



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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 **December 2017** 

"Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on world" Teresa of Avila

Newborns look up in the world. Seeing the hands that hold them for the first times. Seeing the faces that greet them.

Toddlers look up at Christmas lights and see twinkles and sparkles. They see glitter and glow. They see in the story of Christmas, a baby welcomed by those who love.

Many of us have heard the story of Christmas so many times, that we intertangle the gospels of Matthew and Luke with the traditions of the extra biblical stories. We have heard the stories so many times that we forget how incredible it is that God.

THE GOD.

God, who created the heavens and the earth, sent Jesus, as a sweet and vulnerable baby entrusted to a young girl and older man, not even fully married.

We forget how radical and transformation the story is in our lives. In worship, we will look through the Gospel writer we call **Matthew**. The eyes of one writing for a community who needed to hear the connection between Jesus as Messiah, the anointed One, and all those who had come before, through the genealogy. We will look at the birth of Jesus through the eyes of **Joseph** as a father, resolute and God trusting, even when it did not make sense. The eyes of **Mary**, who was at once, mild and obedient and wild and revolutionary toward lifting up the lowly. The angel **Gabriel** given the privilege of sharing the good news to share Christ's birth. Eyes of compassion knowing this news would change lives! And the eyes of **shepherds** who were never expecting this!

We need the Jesus' birth to enliven our compassion and freshen our eyes. The familiar story of the Nativity feels fresh again when we see where we need the birth of Jesus in our lives now.

You and I need to see the teenage girls among us who are too witty and clever for their own good, and loved by God.

You and I need to see the refugees wandering from place to place looking for a safe place to bring their families, and loved by God.

You and I need to see dirty field laborers, shepherds seeking some rest, and loved by God.

You and I need to see newborns, only trying to live, and loved by God.

This year as you put up your Nativity, pray for each of the modern Marys and Josephs, shepherds and Magi, infants and keepers.

All, in need of us, being the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world.

*In God's Love,
Pastor Monica*



December Worship at West Grove UMC



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

First Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

Emergency Aid Sunday

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Communion Sunday

Emergency Aid Sunday

Sermon: "Matthew: Writer and Genealogist"

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17

2 Samuel 7: 12-16

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Sermon: "Father: Resolute and God-Trusting"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Psalms 62

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Sermon: "Mother: Mild and Wild"

Scripture: Luke 1: 46-56

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Services

Sermon: "Gabriel: Sharing God's News"

Scripture: Gabriel: 26:38

Psalms 89: 1-4, 19-26

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 24, 2017

4:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Service

6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service w/
Memory Bells Handbell Choir

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's
Pond in the Alison Theatre

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve
Service w/ PraiseWorks Band

11:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service
with Chancel Choir and The Sacrament of
Holy Communion

Sermon: "Shepherd: Shock and Awe"

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Sermon: "Simeon: Speaking Words of
Blessings"

Scripture: Luke 2: 22-35

Galatians 4: 4-7



Worship is on
Sunday,
December 10th
at 11 am

in the Alison Theater led by Pastor Jim.

Join us or tune in on the Closed Circuit
TV at Jenner's Pond.

Christmas Eve Service-December 24th
7:15 pm in the Alison Theatre

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY AT

Jenner's Pond



Pastor Jim Mundell will be
teaching a Bible study that will include the events
surrounding the birth of Jesus. All are welcome to
attend!

**Jenner's Pond Bible Study, Fridays in December (1, 8,
15, 22) 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. in the Alison Theater.**

First Sunday

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.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Hosted by YOU, The Congregation

**On Sunday, December 17 after both
services**

**Please bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share at
our fellowship time!**

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





CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3rd – Christmas Music Celebration at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16th – Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

8:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

4:00 pm Wiggly, Giggly Children's Christmas Eve Service

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

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond in the Alison Theatre

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

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



*Sounds
of The
Season*

Annual Christmas Music Celebration

Sunday, December 3rd

6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us!

Bring your family and invite your friends!

Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m.

allows **all** ages to join in the festivities.

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

Stay after for delicious, homemade

Christmas cookies and cider!

The Four Lights of Advent Class

Advent season is just a few weeks away! The word "advent" means coming - the coming of the Son of God into the world, a child who is the greatest revelation of the glory of God.



Advent

is the light.

The theme is "The Four Lights of Advent"

The Light Breaks Through; The Light Reveals; The Light Spreads; and The Light Sings.

Come and hear scripture, music, and reflect and pray, as we wait together with anticipation for Jesus to come into the world.

We will meet starting **Sunday, November 26th**, at 9:45am, in room # 3, and will continue for the following three Sundays. All are welcome!

