



# The Wesleyan Star

## West Grove United Methodist Church

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## August 2017



### What reading the Bible in a Year teaches us

In January, we set 3 resolutions to do as a church for 2017: Read the Bible in a year, attend one spiritual growth opportunity, invite someone to church. In the next two months, I will reflect on attending spiritual growth opportunities and inviting someone to church. But for this month, I want to share some of the reflections that I have heard from those who are reading the Bible in a year.

With 66 books in the whole Bible which range from history to wisdom, gospel to letter, prophecy to story, there is a lot to read. Many of us have read the Bible on a need to know basis. When we are curious about what God has to say, we pick up the Bible like a magic eight ball and look for a relevant passage. When we hear someone refer to a particular story, we might read a bit of the story from the Bible. When we think we need to know, we read it. Otherwise, we base our bible knowledge on the passage(s) we hear on a Sunday morning. This resolution challenged each of us to take seriously the commitment that the Bible is God's word for us.

So, what have some of our readers learned:

- **The whole Bible is God's word.** The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) might be what is most familiar to many people, but God's character is best understood in the whole story of God and God's people. In order to see that more fully, you need to read all of the Bible. Many reflected on how in their youth, preachers would focus on telling the stories of Jesus. While this is an incredible joy, this method misses out on telling the stories of Deborah and Abigail, Barnabas, and Silas, and many more. Reading the whole Bible knits together Old Testament and New Testament in ways that God can reveal new truths to us.

- **Engage the questions.** The Bible can stand up to all of your questions and curiosities. As you read and you wonder about the extended age of people in the Old Testament or the missionary journeys of Paul or temple prostitutes or prophecies, ask your questions! God created your mind and offers wisdom to all who seek it!

- **It is more important to take the Bible seriously, than literally.** The people of God thousands of years before Christ and the people of God thousands of years after Christ, do not live in the same world. The gospel message remains truth tirelessly across time. However, prohibitions on wearing mixed material clothes and other time-sensitive rules make more sense when seriously investigating and learning about the context.

- **Context matters.** The most consistent comment from those who are reading through the Bible is that they want to know what was happening when the book was being written. They want to understand a little bit more about the culture of the time. How does the language effect our understanding? Context matters. In context, we can understand what concerns was Paul responding to in one of his letters, why were mustard seeds used for illustration in the Sermon on the Mount, why does God seem so violent in the Old Testament?

- **The Bible is a lifelong book that I can read all my life.** For many of those reading the Bible, it is not the first time they picked up a Bible, but it may be the most meaningful. We read Proverbs differently as we seek to provide wisdom to our grandchildren. We read Song of Songs differently when we are in relationship. We read Genesis prehistory stories differently when we bring our knowledge of other cultures. All of our lives, there is wisdom, we hear afresh in the Bible for this season of life.

Some people have asked, I did not start reading along at the beginning of the year, what should I do? There are two options:

Start Now! Pick up a blue reading guide in the lobby and start in August and read along. Then continue through next August.

Join us in January with a reading plan! There will be more opportunities to reflect on what you are reading.

Keep reading! I am eager to reflect with anyone as they read. May your faith be enriched by learning and living God's Word and Way.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



## August Worship at West Grove UMC



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

### **Ninth After Pentecost Communion Sunday & Emergency Aid August 6, 2017**

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

**Scripture:** Genesis 13-15  
Luke 12:32-40

**Sermon:** "Promises in the Dark"  
*Our journeys with God often begin in the unknown dark places. How can we trust promises made in the dark?*

### **Tenth Sunday After Pentecost Native American Sunday August 13, 2017**

**Scripture:** Genesis 16: 1-16,  
Jeremiah 29:11

**Sermon:** "Hagar's Hope"  
*Pastor Shirley Preaching*

### **Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost Groundbreaking of Prayer Bead Garden August 20, 2017**

**Scripture:** Genesis 17-18 and  
Romans 4:18-22

**Sermon:** "Hope Against Hope"  
*Hoping and wishing are not the same. How can we expect for God's promises to be kept when we feel without hope?*

### **Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost August 27, 2017**

#### **Backpack and Teacher Blessing**

**Scripture:** Genesis 19 and  
Hebrews 13:1-9

**Sermon:** "Worst Sin: It's Not What You Think"

*Throughout the Bible, God calls God's people to live lives of hospitality, pouring yourself out for others. How is God calling you?*



Join Pastor Jim as the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated and the word of God proclaimed.

