoyable.

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

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

Saturday, April 8, 2017



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? Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



**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. **We will be starting a Lenten Study entitled "Walking Toward Glory" by John Birch.** If you have any questions, contact Cindy Haley at: chaley@zoominternet.net

UMW FAITH CIRCLE will resume their schedule of meeting on the **1st and 3rd Friday mornings in the Youth Room as of**. Sewing skills are not necessary. If you are interested in our projects or want to confirm that we are meeting on a particular Friday, contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374) or Karen Boyd (443-553-4900).



R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men
Eating Out**

April 27, 2017



R.O.M.E.O.

We will meet on If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEIO lunch.

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



We provide a worship experience for the tenants at Twin Pines Nursing home on the following Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

April 30

August 6

November 5

If you would like to be a part of the group that goes to Twin Pines to provide worship, please see Pastor Monica!



By popular
demand,
Memory Bells
are playing on

April 30th at Twin Pines at 2pm.



To my church family,
Thank you very much for the kind words and condolences during my father-in-law's illness and death. Your support gave

comfort in difficult and sad time for me and my family.

With love, Donna Fackler

Our community has deep needs with which we can help! Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls for specific needs for 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.

Please focus on needs such as

- Personal care items; Toilet paper; Paper towels
- Soups; Canned meats



INVITATION FOR RAP AND FRIENDS



The Avon Grove Seniors will be traveling by Duvall's bus to the Rainbow Comedy Dinner Theatre on Wednesday, April 26th, for their buffet and show RUNNING MATES. The bus will load at WGUMC at 10 a.m. The total cost for bus travel, buffet, and show (including the bus driver tip and all taxes and gratuities) is \$68 payable to the Avon Grove Seniors. Please contact Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net for questions and reservations.

Daily
Meditations

Daily Meditations

They are written one for each day of the week as a short meditation and question to begin your day. Take your bulletin home and read each day. May your relationship with God be enriched. They are also available on Facebook and our website!



Twenty years ago this past Thanksgiving, my 22-year-old son, Nuçi, took his own life after struggling with major depression for many years.

We have always been a close family. After Nuçi's death, my husband, my older son and I clung to each other trying to make sense out of something that was very hard to wrap our brains around. It was completely surreal and excruciatingly painful knowing that we'd never see Nuçi again. We were wounded and we needed each other like a crippled person needs a crutch.

We've been very gentle with ourselves knowing that our grief would most likely last forever and yes it continues twenty years later. One thing we know for sure is that the only way to get out of the severe pain is to go through it. Grief is a necessary and healthy process. Also, we've learned that each of us grieves differently. There is no one way to do it. Let no one tell you that you're not doing it "correctly." Stay away from those who judge you and accept the support of those who care.

Those in the "suicide community" will tell you that there is a gift in all of this. It may not appear right away but never the less it will appear. Most of us don't want to hear such a thing. When I mentioned this to my husband, he said, "I don't want a gift. I just want Nuçi back!" Understood! But if we allow, good things can manifest after devastating losses. As for me, I've found my gift! I will forever try to help and support the many Nuçis who are still with us.

In my Survivors of Suicide Support Group, I run across many who experience guilt if they laugh or even begin to enjoy life after losing a loved one. I remember one time running in to a young woman who had lost her husband to a stroke, leaving her with two small boys to raise alone. She expressed how sorry she was about my loss and then she said something very wise. "You don't believe it now but one day your joy will return. It may take a long time but it will happen." I thanked her but deep down I was skeptical.



About a year or so after Nuçi's death, on a beautiful crisp Fall day, I stepped out my front door. I was almost blinded by the brilliant reds and yellows radiating from the giant maple trees in my neighbor's yard. At that moment, I was flooded with a sense of gratitude for being alive. My joy had returned.

Now that didn't mean that at any moment I couldn't dissolve in a sea of tears. It didn't mean that my grief had ended. It didn't

mean that I no longer yearned to see and hug Nuçi again. It meant that I was moving through the healthy process of grieving and I was still standing.