Contact person is Carol McGinley, MA
-Spiritual Director
(610-453-4114, cmcginley@zoominternet.net)

Then Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

During this year's advent season, the Prayer Ministry Team invites you to Sunday morning gatherings to anticipate His coming and recognize that Jesus



Giving Tree

Please visit our **Christmas Gift Tree** in the Lobby starting **Sunday, November 26th.**

On the tree, there will be gift tags for families and individuals from our community in need. The tag will note the child's gender, age and requested item. Some might just have the gender and age and you can pick out a surprise Christmas present! We will be providing gifts to children in the school district, residents at Twin Pines, and additional local families in need.

Please read this portion of a note received this year: "I'm reaching out to see if it's possible to get help for my granddaughter. This will be her first Christmas."

Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season.

Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 17 to ensure they can be delivered in time.

Questions? Please contact Joan Leaman at jmleaman@comcast.net.



Wednesdays in Advent

Parties, gifts, and family tensions dominate the season. So maybe it's time we explore what Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are really about.

Join us on:

Wednesdays in Advent from 6-8 p.m., as we use Messy Church to experience creative and fun-filled Christian community. Bring a potluck to contribute to the meal!

Wednesday December 6th - Prepare the Manger

Wednesday, December 13th - Worship at the Manger

Wednesday, December 20th - Celebrate the Manger

This season, refocus and prepare for Christmas with Messy Church!



LIVE NATIVITY

West Grove United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 16th

6-8 p.m.

This Christmas season, take time to ***slow down...Be Still... and know that you are loved.***
Join us to remember the simple beauty of the first

Christmas at the

**West Grove UMC Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m. on
Saturday, December 16th.**



Visitors will be reminded of Christ's humble beginnings as they gaze upon the Live Nativity complete with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, live animals, and much more!

Reflect on the JOY that came down that first Christmas...

Cast your eyes on the perfect PEACE that passes understanding...

Receive FORGIVENESS from the one who came to redeem and restore...

LOVE came down in the flesh to each of us!

Set in a field under a starry sky, the Live Nativity is reminiscent of that first Christmas, with quiet time for reflection. A simple bulletin outlining the story of Jesus' birth found in the gospel of Luke will be shared.

Afterwards, warm up inside the church with fellowship among friends, home baked goodies, and cups of hot chocolate.

So join us on Saturday, December 16th to celebrate the marvelous beginnings of Christianity. This fun and meaningful event is located at 300 N. Guernsey Road, West Grove. For your convenience, there will be ample parking, handicap accessibility into the church, and bathroom facilities. For directions and more information, call the church office at [610-869-9334](tel:610-869-9334) or visit the website www.westgroveumc.org.



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st
7:00 p.m.**

As we prepare for Christmas, some of us might
not feel the joy of the season.

Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain – loss of loved one, loss of job, loss of family, divorce, separation, or physical, emotional, spiritual pain. Perhaps, the news that fills our media weighs heavily on your shoulders.

Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts, is welcome to join us for our Blue Christmas service.

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

Congregational Christmas Tree



As is our tradition, we will hang personalized family and/or individual ornaments on our Congregational Christmas Tree to be enjoyed by all in the church lobby. The ornament should bear either your family name, picture, or something symbolic to your family and can be homemade or purchased.

Starting **December 3rd**, please feel free to bring in your ornaments and hang them on the tree during any of our Advent Worship Services. You may also update the ornament you hung on the tree in years past. Leave the old one or take it with you.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The church office will be closed on

Monday, December 25th

and

Tuesday, December 26th

in observance of the Christmas holiday.

The office will re-open on

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

POINSETTIAS



The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 17th** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in **Christmas Eve bulletins**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 31st after the 11:00 a.m. service. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form



Your Name: _____

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

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

Check one:

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

In Celebration of:



Coat and Blanket Collection for the Needy.

**Sunday, November 26 through
Sunday, December 17.**

We will collect new and gently used coats and blankets to share warmth with those who do not have it. All sizes are welcome:
Men, Women and Children.

There will be a rack in the lobby and bins for the blankets.

Thank you for your generosity.

Jenner's Pond Christmas Program

The annual **JP Chorus' Christmas Program** will be on
Tuesday, December 5th at 7:15 P.M in the Alison

Theatre. The JP Chorus will be presenting the program to open up the Christmas season. Come out and help us sing the carols and listen as our Chorus sings seasonal songs.



LIVE NATIVITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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



This year's Living Nativity is scheduled for
Saturday, December 16th from 6-8 p.m.
Your attendance, support, and help allows
us to share the Gospel with our community.