Join in fellowship with those at Twin Pines for Worship  
on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 2pm.

**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**

**July's Coffee Fellowship is  
brought to you by :**

**Youth Ministry**



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.

*West Grove United Methodist Church  
2nd Annual Open Market  
Saturday, September 23, 2017*

*9:00-2:00pm*

*Vendors      Jewelers  
Artists      Consignment  
Antiques      Food Trucks*

*300 N. Guernsey Rd  
West Grove, PA  
19380*



For additional information or vendor inquiries  
Please call (610) 869-9334 or  
Email office @westgroveumc.org

**OPEN MARKET SEPTEMBER 23rd**

To help make our Open Market a success, we are in need of a few more food trucks and your help in spreading the word is appreciated! We are looking forward to BBQ, tacos, ice cream from the Boy Scouts, and popcorn from our church. Also, if you or someone you know would like to rent a space this year, they are 20'x20' for \$20! Pop-up tents for our vendors are also needed. Please contact Darlene Murphy at [d123murphy@aol.com](mailto:d123murphy@aol.com).

Mark your calendars to join us for good food and great artisans!

calling all  
**Vendors**

**SAVE THE DATE! Open Market**  
**September 23rd, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

In order to make our Open Market a success, we are in need of vendors and food trucks!



Additionally, we are in need of pop-up tents to be used by our vendors on that day.



Please contact Darlene Murphy  
([d123murphy@aol.com](mailto:d123murphy@aol.com)), or call the church office at (610) 869-9334 for additional information or questions!



# A PRAYER WALK FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Penn London Elementary School  
Avon Grove Intermediate School  
Fred S. Engle Middle School  
Avon Grove High School  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School  
Avon Grove Charter School  
Nazarene Academy

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017**

We will meet at in the lobby of  
Avon Grove High School  
at 9:30 AM to receive ID tag  
& to choose a school.

**Bring your children to pray for their schools.**

**FOR INFORMATION,  
Call Pastor Monica or the  
West Grove United Methodist Church office  
At 610-869-9334**





# VBS HERO CENTRAL

We give thanks to God for 126 children and 56 volunteers, youth and adults.



Flame and Captain Shield.



Bible Room



Crafting Medals of Valor!



Working together to build towers at the Recreation station.



Awesome Snack Crew!





# VBS MISSIONS SUMMARY

## Mission Work

**Monday:** 126  
bookmarks to  
be colored



**Tuesday:** 250  
Hero Treat Bags  
filled throughout the week



**Wednesday:** 126  
Thank You Scrolls



**Thursday &  
Friday:** 108  
Superhero  
Power Kits

## CHANGE DONATED FOR MISSION CENTRAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

\$82 in paper bills  
\$777 coins

**\$859 TOTAL!  
IN 4 DAYS!!!**



## School Supplies Collected

•4500 sheets of  
copy paper

•3600 sheet of  
notebook paper

•17 composition  
notebooks

•9 spiral  
notebooks

•1 book bag



•38 Crayon boxes

•19 Marker boxes

•554 Pencils

•15 Rulers

•70 Glue sticks

•7 Glue bottles

•126 Bookmarks

•57 Pens

•57 pencil sharpeners

•40 Scissors

•201 Erasers

•4 Book socks

•22 Pocket folders

•4 Book socks

•22 Pocket folders

•19 Binder packs



•2 Construction  
paper

•28 Pencil cases

•2 Packs of clay

•1 Staplers

•1 Post-it notes

•9 Pencil grips

•2 Sticker pack





## PRAYER BEAD GARDEN

On Sunday, June 18th, the Prayer Path team unveiled a rendering of a vision that has been months in the making.

When 45 people took part in the Prayer Bead classes, we would not have foreseen that God would move among us for a vision of walking prayer beads in the form of a garden!

