



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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West Grove, Pa. 19390

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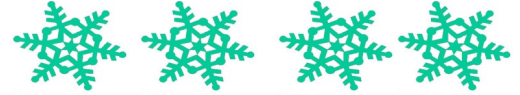
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January 2018



*"Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. " James 1: 22-24
(Message paraphrase)*

One of our favorite children's books is entitled Pancake Pie by Sven Nordqvist. Festus, the farmer, bakes a pancake pie three times a year for his cat, Mercury's birthdays. However, each time he goes to bake the pie, the step leads him to something else. Festus needs an egg for the pancakes, which leads him to do everything from distract a bull to fish out a key to stitch up ripped pants. There are many steps to get accomplished before one can make pancake pie, to celebrate Mercury's birthdays, which he has three times a year, because it is more fun that way. While Festus and Mercury do ultimately have pancake pie, it is barely in time before beginning the cycle again for the next birthday.

Sometimes our spiritual lives are a bit like that. We really meant to spend time in prayer, if we could finish our reading or give time with Family Promise or go to Bible Study or clean out the refrigerator at the church. And before we know it, we have lost any semblance of focus or the holy in our spiritual practices. We are doing to check things off our lists, rather than to be a part of the body of Christ or know God more closely. Moving from TO DO to TO DO without any sense of why it is that we are doing what we are doing.

This year, I am going to challenge us from the strength of the scripture passage in James to live an active faith. At the head of the page is the Message paraphrase. Re-read it and let it sink in. How often has this been us? We had nodded along to the words of Jesus and the stories of God and then gone right back to our lives. We have been careful to make sure that there is not much overlap between the two! The Message paraphrase might not be familiar to you; here is the version that you might be more familiar with: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." This will be our congregation's verse for the year!

Some of us need to hear the call to action. Jesus has no hands but yours. Jesus needs you to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the lonely, and care for those most in need. We have driven by "those people" in hopes that someone else would stop. We have not signed up to host for Family Promise, because someone else could do it. We have not served in the church, because we are just too busy. Where is God calling you to be doers of the Word?

Some of us need to hear the call to doing what is meaningful of God's way. Do can sound like a pile-on proposal. (Do more of this and do more of that!) However, I am suggesting that less is more. It is more meaningful to focus on the spiritual practices of greeting people on a Sunday morning as greeters and guests of God as one way of serving, than to hurry around filling all the roles in Southern Chester County. Where is God calling you to be doers of the Word?

All year long in worship, in our strategic plan, in our congregational goals, in our study, in our mission, we will talk and model how to DO FAITH!

For 2018, I challenge you: DO FAITH!

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica



January Worship at West Grove UMC



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

**Epiphany Sunday
Communion Sunday
Emergency Aid Sunday
Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "DO: One Word"

As a star guided the Magi to Christ, let one word guide you this year. We will give star words in worship. Join us.

**Human Relations Sunday
Sunday, January 14, 2018**

Scripture: Mark 1: 4-11

Sermon: "Remember Your Baptism"

Preacher: Pastor Shirley



Star Words

In worship on Epiphany (January 7th), the day the church remembers the star that led the magi to Jesus, we will pass out nice star shapes. On each star is printed a word. While this tradition will be new to many, it has been lived out in many congregations. I invite each of us to take a star and consider how God might be speaking to them this year through the word printed on their star. If you are not able to present in worship, there will be additional star words available from Pastor Monica. As for me, I am prayerfully looking forward to being led by God in the year to come. Join us in worship on January 7th for your star word.

**Third Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 21, 2018**

Scripture: Mark 1: 14-21

Sermon: "The Art of the Catch"

Preacher: Pastor Kevin

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, January 28, 2018**

Scripture: Mark 1: 21-28

Sermon: "DO Follow"

Following Jesus can lead us into unusual places. The road may wind around and even seem steep at times. Join us as we seek to follow.



Worship is on Sunday,
January 14th
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.