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

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

West Grove UMC Church Directory

New church directories are available in
the lobby. If you would like an
electronic version, please email Donna
Fackler at office@westgroveumc.org and
she will email you a copy in pdf format.

Every effort is made to ensure the
information in the directory is accurate.
Please advise the office if you have an
error in your
information so that it
can be changed in
the database and
noted for future
editions.



Changing Racism: Continuing the Conversations

Changing Racism: Continuing the Conversation

December 2, 2017

9:00am-3:30pm

The Conference Office

980 Madison Avenue

Norristown, PA 19403

This workshop is open to all who have completed the Changing Racism or Healing the Wounds of Racism Workshops at any time.

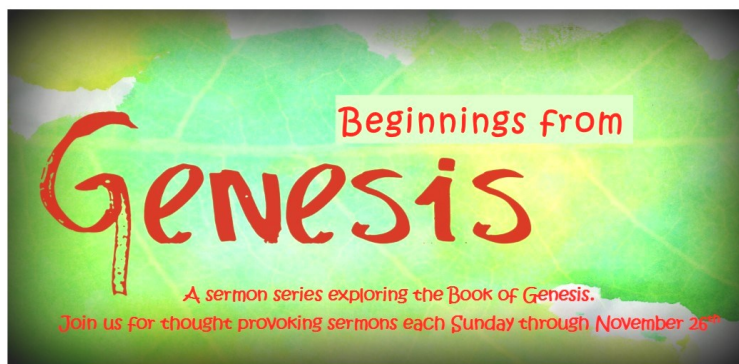
Delve ever more deeply into the history, dynamics, and ramifications of racism in the USA. Learn and practice behaviors and strategies for dismantling the damaging effects of racism and seeking equity.

Training by Commission on Religious & Race

0.5 CEUs available

Lunch will be provided.

**Register Online at
www.etches.com/289903**



Thank you to all our artists who contributed to our Genesis series with their creative and original pieces of art. We are blessed by experiencing the word of God in many ways!

Mya Ditzel	Pastor Shirley Daddario
Eileen Bushnell	Sydney Simonds
Alisabeth Guepet	Felicity Guepet
Steve Guepet	Anna Castaldi
Cora Boyd	Don Hurst
Joan Leaman	Jeanette Stryjewski
Riley Finnican	Mac Catoia
Brady Castaldi	Valerie Kapp-Benner
Donna Fackler	Monica Guepet

Stewardship

is heart work



After our Consecration Sunday, we have had under 60 families share their commitments to give and serve here at West Grove. God has given us incredible vision realized through our strategic plan. We look forward to how giving and serving will bring energy passion into focus.

We received a few commitments without names. If you did not receive a letter with information about serving opportunities and your commitment to give, please contact Pastor Monica or Financial Secretary, Janice Bowers (janicesemail2@gmail.com) so that we can connect your desire to serve and commitment to give.

If you have not have a chance to make a commitment to give and serve, please pick a card in the lobby or ask for one in the lobby! You are blessed to be a blessing.



Advent Bags for Our Homebound Thank You!

Advent
Bags

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

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

With appreciation,
The United Methodist Women

Roger Bates reported that the Hunger Walk on October 15, 2017 RAISED approximately \$17,000



that will benefit area food cupboards and neighborhood and youth services.

West Grove United Methodist Church is proud to be a part of this walk each year.

Thank you
for everything...



A BIG thank you to Pat Heist, Linda Peirson, Linda Shiplet, Connie Simcox, Kim Smith, Kathy Wivel, and Kay Yates for their monumental efforts preparing the kitchen for our annual Health Inspection. Every nook and cranny has been scrubbed, polished, and organized. Please let them know how much they are appreciated!



Consecration Thank you

Many thanks to those who volunteered at the Consecration Breakfast.

Your time, efforts, and contributions were greatly appreciated!

Sandy Carmichael

Mike & Dawn Chalmers

Chris Curtiss

Barbara Delaney

Donna Fackler

Cindy Haley

Jean Kilmartin

Tom & Cindy Hoover

Vernon Ramberger

Karen Hruz

Margee Michaels

Peter & Edel Mullen

Janis Schrader

Connie Simcox

Kim Smith

Carol Whelan

Nancy Howard

Linda Shiplet

Dear Friends at West Grove UMC,

I want to thank all for the love and support that you showed to Lorrie and me during Lorrie's illness and with her passing. To the choir members who kept her in the choir loft long after she lost the ability to follow the music, I am grateful. To the members of the visitation team, the choir, Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley and friends for visiting her at the Sunrise memory care unit, I thank you for your presence. I know from personal experience that visitation becomes more difficult when your loved one stops greeting you with a "hello" and I appreciate your faithfulness. Thanks to Betsy and Cheryl and the Chancel Choir for the beautiful anthem at her service, and to Mel for his moving solo. Mel officiated our wedding a couple decades ago, then officiated the wedding of our four children and their spouses, and so it was very important to our family that Mel play a role in saying goodbye. And thank you to all the ladies at the church, who helped plan, set up and make food for the funeral luncheon. And a final thank you to Pastor Monica and Pastor Shirley who visited Lorrie's bedside in the final days for their prayers and words of comfort and for leading her memorial service. I am truly blessed to have a church family.