With the guidance of our trustees, a landscape architect, finance team, and

administrative council, this vision is becoming a reality. For the details, Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en-qRMch6cM>

On August 20th, we will be breaking ground for the new Prayer Bead Garden! In worship, we will begin in the sanctuary and move outside to the prayer bead garden. Please join us at 9:30 am in worship as God continues to unfold this vision of West Grove UMC praying in, for, and with our community.

You can still help us fund this dream with your donations. We will install the prayer bead garden in phases. The first phase will include the walk and the stone beads. The second phase will include plantings and landscaping. The last phase will include the water feature in the center.

Consider how you might remember a loved one, honor someone special, and help create a place of prayer for generations to come.

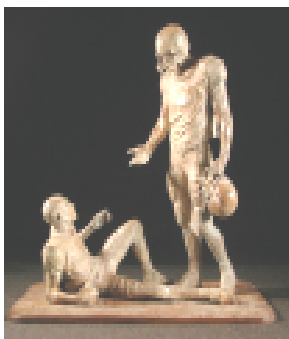
## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

In just a few weeks, we will join thousands of other United Methodists to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. Native American Ministries Sunday is the United Methodist family's way to support our Native American congregations and ministries so they can serve and worship with their communities as only they can. The Special Sunday offering allows us to continue to support Native American pastors and communities through scholarships and funds.



**Hey, Hey, Heeeyyyy!**  
**FOOTBALL SEASON**  
**IS JUST AROUND**  
**THE CORNER.**

Last year was the 8th season of the West Grove UMC Fantasy Football League. We are now preparing for the 9th season. No experience is necessary but some knowledge of the NFL teams/players is helpful. No fee to play; the winner's name will be engraved onto the very honorable West Grove UMC Fantasy Football trophy. Congrats to **Rob Catoia**, last year's Champion.



Perhaps you have a friend or neighbor that may benefit from a church community but you haven't been sure how to invite them; this could be it! Space is limited; teams will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. To join the league please contact Commissioner **Tim Bushnell** right away at **610-998-0916** or [agedarborist@gmail.com](mailto:agedarborist@gmail.com).

**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**Sunday, August 27th**  
**during worship**

**Attention**  
**Students and**  
**Teachers!**

Bring your backpacks and school bags to worship for a special time of

blessing at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, August 27th. A small token of our love will be given to each teacher and child.

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks



**Faith Learning Academy**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, September 10th!**

Plan on joining us on September 10th as we

kick off our Sunday School experiences for adults and children.



**Sunday School**  
*for all ages*

More details on offerings for adults to follow.

Can't wait to see you then!





# Thank You

Thank you  
to office  
volunteers who covered  
for Donna while she was  
on vacation and during  
VBS:

**Fred Sullivan**  
**Sara Ann Ramberger**  
**Bonnie Wolff**  
**Esther Culbertson**  
**Wanda Kreutzfeldt**



**Thank you!**



to **Mark, Amy,  
and Sydney  
Simonds**  
for painting and  
freshening up  
Room 12!



## *A Note of Thanks*

*I would like to thank my friends  
and church family for the  
prayers, cards, food, visits, calls,  
and for attending the service for  
Bill. God Bless each one of you !*



**To Rob and Rain  
Catoia:**

Thank you for  
powerwashing the  
siding in front of  
church!

Thank you to:



**Ralph Curtiss**  
**Fred Daddario**  
and  
**Fred Sullivan**

for removing  
debris, brush, and  
leftovers from the  
BBQ pit!



**WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS**

We welcome Kaiti Beauchamp into  
membership.

309 East Branch Drive  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
(610) 444-8470

beauchampk.93@gmail.com

Please add her information to your  
contacts and welcome her as part of our  
West Grove UMC church family!

# DREAM BIG

Our opportunity list gives you a chance to give beyond your regular tithe. Consider how you might impact our congregation and community.