The church office will be closed on

Monday, January 1st,
in observance of
New Year's Day.

The office will re-open at
**7:30 a.m. on
Tuesday, January 2nd.**



**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:

Music-Choir, Bells, PraiseWorks

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.



FAMILY PROMISE

January 14-21

Volunteers needed!



Our families always enjoy a comfortable and hospitable week when they stay with us. Please come help us and enjoy serving in this fulfilling ministry. Here are the areas where your assistance is needed:

Set-up and break-down of the Guest and Family/Dining Rooms,

Meal Preparation-at the church,

Evening hosting-enjoying a meal and relax time with the families,

Transporting cots-on the final morning to Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square,

Breakfast and dessert baked goods-can be prepared at home.

Look for sign up in the lobby in the next couple of weeks with a list of food items needed as well as volunteering our service during the week our guests are here. Please contact **Joan Leaman at jmleaman@comcast.net or 484-643-2181.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

SAVE THE DATE!



Prayer Bead Garden
Fundraiser
at Perkins...

**Monday,
February 26th
4-8 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE!

The Southeast District will be offering
**Tools for Ministry on
Saturday, March 10, 2018**

At Camp Innabah.

Save the date and plan to join us for
wonderful workshops and engaging learning
opportunities.

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.

Thanks be to God for your continued generosity.



The United Methodist Women: Advent Bags Update

We extend a huge thank you to Karen Boyd for leading this project for the past few years. Karen has put her heart and soul into making this annual project a special treat to all



its recipients. We have received multiple positive comments regarding the reception of the advent bags. There are notes on the bulletin board outside the mail/copy room from some recipients. The following is a special note from Susan Paisley in regards to one of the bags.

“One gentleman is very appreciative of the advent bag he received. However, his daughter has a 10 year old boy she helps care for; he calls this gentleman, “Pop-Pop”. This little boy’s mom committed suicide and his dad is not in the picture. The man gave him the advent bag, stating “he needed it more than I did.” So the love in that bag is shining on this little boy.”

Thank you Susan, for sharing these words of joy. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you Karen, for coordinating the assembling and distribution of the Advent Bags and for all you have done for UMW at WGUMC. We will miss you on a regular basis but know you are not far away.



Thank you, dear friends, for your generous and amazing support of families in need this Christmas season. Your generosity

made Christmas brighter for families at Penn London Elementary School, in our local community, and at Twin Pines Nursing Home. What a blessing it is to give others the gift of love at Christmas! Thank you and Thanks be to God!

Mission Possible UMCOR Hygiene Kits



Mission Possible wishes to thank everyone for your encouragement and support of our Fall Mission Project - **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. We are also deeply appreciative of the monetary support

received from Pastor Kevin and the Clifton Heights United Methodist Church. You have all truly blessed us with your generous donations.

We are almost at our goal of **100 kits** - but not quite! If you feel led to assist us further in reaching our goal, please consider how you may help. In the lobby is a list of the items needed to prepare a kit.

The estimated cost of one kit is \$10.00.

Envelopes are also available if you would like to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of the kit items. Donations may be placed in the black bin in the lobby marked Missions.

Again, thank you everyone for supporting
Mission Possible!

Leaman and Friends Concert

On November 19th, over 190 people attended the Leaman and Friends concert.

Your generosity raised \$1600 in support of the West Grove Garage!



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR INMATES



We give thanks to God for all who took seriously the verse from Matthew 25: “*I was in prison and you remembered me ...*” and sent Christmas cards to inmates. We joined the Annual Conference in

sending Christmas cards to those who are incarcerated. From West Grove UMC, we sent 200 Christmas cards. May God's love and justice be spread.



Developing a Love of Reading

At our recent Oxford Club, young moms enjoyed a delicious dinner and a wonderful presentation by Ann Smithyman on reading to your child. Ann talked to the young moms about age appropriate books, demonstrated how to read a story in an animated and interactive way with their child, and taught simple songs and movements. The love of books is critical to kindergarten readiness so we were thrilled to have donated books available for the children and young moms to select and start their own small home libraries.