Regards, R. Scott Steele



Share Time

We give thanks to God for all those who share their time. Time is a gift that keeps giving.

This month, we thank the Memory Bells



who gave their time as we led worship at Twin Pines.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School continues to teach our children the timeless stories of the biblical narrative in new ways.

Ask a 3 year old through 3rd grader how journey cakes connect to the birth of Jesus!



Mel and Friends Concert



Music and reflection, joy and nodding heads filled the sanctuary on Sunday evening, November 19th as Mel and many friends played a concert of his original works.

The generosity of those gathered raised \$1593 for the Garage!

Special thanks to the following :

Gary Press	Brian Combs	Mike Wivel
Toby Leaman	Joan Leaman	Keith Schneider
Jeff Laird	Sara White	Cheryl Haley
Mike Linkins	Bob Castaldi	Peter Mullen
Betsy Smith	Bill Ditzel	Dick Sturhke
The Reverend Dr. Frederick Faison		

Pancake Breakfast

Giving thanks to God for scrumptious pancakes, delicious sausage, wonderful fellow-

ship, and a good time had by all on November 4th for the pancake breakfast. Thanks to all who helped.



Trunk or Treat

The rain could not stop the excitement and hospitality of our trunk or treat.

Trunks were moved inside and hundreds of children and their families joined us!

Thank you to every one who made that afternoon shine with the light of Jesus!



Chili Cook Off Update

We had ten entries in the West Grove United Methodist Church 2017 Chili Cook-Off including one made with venison and a Moroccan-style one made with lamb, two vegan ones, and six home-style with beef and beans. All were delicious! Thanks everyone for coming out! Looking forward to more opportunities to enjoy fellowship together.



WGUMC Fantasy Football League Standings

Rank	Team	Team Manager	W-L-T	Pts For	Pts Agnst	Streak
1*	groves 3 and 2	Jeremy Moore	7-2-0	958.74	813.78	W-4
2	Duct work	Rob Catoia	6-3-0	1014.88	825.49	W-3
3	jerry's boys	Reed Smith Sr.	6-3-0	972.15	862.6	W-1
4	Ten Plagues	Tim Bushnell	5-4-0	1115.5	946.02	W-1
5	Team Knucklehead	Ken Rinehimer	5-4-0	967.92	932.02	L-1
6	Team Hip Hop)	Matthew Rinehimer	5-4-0	960.09	996.82	L-3
7	Bob's Team	Bob Castaldi	5-4-0	915.46	974.93	W-2
8	Andrew's Team	Andrew Herman	3-6-0	880.81	1027.13	L-1
9	Jim's Slam-Dunk Team	Pastor Jim Mundell	2-7-0	856.11	1070.18	L-2
10	sulli's skins	Fred Sullivan	1-8-0	790.39	983.08	L-6

Standings update: Nov 7, 2017

* = clinched playoff spot (playoffs start Dec 11th)



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 at ahass17@hotmail.com or at (610-468-4321).



On October 2, 2017, The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, received our gift of

\$2,605.00.

They give thanks for our generous support, as well as our thoughts and prayers as we all continue to feel called to action.

If you'd like to learn more about UMCOR and the work they do, please visit www.umcor.org. It is here that you can track your gift or set up monthly donations. You may also call at 404-460-7945 if you have any questions.



Worship Service Volunteers Needed!

We are in particular need of Greeters, Ushers, Communion Servers to be included in the rotation for the 11:00 service.

Service volunteers serve on an approximately 4-6 week schedule, and arrive at 10:45 AM the week of your shift.

Please contact:

Joan Saller, ssaller@comcast.net to be added to the regular schedule or to be part of a pool of last-minute substitutes.

8:30 service volunteers (and substitutes) are also always in need; please contact Rain Catoia to be added to the schedule, raindowdy@gmail.com.

A huge thanks to Joan Saller and Rain Catoia for coordinating volunteers for our services each week!!



Sukkoth Booth

Thank you to all who generously gave groceries in this harvest season to help

feed the needy of our community. To date, we have given away over 150 bags of groceries to our neighbors. In this holiday season, we continue to see a rise in that need.