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
Fireproof filing cabinet	2	\$ 2,500
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms	25	\$ 500
Multifunction printer	1	\$ 150



## Books Mentioned In Sermons

Nature and Destiny of Man, by  
Reinhold Niebuhr

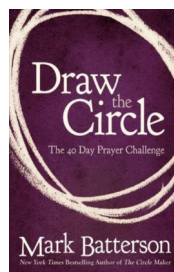
Return to Babel: Global  
Perspectives on the Bible edited by  
John R. Levison and Priscilla  
Pope-Levison.

Does God have a Big Toe?: Stories  
about Stories in the Bible by Marc  
Gellman

Do you have a heart to pray for others? Are you drawn by His gentle kindness to go on your knees in prayer? Join the prayer chain and lift up in prayers the concerns of your brothers and sisters at WGUMC and the community. Contact Pastor Shirley.



*"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."* Matthew 18:19-20.



"The size of your prayers depends on the size of your God. If your god is small, you'll pray man-sized prayers. But if your God knows no limits, then neither will your prayers.

The God we pray to exists outside of the four space-time dimensions He created, and maybe we should pray that way!" Author, Mark Batterson, "Draw the Circle, The 40 Day Prayer Challenge".



## SCRIP Scripts

We are slowly getting more individuals and families to participate. Even one card can net additional income for the church as we count our pennies.

**This month's tip(s):**

**August:** Back to school mode. Pick up gift cards for clothes, supplies, and all your back to school needs. Besides Walmart, Staples and Target remember there are gift cards for Lands End, Dick's sporting goods, American Eagle, and Barnes & Noble.

Additionally, as we prepare to make the last month of summer the best it can be, stay within your budget for travel with gas cards, restaurants, movies, etc.



## Have You Remembered To Include West Grove UMC In Your Will?

One inescapable reality in Life is that we all must pass someday...sometimes with anticipation, sometimes unexpectedly.

An important consideration for those of us who have been generous to our church throughout all our lives is, "How can I continue to support its ministry even after my death?" Making a provision to West Grove UMC in your estate planning is as simple as a couple of lines included into your will - but don't wait to make those plans.



For assistance with this important feature of your own discipline of stewardship, talk with your financial planner or just call the church office. More elaborate gift bequests can be brokered through the church professionals at the Mid-Atlantic Foundation. Consider leaving a tithe (10%) of your estate to West Grove UMC at your death...or even a flat gift amount which you specify...and then enjoy the length of your days knowing that you have made this faithful choice!





### How low is too low for blood pressure?

Within certain limits, the lower your blood pressure reading is, the better. There is also no specific number at which day-to-day blood pressure is considered too low, as long as none of the symptoms of trouble are present.

### Symptoms of low blood pressure

Most doctors will only consider chronically low blood pressure as dangerous if it causes noticeable signs and symptoms, such as:

#### Dizziness or lightheadedness

#### Nausea

#### Fainting (syncope)

#### Dehydration and unusual thirst

Dehydration can sometimes cause blood pressure to drop. However, dehydration does not automatically signal low blood pressure. Fever, vomiting, severe diarrhea, overuse of diuretics and strenuous exercise can all lead to dehydration, a potentially serious condition in which your body loses more water than you take in. Even mild dehydration (a loss of as little as 1 percent to 2 percent of body weight) can cause **weakness, dizziness and fatigue.**

#### Lack of concentration

#### Blurred vision

#### Cold, clammy, pale skin

#### Rapid, shallow breathing

#### Fatigue

#### Depression

### Underlying causes of low blood pressure

#### Low blood pressure can occur with:

##### \*Prolonged bed rest

\***Pregnancy**-During the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, it's common for blood pressure to drop.

\***Decreases in blood volume**-A decrease in blood volume can also cause blood pressure to drop. A significant loss of blood from major trauma, dehydration or severe internal bleeding reduces blood volume, leading to a severe drop in blood pressure.



\***Certain medications**-A number of drugs can cause low blood pressure, including diuretics and other drugs that treat hypertension; heart medications such as beta blockers;

drugs for Parkinson's disease; tricyclic antidepressants; erectile dysfunction drugs, particularly in combination with nitroglycerine; narcotics and alcohol. Other prescription and over-the-counter drugs may cause low blood pressure when taken in combination with high blood pressure medications.