A friend of my husband who had lost his brother to suicide, told him that the further you get away from the suicide, the more the bad memories recede and the good ones come to the fore. This is true in my family's experience. We don't want to define Nuçi's life by the way it ended. There was so much more. He was a beautiful young man. Smart. Funny. Talented. And most of all he was kind and caring. We continue to tell "Nuçi stories." We laugh at the funny things he'd do and every Thanksgiving we toast him. He is so much more than his illness.

I want to say to those who have lost love ones to suicide, we must speak out and educate those who continue to stigmatize those with mental health conditions. We as parents owe this to our children and we owe it to those who are still with us and still suffer and who in many cases do not seek treatment because of stigma.

We must be gentle with ourselves while also being strong. Celebrate when your joy returns. I know that Nuçi wants that for his mom.



<http://www.nami.org/Personal-Stories/Grief>

April Fool's Day
Saturday - April 1st
Spring Cleanup Day for our
Church!!

April 1st is the thirteenth day of Spring! We want to have our church looking its best for Palm Sunday, April 9th, and Easter, April 16th! Our Trustees ask for and need your help with our spring spruce up! Please set aside a few hours on April 1st to provide a welcoming atmosphere to our church for our members and visitors. We are in need of many volunteers to accomplish the tasks quickly. We will begin at 8 a.m. and finish by 1 p.m. The more help we have, the quicker we will be finished!



OUTSIDE:

Remove weeds and dead plants from all flower beds.

Level and reseed all ruts and divots along the driveway.

Clean up/remove dirt along parking lot curbing.

Remove weeds from drainage basin.

Wash all exterior doors of the church.

Power wash all inside and outside entrance rugs.

Scrub the playground fence.

Clean stairs to recreation park. Remove weeds on side banks of the stairs.

Weedeat bank along Harmony Road.

Weedeat area surrounding the route 1 bypass sign.

INSIDE:

Vacuum upholstery and polish wood on sanctuary chairs.

Polish sanctuary stage furniture.

Wash windows--frames, sills, panes, and blinds.

Clean and polish cabinets in the copy room, men's classroom, and library.

Clean air grills in all rooms.

Please bring with you the tools and supplies necessary to do your job. Please let the Trustees know asap which job you are willing to help with--the signup list is available in the church foyer! The Trustees will be glad to answer your questions and provide direction.

Gene Aucott, Chairperson

John Boyd

Tom Hoover

John Lindtner

Steve May

Darlene Murphy

Vernon Ramberger

Linda Shiplet

Kim Smith

Fred Sullivan



Free for WGUMC!

Sign-Up in the Office Lobby!

Save the Date!

**Keynote Workshop +
14 Workshops You Won't Want to Miss!
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT TOOLS FOR MINISTRY
Saturday, April 29, 2017**

West Grove UMC, 300 N. Guernsey Road, West Grove, PA 19390

8:30 A.M. Registration & Breakfast; Gathering Music

9:00 A.M. Welcome/Opening Devotion, DS Taylor-Storm

9:20 A.M. **Keynote Address - Dr. Rod: What is Beloved Community?**

9:45 A.M. Session I for all participants:

"Steps to Becoming the Beloved Community"

11:00-11:15 A.M. Break

11:15-12:45 P.M. Session II - Workshops

Watch for Registration Announcement



Rev. Dr. Rodney Thomas Smothers serves as the Pastor of Liberty Grove UMC in Burtonsville, Maryland.

During the past 36 years he has founded new congregations, served as the lead pastor of multicultural, urban and suburban congregations. He

has served as the Director of Evangelism at the General Board of Discipleship, a Path 1 New Church Development Coach, and Conference Director of Congregational Development for the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Smothers has also served as an adjunct seminary professor; he taught courses in Church Administration, Evangelism, UM History, Preaching and Worship. As a church leadership coach and training facilitator, he resources local churches and denominational leaders in the areas of congregational health, and ministry effectiveness.