Mpasa



Hallelujah! There is solar energy at the Mpasa Medical Center!!! And we saw blood in the refrigerator! What an exciting morning to witness lights turned on, the incubator and

ultrasound functioning and so much more! Our Thanksgiving offering supports the continued work at the Mpasa Medical Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We give thanks to God for all of your generosity already poured out!

Rise Against Hunger

On Saturday, November 18th, you joined 10 other churches in our Mission ConneXion as we work together to rise against hunger. We were delighted on that day as over 90 persons were present. We had children who acted as runners providing groups with necessary supplies and currying completed meals. We had youth carrying fifty and a hundred pound bags of rice to refill stations. We had adults of all ages standing, sitting, and serving. We give thanks to God for your hands being put to God's good connectional work through this Mission ConneXion with Rise Against Hunger.

Your contribution of time and money allowed us to together do more than we could have done as individuals or even as local churches. Together, we packed 15,000 meals. These meals were shipped all around the world to places where they were most needed.

Rise Against Hunger has told us :

- 815 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life.
- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world.
- If women farmers had the same equal access to resources as men, the number of hungry people could fall by 150 million.

On Saturday November 18th, you joined with over 376,000 volunteers who worked with Rise Against Hunger last year to serve the hungry. Thank you for answering Jesus' call to feed the hungry. Thank you for working together with others to do so.

How can I help the church? POSTAGE STAMPS!

We mail bulletins, newsletters, prayer letters, birthday cards, giving letters, and other correspondence throughout the year.



Please consider giving a book of stamps to assist us with this ministry.

Your gift may connect a shut-in with the church community or a college student with a birthday card.

Your gifts empower our mission!

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

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") (Dream fulfilled!!)	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 (Dream fulfilled!!)	25	\$ 500
Multifunction printer	1	\$ 150



Books Mentioned In Sermons

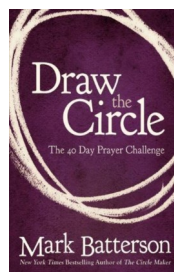
Marching to a Different Drummer: Unrecognized Heroes of American History

by Robin Kadison Berson

"White Wash" Christian Century,
October 2002.

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):

December: The holiday season is upon us. With all of the parties, gifts, and donations, gift cards are a great option.



Besides Walmart, Staples and Target, remember there are gift cards for Lands End, Dick's sporting goods, American Eagle, and Barnes & Noble.

Giving Opportunities

Some of you will be thinking about **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)** before the end of the year.

Current tax law specifies that once you reach age 70½ you must begin making taxable withdrawals from traditional IRAs and many other retirement plans. These minimum distributions are calculated annually based on your age, the account balance at the end of the previous year, marital status, and spouse's age. If you do not take the annual minimum distribution, you may be subject to a 50% penalty on your underpayment, plus ordinary income tax as the funds are withdrawn. If you donate directly from your IRA to a charitable organization, under current law, it will be tax free.



Please consider how you could impact the future of the church as you take your RMD. A RMD directed to the church could solidify our commitment to a children's ministry coordinator or the installation of the prayer bead garden. A RMD directed to the church could begin our vision of an electronic sign announcing the love of God here in this place out on Route 1.



Please talk with Pastor Monica about the possibilities.



Holiday Stress? Try Our Top 5 Tips for a Healthy Holiday Season



If the holidays sometimes leave you feeling overwhelmed and out of control, you're not alone! Here are some key things you can do to stay happy and healthy throughout the busy holiday season.

Send the Grinch packing!



He's a mean one, alright. If the Grinch has stolen your holiday spirit and good intentions, try some of these tips to reclaim your ho-ho-ho.

Keep up healthy habits.

Make a pact with yourself during the holidays. For example: "For the next three weeks I will **move more and do something active every day**, have a **healthy breakfast** and limit the sweets, and get at least seven hours of sleep each night." If you don't completely give up your **healthy habits**, you won't feel like you have to start over once the holidays are in the rear-view.

Beware of party perils.

Special holiday events often serve up extra helpings of less-than-healthy foods. If you're a guest, eat a **healthy snack** before you go to

avoid overdoing it at the event. If you're the host, challenge yourself to offer some delicious and healthier options using our [recipes and cooking tips](#). Your guests will thank you.

Stay active — even in the hustle and bustle of the season.

A full holiday social calendar might lead to some missed workouts. Instead of beating yourself up about it, sprinkle some healthy activities into your daily routine. For example, if the weather isn't too frightful, ride your bike to work or school. If dinner is going to be a feast, opt for a light lunch, then take a vigorous walk. And **keep the family moving**. When the kids are home from school, squeeze in some active chores and trips to the park.