\***Heart problems**-Among the heart conditions that can lead to low blood pressure are an abnormally low heart rate (bradycardia), problems with heart valves, heart attack and heart failure. Your heart may not be able to circulate enough blood to meet your body's needs.



\***Endocrine problems**-Such problems include complications with hormone-producing glands in the body's endocrine systems; specifically, an underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism), parathyroid disease, adrenal insufficiency Addison's disease), low blood sugar and, in some cases, diabetes.

\***Severe infection** (septic shock)-Septic shock can occur when bacteria leave the original site of an infection (most often in the lungs, abdomen or urinary tract) and enter the bloodstream. The bacteria then produce toxins that affect blood vessels, leading to a profound and life-threatening decline in blood pressure.

\***Allergic reaction** (anaphylaxis)-Anaphylactic shock is a sometimes-fatal allergic reaction that can occur in people who are highly sensitive to drugs such as penicillin, to certain foods such as peanuts or to bee or wasp stings. This type of shock is characterized by breathing problems, hives, itching, a swollen throat and a sudden, dramatic fall in blood pressure.



\***Neurally mediated hypotension**-Unlike orthostatic hypotension, this disorder causes blood pressure to drop after standing for long periods, leading to symptoms such as dizziness, nausea and fainting. This condition primarily affects young people and occurs because of a miscommunication between the heart and the brain. Nutritional deficiencies A lack of the essential vitamins B-12 and folic acid can cause anemia, which in turn can lead to low blood pressure.

If you notice a sudden decline in blood pressure A single lower-than-normal reading is not cause for alarm, unless you are experiencing any other symptoms or problems. If you experience any dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea or other symptoms, it's a good idea to consult with your healthcare provider. To help with your diagnosis, keep a record of your symptoms and activities at the time they occurred.

This content was last reviewed October 2016  
 American Heart Association.





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

We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

We are in need of additional volunteers, especially during the 11am service.

If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi



Our visitation ministry is busy connecting with people who become unable to fully engage in the life of our church. The



visiting team reaches out bringing comfort, joy, and His Word through visits, phone calls, and cards. Some of the volunteers bring communion on their visit. If you would like to serve on the visiting team, or you want to be visited, or know someone who would like a visit, contact Pastor Shirley.

*"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." John 13:34*

## CMO PRESCHOOL

Our summer days are quickly slipping away. It seems like each summer goes by quicker and quicker. I love summer and being home with my own children but I do look forward to September so I can see all of our preschool children again.

Our new preschool year will begin September 5<sup>th</sup>. At this point we do still have a few openings in some of our classes. I would love to have all of our classes full, so please share our information about our wonderful preschool with your friends and families. We look forward to a year filled with learning, fun, and lots of smiles.

**-Tracy McLaughlin  
CMO Director**

## Student Blessing

**On Sunday, August 20th** during worship, we will be offering a blessing to all of those students embarking on an exciting new chapter in their lives, as well as those seasoned veterans



who are returning to school for the year. Please join us as we recognize and bless them!

We are also looking for folks who would like to connect with our college students during their year of studies. Please ask Donna Fackler in the church office for more details.



Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

RAP will resume meeting on Friday, September 9 at 12:00 noon. We look forward to another year of wonderful programs and a celebration of RAP's 20th Anniversary. Join us for good fellowship and lots of fun. Bring a bagged lunch; desserts and beverages are provided. In December and next May we will enjoy a covered dish luncheon featuring your favorite dishes.



The following is a brief outline of next year's programs:

**September 9**-Humor in Politics by Ray McKay

**October 20**-(Third Friday) Belles and Roses Joyful Ringers, Lavenia Civitella, Director

**November 10**-SECCRA Tour at Landfill (weather permitting) or a PowerPoint Presentation at WGUMC

**December 8**-John Clayton and the Revelators preceded by a Covered Dish Luncheon

**January 12**-Food Safety Presentation by Hunter Hale, CCHD

**February 9**-Canine Partners for Life

**March 9**-Time Runs Through It-Eclectic Songs of Love and Life by Mel Leaman

**April 13**-The Medical Aspects of the Crucifixion by Dr. Bob Hayes

**May 11**-Danny Paisley and his Family preceded by a Covered Dish Luncheon

Plan to join us for one or all of these special programs and a great afternoon of good food and fellowship. Hope to see you in September!