Learning about Healthy Eating & Cooking

Cindy Seigafuse of Penn State Extension Unit joined us for our September Kennett Club to share nutrition and cooking information. Cindy encouraged the young moms to eat dinner together as a family. She talked about appropriate food for different ages & stages and handling picky eaters. Provided with cute containers and a variety of lunch items, the young moms created their own "Lunchables" and gained knowledge about how to prepare a healthy lunch for themselves and their families.

Club night kicked off a 5-week Cooking & Nutrition series in which the young moms learned about proper hand washing, storing and preparing food safely, and incorporating more



veggies in their diets. Each week we chopped and prepped together and prepared and enjoyed mini meatloaves, fruit salad, roasted veggies, beef stir fry, and more! Many thanks

to West Grove Presbyterian Church for opening their doors and kitchen to us for the cooking series and to Terri Weidenmuller who organized our childcare providers each night.

Annual Christmas Music Celebration

It was a night to remember with over 155 folks turning out to enjoy the songs and carols of the season! We had scores of musicians and singers who were enjoyed by all attending!





"I think we're past the point where rebooting will help."

Did you know we have a Tech Team?

Our technology team supports our office, our worship services, our staff, and our facility. If you have an interest and knowledge in IT, AV, IPs, or other technology acronyms and use, we could use your expertise!

See Pastor Monica about consulting or helping out anytime. Your expertise is valued! We have some exciting projects on our horizons!

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:(302)239-1743).



Fran Bryan sends her sincerest thanks for the wonderful Advent Bag and for thinking of her this holiday season.



Thank you from our pastors and whole staff for the generous gifts received at Christmas time.

We are blessed by your thoughtfulness in remembering us at Christmas. Many blessings to you all in the new year!



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!!

Project C.U.R.E. Delivering HEALTH & HOPE

Project C.U.R.E. is the world's largest distributor of donated medical supplies to resource-limited communities across the globe—touching the lives of patients, families & children in more than 130 countries. Each week, two to three semi-truck sized containers leave our warehouses with life-saving aid to underserved areas.

At the heart of Project C.U.R.E. are our volunteers. Their volunteers represent numerous backgrounds, including nurses, doctors, students, young professionals and retirees, among others. From sorting donations of medical supplies and testing biomedical equipment to administrative tasks and lending professional expertise to our various departments, volunteers provide valuable support to Project C.U.R.E. and are utilized according to their strengths and interests. Their volunteers help us meet a world of need.

One of Project C.U.R.E. warehouses is right here in West Grove. (the old Dansko warehouse). They are the Mid-Atlantic Distribution Center. A few of our members from West Grove UMC are graciously volunteering their time on a weekly bases.

I have taken the tour. It is very impressive. For example, in 2015 Project C.U.R.E. delivered 145 containers valued at \$53.4 million to 47 countries. It is the world's largest distributors of donated medical supplies to resource-limited communities across the globe. If you are interested in taking the tour and joining in on the project, or researching more, go to www.projectcure.org.

May God lead your path,

Pastor Shirley



COMING UP!**HUMAN
RELATIONS
DAY****SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018**

The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. A special offering will be taken on Sunday, January 14th.

COMPUTER MINISTRY'S RECYCLING DAY**JANUARY 20TH****Computer Ministry's Recycling Day
January 20th!**

Join us on **January 20 from 9am - 12** at Mission Central, 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg, for our recycling day!

As you clean out those old electronics and make room for new ones, don't throw them away...bring them in to donate to Computer Ministry. We refurbish and properly recycle donated computers, accessories, cables and wires...even cell phones and old electronics!