But not too active.

Give yourself the gift of peace. When the invitations pile up, don't be afraid to say no to some of them. If you need some down time to recharge for the next big party, declare a me-treat and do something that relaxes you. Try **yoga, meditation**, or spending time in nature.

Make a plan for the new year.

Your poinsettia's pooped and the gifts are all gone. Now what? It's a great time to reset for the new year — but don't go dashing through your to-do list too fast or you might not stick to your plan. Lay out realistic, sustainable steps for the months ahead. For example, start a **daily walking routine** and sign up for your local **Heart Walk** before you set your sights on that marathon!

Last Updated: November 8, 2017

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 American Heart Association.



CMO CHAPEL TIME with**Pastor Monica****Week of November 6th:**

Theme: Blessings

Song: If You're Thankful and You Know it

Younger: Count My Blessings by Salina Yoon

Older: Splat Says Thank You by Rob Scotton

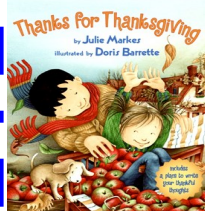
**Week of November 13th:**

Theme: Thanksgiving

Song: If You're Thankful and You Know it

Younger: Thanks for Thanksgiving by Julie Markes

Older: Today is Thanksgiving by PK Halliman

**Week of November 20th:**

Happy Thanksgiving!

Week of November 27th:

Theme: Coming of Baby Jesus (Isaiah)

Song: If You're Thankful and You Know it

Younger: Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Older: Song of Stars by Sally Lloyd-Jones

"If You're Thankful and You Know It"

If you're thankful and you know it,
clap your hands.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 clap your hands.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 clap your hands.

If you're thankful and you know it,
stomp your feet.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 stomp your feet.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 stomp your feet.



If you're thankful and you know it,
say Thanks God!
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 say Thanks God!
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 say Thanks God!

If you're thankful and you know it,
do all three. (Clap hands, stomp feet, say Thanks God!)
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 do all three. (Clap, stomp, Thanks God!)
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 then your face will surely show it.
 If you're thankful and you know it,
 do all three. (Clap, Stomp, Thanks God!)

CMO PRESCHOOL**CMO and Preschool News for December**

December is such a fun month for our preschool children. They will be busy preparing for Christmas and the joy and excitement in their faces is always wonderful to see as they learn all about this special day. The children will be learning about Jesus and his birth and always enjoy our Christmas Celebration. At the celebration the children enjoy hearing the story of Christmas told by Pastor Monica, sing Christmas songs for their parents, and we are hopeful that we will have a special jolly visitor.



We will also have a visit this month from musician, Linda Bunting. Linda will perform an interactive winter music show for the children. Linda usually does a music enrichment class for the preschool during the winter season.

We are already planning for next school year. Our registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be the beginning of February. Please contact me if you are interested in information about our Church preschool.



Tracy McLaughlin,
Children's Morning Out Director

Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

In November Sara Ann
Ramberger hosted our

gathering and we enjoyed a very interesting and informative presentation by Steve Burn, Site Manager of the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA). The program included a brief history of landfilling, environmental impacts of improper waste disposal, SECCRA's environmental monitoring program, an overview of landfill gas to energy, and the recycling facilities.



We were also very blessed and honored to acknowledge the Veterans who were present, as we

thanked them and all Veterans for their service. (Pictured are: Mike Haley, Bob Kane, Keith Schneider, Sam Shane, Frank Steele, Dick Stuhrke, Len Kuch, and Richard Heacock.)

We gather again on **Friday, December 8, 2017** at noon to share a **potluck lunch** and to celebrate the Christmas season. The Stuhrkes and the Haleys are our hosts. If you are interested in helping with the setup and/or cleanup, please let Caryl Stuhrke or Cindy Haley know.

Bring a friend or two and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. We are delighted, once again, to be joined and entertained by **John Clayton and The Revelators**, as they share their musical talent with **"Songs of the Season."**

Jesus said, *"Come and dine."* John 21:12 (KJV)

Just as Jesus came to His disciples, broke bread and dined with them, we are reminded at this time of year that Emmanuel has come, God is with us, and we celebrate the birth of our Savior. So, come; all are invited to join us whether you have been here before or not. Invite a friend or two, bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share, and enjoy an afternoon of good food and great fellowship as we join together in celebrating this joyous time of the year.

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

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

Saturday, December 9, 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



Luther House Bible Study

Hear the Stories!