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

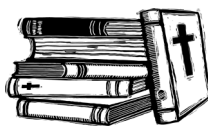
**JULIET...Just us Ladies  
Interested in Eating  
Together**

**Saturday, August 12, 2017**



Juliets meet for breakfast and fun... second Saturdays at 9:00! Join us! We meet at **Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348** They have free parking in the parking garage on Saturdays.

Questions? Contact 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](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net)

After another year of making quilts for Family Promise, special friends of WGUMC, and other recipients, we are putting away our sewing gear for the summer. We will be taking a break from our regular schedule beginning in **JUNE**, and will resume **September, 15th, the 3rd Friday**. Questions contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374).



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

**Retired Older Men  
Eating Out**

**August 31, 2017**



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

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



# C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



As I reflect on the past 7 years and all the many moments spent in the walls of this church building in conversation and ministry with all of you, my heart over flows with love and gratitude. You have helped John and I raise our babies, you have entrusted me with your children and youth, and you have encouraged me in my gifts and passions.

A thank you will never be enough. For as much as I am looking forward to a time of rest, and well, let's be honest – a time to really clean and organize my house; I know how much each and every one of you will be missed.

Thank you for your generosity and for welcoming my family as part of yours at WGUMC. You have become family! You all will continue to be in my prayers and I am excited to see all that God will continue to do in the lives of this congregation.

Keep seeking after Jesus and keep encouraging our young people to do the same. I look forward to seeing you all at the Y and at Giant and the playground and wherever else our paths may cross. May God go with you in all you do. And many thanks from me and my family.



With Love,

Jamie Lindtner (and John, Asher, and Hannah)

Dear Parents and Students,

This email and letter comes to you full of gratitude and thanksgiving for all the moments, conversations and time that has been spent with you and your children. And to tell you that after many months of prayer and discernment that I have made the difficult decision to step down from my position as Director of Youth Ministry at WGUMC as of July 30<sup>th</sup>. I have absolutely LOVED my time with these young people over the last 7 years and it hurts my heart to be stepping away. However, after 20+ years of leading youth ministry, I am feeling called to a time of rest. I also feel that my gifts are in starting programs and not necessarily in growing them and as the church is in a time of visioning and planning for growth I believe that God has someone else in mind to move this youth program forward in ways I am not able to.

Please know how deeply I love these students. I treasure every moment I have spent with them



and even though I am stepping down, I pray that they will know that I will always be cheering them on and will be honored to be a friend who will always encourage them in their walk with Christ.

I want to thank you parents for your willingness to trust me with your children. Thank you for your support and your guidance and for all the many snacks and drinks and car rides you have offered over the last 7 years. And I also want to thank all the students who have walked with me in a journey of faith. Thank you for allowing me into your world; your joys and your struggles and for allowing me the opportunity to share my passion and my faith with you. You all have made me laugh in ways I have never laughed before – Thank you for sharing that joy with me!

I am excited for what is to come for you all. Please know that Pastor Monica and the SPRC team are actively looking for someone to fill this role as Youth Director and I am praying for God to open those doors and lead the person He already has chosen to you.