Did you know that Computer Ministry has supplied more than 19,000 computers to non-profits, schools, hospitals and clinics all around the world? Did you know that Computer Ministry offers a scholarship for college expenses, named after their founder, Jim Rudy? Learn more about Computer Ministry and the other ministries operating out of Mission Central on January 20th!

For more information, go to compministry.org and be sure to tune into "Good Day PA" on ABC27, January 17th @ noon for a feature story on Computer Ministry

Stay tuned for more details or contact Janice Bowers at janicesemail2@gmail.com.

COMING SOON...

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.



Visiting others is a part of who we are at West Grove UMC...and it's biblical! It is the works of mercy. It is what Jesus teaches. He says, "I was hungry, and you gave me to

something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink . . . I was sick, and you visited me . . ."

Taking the time to make a visit to those who are homebound, lonely or isolated brings joy to those being visited and to those visiting.

The Visitation Ministry team invites you to be a visitor. Some of our visitors visit the same person every 4 to 6 weeks, partnering with another visitor. Some visit different people. This rewarding and fulfilling ministry is so gratifying.

If you are interested in visiting our brothers or sisters, or want to learn more about the ministry, feel free to contact me, Pastor Shirley Daddario at Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org or call me at 484-268-0497.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Shirley



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.

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

*Please see Gene Aucott



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.amazon.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.



WGUMC Fantasy Football League Standings



Rank	Team	Team Manager	W-L-T	Pts For	Pts Agnst	Streak
1*	groves 3 and 2	Jeremy Moore	10-3-0	1511.02	1257.85	W-2
2*	Bob's Team	Bob Castaldi	9-4-0	1388.03	1373.28	W-6
3*	Duct work	Rob Catoia	8-5-0	1465.1	1336.8	W-1
4*	jerry's boys	Reed Smith Sr.	8-5-0	1396.61	1309.32	L-1
5*	Ten Plagues	Tim Bushnell	7-6-0	1591.99	1399.64	W-1
6*	Team Knucklehead	Ken Rinehimer	7-6-0	1357.43	1305.33	L-1
7*	Team Hip Hop)	Matthew Rinehimer	7-6-0	1344.71	1382.35	W-1
8*	Andrew's Team	Andrew Herman	5-8-0	1381.89	1493.85	L-1
9	Jim's Slam-Dunk Team	Pastor Jim Mundell	2-11-0	1205.68	1518.34	L-6
10	sulli's skins	Fred Sullivan	2-11-0	1178.14	1443.84	L-3

Standings update: Dec 12, 2017

Quarterfinal

groves 3 and 2 (1) 113.24
Andrew's Team (8) 141.31

Semifinal

jerry's boys (4) 104.47
Ten Plagues (5) 123.62

Andrew's Team (8)
Ten Plagues (5)

Final

LEAGUE CHAMPION

Duct work (3) 153.59
Team Knucklehead (6) 72.10

Duct work (3)
Team hip hop (7)

Bob's Team (2) 100.11
Team hip hop (7) 110.10

WANTED
VOLUNTEERS
for Free Tax Preparation

- An hour of volunteering produces an average of \$1,000 in refunds.
- No prior tax experience necessary!
- Free IRS Certification Training
- Gain in a classroom, or at your own pace online
- Attend an upcoming Taxclass - see www.ChesterCountyFreeTaxes.org to register
- Perfect short-term Community Outreach Opportunity
- Benefits Low and Moderate Income Households
- Sites in Coatesville, West Chester, Phoenixville, Kennett Square, Downingtown, Exton, & Other Areas
- Multiple Roles Available: Tax Preparer, Quality Reviewer, Interpreter (English/Spanish), Greeter
- Flexible Hours

Minimum 24-hour time commitment requested from January through April.

Each year more than 1500 households are served by our VITA volunteers!

\$55 MILLIONS in refunds are returned to taxpayers.

Getting Started is Easy...