Everyone is welcome to attend! We meet on Wednesdays from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Luther Building #1. Come join us, once a month or every week! Come as you are able. We have been reading through Romans and enjoy sharing how God's Word works in our lives. If you are interested, have questions or would like to know more, please contact Cindy Haley at [484-702-7071](tel:484-702-7071) or chaley@zoominternet.net.

Faith Circle will meet in December - on **Friday, December 1st only**. We will continue working on our current projects, primarily quilts for Family Promise, when folks are in residence at our church. Then we will take a break until after the holidays. Stay tuned for an updated 2018 schedule. If you are interested, join us in the Youth Room around 9:30 on these dates. (Sewing skills not necessary)

Chris Curtiss



R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men Eating
Out**

December 28, 2017



R.O.M.E.O.

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 610-724-0477**, if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.

C.I.A. Youth Ministry News



Greetings!

Come On Get Messy!

Join us for Messy Church Wednesdays in Advent as we get ready for Christmas. Just in case you're wondering, Advent is

that four candle waiting period that comes before we get to rip open your Christmas presents. So as we are waiting anyway, we might as well wait together. And, if we're going to wait together we might as well do something together, And, if we're going to do something together it might as well be fun. And, if we're going to have fun we might as well make a mess, because making messes is really fun. Bring food to share too because we're going to get hungry making a mess and all. Food. Fun. and Messy: It's Messy Church Wednesdays in Advent! 6pm to 8pm.



NO SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH YOUTH



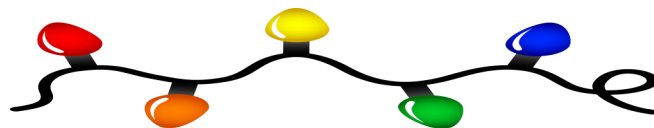
ACTIVITIES DURING ADVENT.

Come on out to Messy Church Wednesdays in Advent instead!

Wednesday December 6th - Prepare the Manger

Wednesday, December 13th - Worship at the Manger

Wednesday, December 20th - Celebrate the Manger



Christmas Themed Dodgeball Night Friday, December 8, 7pm-9pm

"Ho-Ho-Ho Merry Dodging!"

Come on out and join us as we celebrate the season in style as we bombard each other while listening to festive holiday music! Get in the spirit of the season and get your hands on some Christmas clothes and wear them to Dodgeball! By Christmas clothes I don't mean the nice outfit you wear to your grandparents so you can get more stuff out of them. I mean your real Christmas clothes: Ugly sweaters, hideous red and green outfits, shirts with goofy Christmas sayings, reindeer headbands, elf hats, Santa beards, and the ever popular Christmas pajamas. Please bring \$2 for the usual pizza and snacks.



Blessings,

Pastor Kevin

P.S. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO YET, SIGN-UP FOR YOUTH MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS!

Please sign-up for our Flocknote Group. It is a simple and effective way to keep informed by getting interactive emails and/or text messages. You can join online by visiting <https://app.flocknote.com/WGUMC> or text WGUMC to 84576 to join by text.

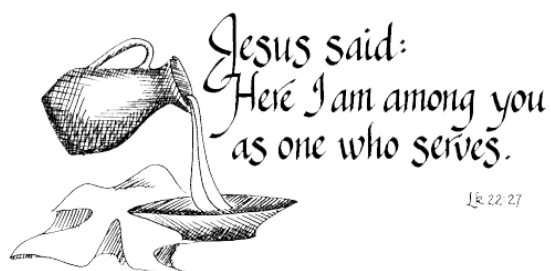


Take the First Steps to Being a Christ Servant Minister, Right Here in West Grove on December 15 & 16.

Ready to explore God's call in your life? Take the first step in the Christ Servant Ministry program with others who have heard that still, small voice calling in the night or are sure they have been hit across the head with a two-by-four.. The Basic Course provides a firm foundational understanding of God's presence in our lives, the meaning and mission of the church, and insight into how and where you can apply the gifts you have and will receive from our Lord. You will learn about the need for servant ministries in our world and what it means to be a servant for Christ. The Basic Course is also the first step towards further development as a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister

The course will be offered here at West Grove UMC on December 15 & 16. The class meets on Friday evening from 7-9 p.m., and again on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.*. The cost is \$25*. Lunch is included. This is sponsored by the Southern Chester County ConneXion of United Methodist Churches.

*Exact times and cost are approximate pending final word from the instructor.



leadership
passion
motivation
dedication
discipline
excellence
drive
heart

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 if you would like to know more.

ATTENTION ALL SHOPPERS!!!