Thank you for loving me. My heart overflows.  
With Much Love, Jamie

~~~~~  
**We give thanks to God for Jamie and her family as the ways in which they have served over this past 7 years. SPRC is receiving resumes and interest from a number of viable candidates for the role of Youth Director. We look forward to being able to make an announcement soon. Please join us in prayer for the best match for our youth and community. This is a vital role for our whole congregation. Please direct any questions to SPRC chair, David Delany or Pastor Monica.**

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**\*Stay tuned for upcoming summer events!\*  
Be sure to check your bulletins for latest news on activities.**





## Mission ConneXion

Mission Connexion is are 11 local UMC churches working together.

Courtesy of Pastor Lydia Munoz, pastor of United Methodist Church of the Open Door, (courtesy of Narberth UMC),

we have a stained glass window depicting a dove of peace that we want to send on a tour of our churches this fall. As the window comes to each church for a week, that church will focus on a justice issue in worship that Sunday.

Let us work together with our brothers and sisters to serve God and God's people.



leadership  
motivation  
dedication  
excellence  
discipline  
passion  
heart  
drive

We are going to see about offering the basic course for Christ Servant Ministers at one of our local United Methodist churches. We will need a minimum of 12 students. It will probably be

on a Saturday for 3-4 hours. A Christ Servant Minister is...

**An active, supportive member of a United Methodist congregation;**

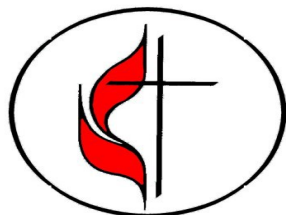
**Eager to serve through the church**

**Well-informed on Scripture, and on the doctrine, heritage, and the life of the United Methodist Church**

**Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, caregiving ministries, and spoken communication**

**Willing to improve his or her skills by training for service**

Talk to Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, or Pastor Jim if you would like to know more.

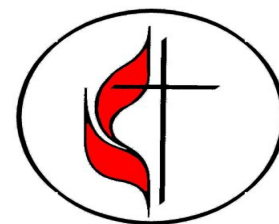


## SAVE THE DATE

### CHARGE CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 7, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Oxford United Methodist



We welcome the re-appointment of our clergy leadership by our Bishop Peggy Johnson, effective July 1, 2017:

Pastor Monica as she begins her fourth year as our lead pastor.

Pastor Shirley as she begins her third year as our associate pastor of congregational care.

Pastor Jim as he begins his fourteenth year as our associate pastor and chaplain of Jenner's Pond.

We are blessed by their leadership.

Please join us in welcoming them back and continuing in prayer for their ministries!



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**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!



# From Vision to Action

**A year ago**, we put action to our vision to reallocate our rooms and space to be used to their fullest potential. Over the summer, painting and adapting, shelves and electrical outlets were reconsidered and adapted in many of rooms, so that we could give the most possible spaces for ministry opportunities. **We have followed that up this year** with the installation of three smart televisions that can interface with computers, phones, and our technological devices.

We give thanks to God for the vision of reallocation that has allowed ministries to thrive.

We have increased space, energy, and opportunities around Faith Learning Academy (our adult Sunday School options). We have grown our CMO preschool classes and programs. We have expanded technology capabilities for many ministries. We have enriched these areas to be used for ministries of scouting, community, children, education, and much more.

Thanks be to God for Vision and Action!

## Prayers for our Church

Join us as we pray specifically:

God will give us specific hearts for our community.

God will open us to move beyond comfortable to growing in our faith.

God will rise up leaders and servants to serve those in need and lead.



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

### Open~ Grow ~ Serve

How are you meeting our congregation's three resolutions for 2017?

- Read Bible in a year
- Attend one spiritual growth opportunity
- Invite one person to church

Our Administrative Council is discerning how we can **serve God and God's world**. We have set the following goals and strategies.

### SERVE- Goals

Build Relationship through regular international mission trips to the same place to serve those in that community as well as deepen faith and leadership of those who go.

Transform lives of those on the ground as well as those servants of God who commit.

Know our community and love it.

### SERVE- Specific Strategies

Support for those struggling with addiction and mental health diagnoses

Purpose: love our community in its time of great need, serve those who struggle with addiction and mental health diagnoses

Timeframe: 9-12 months

Responsible: Pastor Monica and ad hoc team

Develop ongoing international relationships

Purpose: Serve alongside those in need, learn from them, and develop relationships

Timeframe: 12- 18 months

Responsible: Mission Team

Good Neighbor leader

Purpose: Identify an individual who will spearhead this ministry and work with our community in serving those here most in need

Timeframe: 9-12 months

Responsible: Mission Team