Call or Click:
610-380-9099 or DLaird@QuietRevolution.org
www.ChesterCountyFreeTaxes.org

FROM LA COMUNIDAD HISPANA VITA Volunteers Needed

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is in need of volunteers. Join an amazing group of people that help to provide free income tax return support to our community during tax season. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Contact [Donna Laird](#) (610) 380-9099 with your questions and how to get started.



HOW TO ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TO SEE A THERAPIST

By Mike Jones | Nov. 20, 2017



It's hard to watch someone you care about struggle with their mental health. It's even worse when you know they could benefit from professional help. Approaching an individual and encouraging them to seek therapy can be a tricky situation. If done the wrong way, you could aggravate the person or turn them against the idea entirely. However, there *is* an effective way to have this conversation.

Here are some steps you can take to tell your loved one about the **benefits of seeking therapy**.

SHOW SUPPORT

Misconception about mental health and therapy has intensified stigma in society. Your loved one may be *aware* that they need help, but may be afraid to seek it if they think you will judge or treat them differently. Therefore, it is essential to use non-stigmatizing language when talking with them about their mental health. Assure them that you will support them through the therapy process.

Demi Lovato is one of the most vocal celebrities about her mental health issues. She mentioned on multiple occasions how important it was for her to have people around that really care about her wellbeing. She credits her support group for being able to go through everyday life. Demi asks for advice from her loved ones and asks them to let her know when they feel something's off: "So whether it's with my management team or with my friends, every choice that I make, I run by people. And that's what's really helped me—vocalizing what you need."

BE SENSITIVE TO TIMING AND PLACE

Talking to someone about mental health requires emotional sensitivity as well as *physical* sensitivity. The "where" and "how" the topic is presented may determine how a person reacts to your suggestions. Your loved one may not be as bold as Kesha when she shared her condition and struggles with the world while receiving an award.

Don't start this delicate conversation in front of other people or where others can hear as this may cause discomfort. And avoid grouping up in an intervention-style conversation as people do on TV shows. Allow the person struggling to decide whether they want others to know. This way, they feel respected and in control of their own treatment.

Also: Avoid talking to someone when they are in a bad mood, tired, have tight deadlines at work or if they're doing something important. They may dismiss you or disregard the weight of the topic. Approach the person when they're in a good mood, relaxed and undistracted. Try as much as possible to keep the conversation private, friendly and relaxed.

PREPARE FOR RESISTANCE

Not all people who hear about therapy will be willing to try it out. You need to be prepared to make your case if your loved one resists your suggestion. Here are some ideas that you can use to highlight the importance of therapy:

- **Try to use your relationship as leverage, in a loving way.** Whether you're their sibling, friend, spouse or relative, tell them how important your relationship with them is to you. And how it could benefit from their seeking therapy. However, avoid giving an ultimatum as it can cause emotional distress.
- **Name their admirable qualities.** It's easier to appeal to someone by pointing out what you like about them. When you point out someone's positive qualities, they will be motivated to take the necessary steps to better themselves even further.

Explain specific areas of problematic behavior. Most people who refuse therapy may claim that they don't have a problem. By pointing out specific problems without coming off as judgmental, you can help them see the need for seeking professional help.

OFFER TO HELP

You can try to embolden someone to go to therapy, but unless you are willing to offer meaningful support, it's not going to encourage them. Some people do not know where to start when seeking help. Guide them in finding a suitable therapist in the area, depending on their preferences. You can contact offices on their behalf or research various professionals, their credibility and reviews.

Some people are scared of seeing a therapist alone or signing up for group therapy. Offer to go with them until they're comfortable. You can sit in the waiting room during their first few sessions. Make sure to assure them that you won't ask prying questions about the counseling unless they want to share.

Seeking therapy is one of the best steps that a person with a mental health condition can take. However, it's an effort that requires great strength and courage. Share your suggestions as openly as possible and leave them to make the decision that best suits their needs. Above all things, assure them of your continued love and support throughout the process.