Coming to West Grove UMC!!

Wednesday, April 5 – join us as a family, couple, friends or individuals at our Lenten Evening celebration

Give Back Day

A cross-cultural, intergenerational, service Learning experience that invites families to see the world from a different perspective, without leaving home.

Give Back Day has three sections:

1: First, we'll visit the African nation of Uganda. Pastor Tom, his wife Nancy and their 12 children will be our host family. We'll learn about their family and community from their perspective and how they share from their enough.

2: Second, we'll imagine ourselves as members of a village similar to Pastor Tom's and engage in activities and discussions together as we visit an African marketplace.

3: Finally, we will spend some time in Scripture and prayer, inviting God to show us where we might have enough to share and how we could take a next step to share with children near us or far away, so they can have enough too.

Be on the look out for our touring display of Sponsored Children in your Sunday School classes and our monthly Coffee Fellowships. We will be asking for donations when you see this to aid the children we support with Compassion International in Indonesia and with Children International in Columbia.

OPERATION CARE-WARE

GIFTS OF NEW UNDERWEAR TO SHOW YOU CARE

We need **YOU** to help us provide lots of **CARE!**

YOU can provide dignity and care for each man, woman, boy, and girl this Easter season by providing gifts of underwear, T-shirts, bras, and shower shoes.

It's time to **MOBILIZE**, and bring lots of care this Easter Season!

**DROP OFF
YOUR
GIFTS OF CARE
BY Sunday, April 16**

SIZES:
INFANT - XXXL



ALL DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT
SUNDAY BREAKFAST MISSION
110 N. POPLAR ST.
WILMINGTON, DE 19801
(302) 652-8314

www.sundaybreakfastmission.org



New Baby Bottle Campaign!

We will be supporting Chester County Women's Services during May and June through a Baby Bottle campaign.

Chester County Women's Services is a non-profit pregnancy care medical center in Chester County, offering help and hope to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

The baby bottle campaign for CCWS is a vital and essential program that supports the free services that we provide to those in unplanned pregnancy situations. Last year the Campaign brought in over \$31,000, with over 29 churches participating.

We will distribute the bottles in May and collect them 4-5 weeks later.

We invite everyone to take a bottle and fill it with your loose change during those several weeks.

Please look for a display in the lobby in the coming weeks that will have additional information.

Thank you! The Missions Team



Save the dates:
We are hosting our next week:
April 16th—23rd

Mark your calendar to help out!

We will need volunteers to sign-up for overnight and evening shifts. Also, we will need donation of food items.

Please look in the lobby for the specific sign-up sheets. Thank you!



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
 The United Methodist Church

**Grants to Assist In Defraying
 Higher Education Costs**

The Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be offering a number of Grants to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2017-2018 school year. The application is being forwarded to individual churches and is also available on the Conference website. It can be accessed as "Grants to Defray Higher Education Costs." At the following website address.

www.epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships

All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) May 1 to May 15 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered. Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected.

It is important that this information be provided to church members who plan to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2017. Please communicate this grant opportunity to your congregation as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please contact the Education Society Chairperson, Al Adey at ahadey@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

Alfred H Adey



Stop Hunger Now!

On Saturday, March 25th,
 92 people packed over
 10,000 meals. People from
 11 churches and the
 community were
 represented!



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



2017

~ 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

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

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries

Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Staff

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org

Kristin Boyd - Administrative Assistant

Kristin.boyd@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

Jamie Lindtner - Youth Director

Jamie.lindtner@westgroveumc.org

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Board and Committee Leadership

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

Barbara Delaney - Finance Chair

Scott Steele - Treasurer

Sara Ann Ramberger - Financial Secretary

David Delaney - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Joan Leaman - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Luke Chalmers- Delegate to Annual Conference

Cindy Haley - Lay Leader

OPEN - U.M.W. President

Prayer Team - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell and Denise Byers

Ad Council Member at Large