Grow Visitation team to all of our homebound connections visited also by visitor

Purpose: Connected those who are homebound or in critical need with both pastor and lay visitation

Timeframe: Current

Responsible: Visitation Team as overseen by Pastor Shirley



June is always a busy month at YoungMoms! We welcomed 2 young moms into the program and celebrated 2 high school graduations, 2 new driver's licenses, job promotions and several new jobs! We work with each young mom to establish goals for her future, develop a plan to obtain them, and connect to community resources. We help her overcome obstacles and learn life and parenting skills. One young mom recently shared:

"They've changed my life – I really can't imagine where I would be without them, where my child would be, and where my whole

family would be."

What a privilege to inspire and equip each young mom to create a thriving future for herself and her family!

Other news...we held our 1st Oxford Club in late May! Many, many thanks to Media Mennonite Church in Oxford for hosting Club, our large group gathering where the young moms learn life skills and develop friendships with peers and caring volunteers. We are thrilled to provide a local community of support for our current Oxford young moms - and to those young moms who may not have known about us or were unable to attend the Kennett Club meeting. Starting in September, we will hold Oxford Club monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Kennett Club will continue at Willowdale Chapel on the third Tuesday of the month.

Thank you for partnering with us in changing lives and futures!

Linda Mercner, Executive Director

## Our Emergency Food Bank Depends on You!

We are blessed to be able support others in difficult times with our emergency food pantry. It is your generous donations that allow us to do that.

Providing a family with food also allows a family the flexibility to put those funds towards paying rent or utility: to eat and keep on the lights.

Don't forget the food pantry during the summer. Summer is one of the hungriest times. During the summertime, children who

receive breakfast and lunch at school, no longer have that option .

The most needed items currently are:

**Canned items-Tuna fish, chicken, SPAM, Roast beef, Beef Stew, fruit**

**Coffee and Tea bags**

**Juice boxes and juice mixes**

**Condiments**

**Laundry soap, bath soap, hand soap, dish soap**

**Toilet paper and paper towels**

**Cleaning products**



# Wednesday Night Fun!

We provide the beverages and the hot dogs. People bring sides, desserts, and other items as you are able. We eat, hear a short devotional thought, and enjoy the time of fellowship! Games are available for children and adults!



You will find us outside when the weather cooperates and, if not, we just move inside and continue to have fun!

**We will meet at the church every Wednesday through August 23rd from 6-8 p.m.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**September 30, 2017**



**14th Annual**

**Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth**

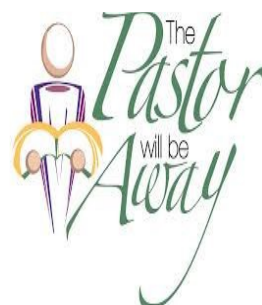
**Hopewell United Methodist Church**

**Keynote Speaker:** Rev. Scott Chrostek

Pastor of Resurrection, Downton Kansas City

**Worship Speaker:** Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode,  
Sr. Director, Amachi, Philadelphia

Pastor Monica will be out of the office **August 6th (after worship), through August 13th**, with her family. This is the second of four weeks she is allotted. If you need pastoral care during that time, please contact the church office or Pastor Shirley.



Also, Pastor Jim will be on vacation starting **August 14th through September 16th.**

## Planning for the Future

We plan for the future all the time. We hope to have enough milk, eggs, and bread during a snowstorm. We hope to have enough gas to get to our destination. We hope to make good life choices to achieve who God has called us to be. We might want to plan for a future beyond ourselves as we consider wills, estate planning, legacies, and even our own funeral or memorial service. Sometimes, persons are interested in sharing their wishes and desires for funeral and memorial services with loved ones ahead of time. Other times, information is written in places to be discovered upon death. In other circumstances, families wish to respect the wishes of a loved one, but are unsure as to what best honors their loved one. Prayerfully consider, if you might want to record those thoughts with the church. The church can retain and hold those wishes for you, so that information might be shared and available when appropriate. If you are interested in recording your hopes for your own services, please be in contact with Donna in the office for a guide or Pastor Monica to discuss your thoughts.





**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)**

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

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

**The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries**

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

Kristin Boyd - Administrative Assistant

[Kristin.boyd@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Kristin.boyd@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)

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

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 Stuhrike - Hospitality Committee Chair

Cindy Haley - 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

—Ad Council Member at Large