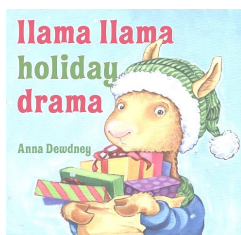
CMO CHAPEL TIME

with
Pastor Monica

Week of December 4th

Theme: Waiting for
Christmas

Song: Away in a



Manger

Younger: Llama Llama
Holiday Drama by Anna
Dewdney

Older: Wait by Antoinette

Portis

**Week of
December
11th**

Theme:
Preparing
for
Christmas

Song: Away in a Manger

Younger: Who is Coming
to Our House? By Joseph
Slate

Older: How God
Decorates for Christmas
by Ron Mehl and Melody
Carlson

**Week of December
18th - Thursday,
December 21st at
Christmas Celebration**

BOOK for all: Mortimer's
Christmas Manager

Song: Away in a Manger



Away in a manger



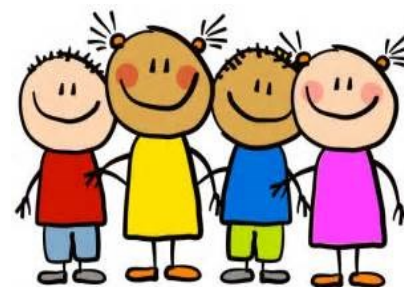
Thank you to all
who have spent
time on
Sunday mornings
volunteering
in the nursery!

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).

CMO PRESCHOOL

**January News**

December is always an exciting month at preschool. The children learned all about Christmas and especially loved participating in our first ever Christmas Sing-a-long Celebration. During our celebration, Pastor Monica shared a book explaining the true meaning of Christmas with the children, then we all sang Christmas carols together with the help of Debbie and Jake Schneider who played the piano and guitar for us. We also had church members join us in singing. During our singing, we had a special visit from Santa who left the children a small stuffed donkey to go along with one of the books we enjoyed, The Donkey's Christmas Song.

In January, many of the classes will focus on winter and arctic animals. These are always fun themes to come back to after the break. The children will be busy making lots of fun crafts, playing in "snow", and reading lots of books. One of my favorite books is The Mitten, which many of our classes will share this month. In this story, many large and small animals share a little boy's mitten, until a bear sneezes and they all fly out. If you have never read this story, it is a fun one to share with your children.

Registration for 2018-2019

Although we are only about half way through this school year, we are already looking forward to preschool year 2018-2019. We offer preschool classes for children 18 months through 5 years old with many class choices. Our registration for next school year will begin the beginning of February. We will host an Open House on January 31st at 6:00. If you are interested in learning more about our preschool, please contact me by either by calling the church or through email, tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org. I am available for tours of the preschool most days and would love to show you around. Thanks so much!

Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

Thanks to our co-hosts in December, the Sturhkes and the Haleys! We enjoyed a special afternoon of great fellowship and wonderful Christmas music led by John Clayton and The Revelators. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas gathering a real treat with lots of good food and tasty desserts!



RAP will start the New Year together as we gather on Friday, January 12 at noon. Linda Peirson will be our monthly host. We

have a great program planned on Food Safety presented by Hunter Hale from the Chester County Health Department. Bring your bagged lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. And don't forget to **Invite your friends** to join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.



As we enter into 2018, we continue to celebrate our 20th year as RAP. A special program is being planned for May, along with a covered dish luncheon. To conclude our celebration year we would like to plant a tree in the front of the church and provide a small bench dedicated in memory of and in honor of all our former and current members. Starting in January, envelopes will be provided at our meetings for everyone as they feel led to contribute toward the purchase of the tree and bench. Come, and be a part of this long-standing group of faithful members who enjoy gathering each month for a time of fellowship, food and fun!!!

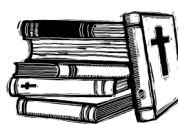
J.U.L.I.E.T.

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

Saturday, January 13, 2018



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.

