

### **West Grove United Methodist Church**

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor 300 North Guernsey Road West Grove, PA 19390



Second Sunday in Advent Sunday, December 10, 2017

## 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### OPEN

#### **Prelude**

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row. First-time guest or member, let us know you were here!

\*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Sandy Deckard

One: We prepare our home and our houses.

Many: We prepare our hearts and our minds. One: The Christ child will be born among us.

Many: The Lord's anointed, the Messiah, brings us new life.

\*Processional Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

UMH 203

\*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Sandy Deckard

Holy God, we give thanks for you. You greet us and meet us where we are. You never leave us.

Lifting us when we feel lowly, you fill our empty places with your hope. You level our pride with your call to serve the vulnerable; so, you can smooth our toughened hearts with your tenderness.

May we, like Joseph, move through the upside-down world to resolute trust in you alone, we pray, Amen.

\*Passing of the peace

Sandy Deckard

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

### **GROW**

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Robinson Family

Children's Choir Christmas Hope Melody

Mac Catoia, Preston Catoia, Felicity Guepet, Betsy Hill, Charlie Hill, Grace Reisinger, Lindsay Reisinger, Jacob Rinehimer, Clarissa Robinson

**Moment for All Ages** 

Joan Leaman

**Old Testament Lesson** 

Psalm 62

Sandy Deckard

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1: 18-25

Sandy Deckard

\*Response to the Lessons

Sandy Deckard

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Anthem** 

"Advent Prayer"

Chancel Choir

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10. Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.

Sermon

"Father: Resolute and God-Trusting"

Pastor Monica

### SERVE

\*Hymn of Response

"Lord, Listen to Your Children"

TFWS 2207

**Moment of Impact** 

Christmas Music Night

Pastor Monica

Offering

\*Offertory Response "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

\*Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Pastor Shirley

Loving God, you are trustworthy and kind to all who seek you. Thank you for comforting us when we are afraid about what the future may bring. Send us patience through your Spirit so that we will cheerfully bear with one another as a community of faith. Help us to grow in wisdom as we wait for your purposes to be fulfilled in the world. Accept our offerings in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gathered Prayer

Pastor Shirley

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Shirley

**UMH 220** 

\*Hymn of Sending Forth

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

\*Benediction

Pastor Monica

\*Choral Benediction

"Blessing"

Chancel Choir

\*Postlude

\* = Please stand as you are able Bold Print = Say in unison

### Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 62

To the leader: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.

They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

Selah

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honour;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

Selah

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all according to their work.

### Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **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.

Welcome to this gathering of God's people worshipping and praising God! May we continue to be moved by the Spirit to live as the body of Christ. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: www.westgroveumc.org

### Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.



Our Assisted Listening system is available to all who could benefit from additional amplification or assistance. Please see our soundboard operators for

**EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY:** Our food supply is in need of replenishment. If you would like to donate to the pantry, the following are items are in high demand, as they are not covered by food stamps: 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.** Of course, any donation is a blessing to those in need.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS SINGING TODAY: We give thanks to God for our children and their voices as they sing of hope this Christmas season. We also give thanks to God for Joan Leaman; for her time, her gifts, her patience, and her heart, as she leads our Children's Choir.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a four week Bible study that will include the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Join him on Fridays: December 15, and 22nd at Jenner's Pond in the Alison Theater from 10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. **BLUE CHRISTMAS:** As we prepare for Christmas, some of us might not feel the joy of the

season. 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 on Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

COAT AND BLANKET COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 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.

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** Advent calendars are now available in the lobby on the welcome desk. Please feel free to take and share with your children as we await the birth of Jesus. **ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Electronic Giving Cards can be found in the friendship folders. They act as a token to put in the offering plate for those who give electronically if they wish. **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** Just a reminder that 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 Wednesday, December 27th at 7:30 a.m. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:30 a.m.