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

PLEASE SUPPORT WEST GROVE UMC BY CHOSING THEM WHEN YOU SHOP! "Smile.Amazon.com"

West Grove United Methodist Church was issued a donation of \$15.18 from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and

September 30. So friends, keep using Amazon Smile when you shop. It doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation! All you have to do is **type in smile.amaazon.com in your browser, choose West Grove United Methodist**

Church as your charity and then go shopping! It is all the same stuff, no fees. Save it to your bookmarks so you don't forget to *Smile on West Grove UMC* when you shop online. Tell your family and friends too! It's that easy. A percentage of your spending dollars will be credited to the church.

From Vision to Action

Our strategic goals are taking us into the future.

God continues to whisper into our future and guide us as we plan.



Each ministry area connects with a portion of this, our strategic plan, and is a vital part of opening, growing, and sharing!



© Can Stock Photo

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

"Where there is no vision, the people perish, but happy are those who follow God's way." Proverbs 29:18

In the past year I have.....

Read the Bible

Attended one spiritual growth opportunity.

Title: _____

Invited one person to church.

Who was it? _____

Your

Name: _____

*Please feel free to place in Pastor Monica or Donna Fackler's mailbox, or in the offering basket.



Please join us on
Tuesday, December 5
6:30-8:30 p.m.

for
“Surviving the Holidays”

The folks at GriefShare Ministries have wisdom to share:

“The holiday season has begun. This might be the first holiday after your loved one’s death, or maybe it’s the second, third, or beyond.

In the coming days, you are going to be facing some tough emotions. And due to the nature of Thanksgiving and Christmas—with its focus on family, yearly traditions, expectations, social events, and “cheer” - the emotions can blindsides you.

You can lessen the emotional impact by knowing what to expect and being prepared.

Surviving the Holidays is here to help.

...You will watch a video, be part of a discussion group, and receive a Survival Guide with daily encouragement and helpful exercises for the days ahead.

These tools will enable you not only to survive the coming holidays, but also to face them with a measure of peace and assurance.¹ ¹Surviving the Holidays Survival Guide, 2015, Introduction and Welcome.

The Prayer Ministry Team invites all to attend! Refreshments will follow.

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 as we head into the holiday season.

The most needed items currently are:



Laundry soap, body soap/wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, house cleaning products, shampoo and conditioner.

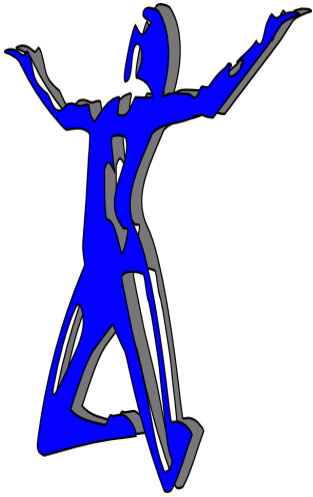
Also needed are some staple items: **tea bags, juice boxes, coffee, juice, canned fruit, applesauce cups, jelly, cereals, snacks for kids, canned meats and stews, baked beans, ramen noodle soup packages, ketchup, and mayo.**

Any donation is a blessing to those in need.

Thank You!



Who are the ones that pray with you in the Prayer Room?



The people who want to pray with you, and for you, are the people gifted with intercessory prayer, praying for others. They are members of the Prayer Ministry. They gather to plan ways to equip and support others in knowing the power of prayer. Some of the ways have been offering classes, prayer beads, movies, and awareness of the prayer room.

PRAYER BEAD GARDEN UPDATE

In the mornings, frost has set the ground as the cold of winter is coming.

The prayer bead garden too appears to be waiting for spring.

However, as we venture into the season of Advent, we are reminded that the soil is never totally dormant in the winter.

The microbes and root systems continue their live and action even below the frost line.

The activities of the fungi and bacteria within the soil ultimately bring more vibrant life to the soil and ultimately the garden, when spring comes.

During this winter pause, the prayer bead garden team asks you to do the same thing. Consider these activities:

1. Pray daily for building of the prayer bead garden
 2. Give a dollar each time you drive by the church on Route 1 for that is the number of times you will be aware of people impacted by the prayer bead garden from Route 1.
- Walk carefully and prayerfully through the space consecrated for the prayer bead garden.

Under the frost of winter, we wait for the coming of spring and our prayer bead garden.



The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to make and serve coffee after the 8:30am service, and someone to serve after the 11am service, on the second Sunday of each month.



Please contact Caryl or Dick Stuhrke at [\(302\)239-1743](tel:3022391743).

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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E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org



~ Open, Grow, Serve ~

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

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Staff

The Reverend Shirley Daddario—Associate Pastor for
Caring Ministries

Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org

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

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Kevin Babcock-Youth Pastor

Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org

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

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

Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary

Kristin Reisinger - 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