After our holiday break, Faith circle will resume meeting on **January 19th**, the third Friday, at **9:30 a.m.**, in the **Conference room**. We will continue to work on quilts... and also bookbags for Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pa.



If you are interested, please join us at 9:30 on the 19th.

(Sewing skills not necessary.)

Chris Curtiss



R.O.M.E.O.

R.O.M.E.O.

**Retired Older Men Eating
Out**

January 25, 2018

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Greetings!

As we transition from 2017 into 2018, we are revamping our Youth Ministry. Our goal in youth ministry is two fold: To reach youth and then to retain and develop them into full-fledged disciples of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this goal, we need to be engaged

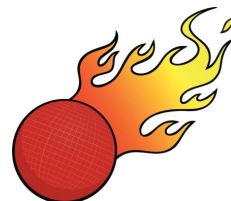


in intentional missional outreach. We need to reach the unchurched and the dechurched, or to use the current lingo, the "nones" and "dones" as well as caring for the

youth already growing up in our church. To meet this challenge, we are bringing our Youth Ministry out of the church and into the lives of the youth in our community. We are jump-starting this initiative by becoming a visible part of the lives our youth already have outside of our church. By attending sporting events, musical shows and plays, art and science fairs, and countless other happenings in our community we will have the privilege of meeting the youth in our community and to develop relationships with them.

Inside the church, we are becoming just as intentional with our ministerial efforts. We have shifted our focus onto developing Friday nights into a youth night. We have also eliminated

all Sunday youth programming other than Sunday School. These radical changes we are making will allow us to reach youth outside the church and allow us to provide



engaging and transformational ministry when they come to church. We will continue with 2nd Friday Dodgeball and over the course of the next few months add a movie night, a

teen skills / hot topic night, and finally a worship night.

Please pray as our ministry transitions and I invite you to join us on this journey!

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin

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 winter.

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!

NEW Spirit! Digest

Luke 1:24-25

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Healing the reproach of women

BY BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON

During the Advent season we often study the life of John and Baptist and his godly parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth. During her pregnancy with this holy child, Elizabeth exclaimed, "Thus, the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." (Luke 1:25).

What was her reproach? Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and no doubt, she was disdained for this by her society. The worth of a woman in her world and in many cultures depends on their ability to bear children. In some societies male children are the ones that count the most; so not even a female baby is good enough.

A woman who has no children is at fault for some reason, even though modern medicine has proven that the husband can also be the cause of the family's infertility. In the Bible we read of a few other women who faced reproach and were desperate for a child: Sarah, Rebekah and Hannah, to name a few.

In our society women are not under the same depth of condemnation if they do not conceive. Women have careers and many kinds of other interests than motherhood. However there is still unhappiness and social pain when a couple who want children cannot conceive for some reason.

Reproach of women is not lost on our society. The practice of sexism is a form of reproach. Still today, women get paid less than men for the same work. Most corporations have men as their CEO's; and sexual abuse and domestic violence mostly happens to women.

I have seen this in our church. At least once every year someone who knows that their pastor is leaving will call my office and say, "Don't send us a woman pastor." I have handled numerous complaints of sexual misconduct and harassment by clergy and lay people during my tenure in this area.

Many fine women pastors have had difficulties in ministry, not because of their lack of skills or calling, but because some in the church (men and women) cannot accept their authority or the unique gifts that they bring. Some even misuse the Bible to justify their discrimination against a woman pastor.

What do we do about our modern-day reproach and sexism? We talk about it!

Time Magazine announced last week that their "Person of the Year" was not a person but a group of women known as the "Silence Breakers." This is a group of women who came forward and shared painful accounts of sexual abuse at the hands of men in positions of power. First one, then another, then others, emboldened by women who led the way and opened the prison gates of oppressive secrecy for them. As more and more brave women come forward to share their stories and speak their truth, things can get better.

I remember as a young adult I experienced sexual abuse two times. Once a co-worker at the school where I taught pushed me against a wall and kissed me. On another occasion the father of the groom at a family wedding found me in a quiet corner and accosted me with some inappropriate touching.

I never told anyone about these attacks, but that is how the practice of abuse continues. When molested and abused women (and sometimes men) keep silent, the offense is somehow condoned and considered safe and bearable. Sometimes when they do speak out, victims are demonized, not believed, and then ostracized, making them victims a second time.

Recent revelations of women cadets allegedly victimized and forced out in retribution for reporting sexual assaults at our nation's Air Force Academy follow in a long line of disturbing reports at colleges and military installations in recent years. In so many places, we are losing talented, dedicated women who want to serve their nation, their professions, perhaps even their churches, because so many are traumatized by extreme gender bias, violence and sexual assault, and then punished for naming their perpetrators.

The church needs to have honest conversations about these issues and strive to live in more healthy ways, as we continue the work of ministry. First steps include talking, teaching and creating safe spaces for people to share their stories. As we come to know and confront the truth of how our sisters, daughters, wives, mothers, friends and colleagues are being assaulted, then revealing and reconciling that truth may one day set them free.

Then, the Lord may look upon them, as He looked upon Elizabeth, and take away the inhumane reproach of women—and others who are abused and rejected for who they are—among our people.

[Republished from The Bishop's Blog.](#)



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 (Dream fulfilled!!)	2	\$ 2,500
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms (Dream fulfilled!!)	25	\$ 500
Multifunction printer	1	\$ 150



Books Mentioned In Sermons

The First Christmas by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Roses in the Snow: The Tale of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary by Dessi Jackson

Why We Sleep : Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams by Matthew Walker

Prayer for the Day: 365 Inspiring Daily Reflections edited by BBC Radio

The Prayer Ministry team has grown recently to a total of 9 servants, committed to serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Mission is to follow the Holy Spirit guiding us as we discern how to support and equip the church to have a prayerful life style.



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*
New King James Version (NKJV)

"Be Doers of the Word, and Not Hearers Only"

James 1:22

From Vision to Action

One of our strategic goals is a Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Out of our Children's Ministry Forum, we discerned the need and heard the specific scope from parents and members. SPRC, Finance, and Administrative Council have worked together to shape a position description that will fit the needs of both the children we currently have and those in our community we would like to reach. The position is currently posted as an internship for credit with potential permanent hire. Our congregation responded with vigor to our Christmas offering which begins our investment in this position. Full position descriptions are available. Please spread the word! We give thanks to God for this movement of the Spirit.

Prayers for our Church

Join us as we pray specifically throughout the year for our church and community:

- God will move us from hearers of the word, to doers.
- Each person of the community will be welcomed here as a child of God.
- God will strengthen and grow leadership in our faith community for the next ways God is calling us to DO Faith.



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

Join us in our New Goals for 2018 as Community of Faith:

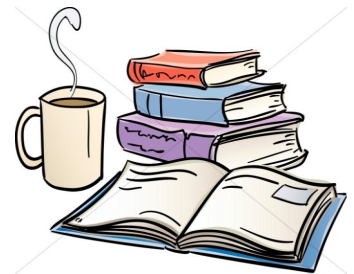
1. Invite and accompany a friend to an event this year (Movie Night, Pancake Breakfast, Worship, Trunk or Treat, Sunrise Service)
2. Read and reflect on the Gospel of Mark
3. Serve God in mission in one new meaningful way

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

Interested in Reading the Bible

In a Year?

Many people took the challenge last year and found much meaning in reading the Bible. Most people who read it followed a plan. This plan allows for days off, for catch up time, and lays it out in a way that keeps readers engaged. Look here on line or pick them up in the lobby.



<http://christchurchusa.org/pdf/2017BibleReadingPlan.pdf>



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Phone: 610-869-9334, Fax: 610-869-0110

E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org

January

2018

~ 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

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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