### THIS WEEK: December 10 through December 17, 2017

~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m 4 p.m. ~~		
Sunday:	8:30 a.m.	OND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy
	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship w/Chancel Choir
	3:00 p.m5:00 p.m.	Jenner's Pond Worship Service (Alison Theatre) Staff Christmas Party (Jenner's Pond)
	4:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Caroling (various locations)
	7:00 p.m8:30 p.m.	GS Camporee Planning Mtg. (#1)
Monday:	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
	9:15 a.m9:45 a.m. 6:30 p.m8:00 p.m.	CMO Chapel Time (Sanc.) SOS Ladies (#5)
	6:30 p.m7:30 p.m.	Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.)
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
	10:00 a.m11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m3:00 p.m.	Family Literacy Mtg. (#2) BOOM Meeting (West Lawn UMC)
	4:45 p.m6:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts #447 (#12)
	6:00 p.m7:00 p.m.	GS Troop #4138 (#8 & 10))
	6:30 p.m7:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m8:30 p.m.	Finance Meeting (#1) 4H Robotics Club (#8 &10)
	7:30 p.m8:30 p.m.	Ad Council (#1)
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) CMO Music Program (Sanc.)
	2:00 p.m3:00 p.m.	Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)
	2:30 p.m6:30 p.m.	DCOM Meeting
	5:30 p.m6:30 p.m. <b>6:00 p.m8:00 p.m.</b>	GS Troop #4282 (#12) Advent Wednesdays (Sanc., Kitch., Lobby)
Thursday:	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
•	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Music Program (Sanc.)
	9:15 a.m9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m12:30 p.m.	CMO Chapel Time (Sanc.) Music Practice (#6)
	5:15 p.m6:45 p.m.	GS Troop #4251(#12)
	6:45 p.m8:00 p.m.	Choir Réhearsal (#6)
	7:00 p.m9:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m9:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #12 (#8, 9,10,11,12,13) PraiseWorks Band Rehearsal (Sanc.)
Friday:	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	CMO Pre-school (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
	10:30 a.m12:00 p.m.	Advent Study (Jenner's Pond-Alison Theatre)
	12:00 p.m1:30 p.m. 12;00 p.m1:30 p.m.	SPRC Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon-Brother's Pizza Office closed for Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
	5:30 p.m9:30 p.m.	Christ Servant Minister Training (#8 &10)
Saturday:	7:00 a.m2:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m11:30 a.m.	Christ Servant Minister Training (8 & 10)
	6:00 p.m8:00 p.m.	Daily Reflections Group (#8 & 10) Live Nativity
Sunday: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
•	8:3 <u>0</u> a.m.	Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy

God's Faithfulness ~ Your
Stewardship
Report December 3, 2017
General Offering: \$6, 224.25
Building Maintenance Fund:
\$216.00

11:00 a.m.

Combined Worship Attendance: 174
Emergency Groceries YTD: 170 bags
Anniversary Giving YTD: \$9, 385.95
Prayer Bead Garden Donations: \$.00
Total amount received:
\$7,961.00
Goal-\$13,000
Thanksgiving Offering: \$919.00
It is your tithes, offerings, and gifts that impact and change lives for Christ!

## Moment of Impact

Traditional Worship w/Chancel Choir

Christmas Music Night

We give thanks to God for our music events that incorporates our community's beginning of the Christmas season. From young musicians to those with incredible expertise, voices and instruments raise the spirit of Christmas. Over 150 people were present on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Music Celebration. We give thanks to God for all 50 of the musical participants, the many cookie and treat preparers, and others who were present!

### PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain? Weekdays, please contact Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334. After office hours and on weekends, please contact Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863. All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for four Sundays. If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, please update your request with Donna. Thank you.

> Community Prayer Focus: Advent Activities & Services Mission Prayer Focus in: UMCOR

Cory Beattie (Shaub)

Greg Bratton (Bratton)

Fran Bryan

Dee Crawford

Jay Durham (Howard) Tom Fagan

Ed Farrell (Babcock)

Laura Featherston

Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)

Muff Hurst

Juan Jimenez (Paisley)

Peg Kent William Kirwin

Wanda Kreutzfeldt

Praver Chain Lynn Morgan

Rosemary MacCoun

Dave McClain

(McClain)

Peggy Mowrer Tim Mullen

Nina Dickinson (B. Ranieri) Lola Nadolny (Hruz)

Nancy Pearo (Heist) Willy Raiford (Babcock)

Rick Renzulli (McGinley)

Roann Schneider

Rick Spencer (K. Smith)

Jeannie Sullivan

Maureen Stickel (Fackler)

Zach Trexler (Lytle)

Gisela Winkler (Mullen)

Ron and Marliss Wilson



Daniel Engberg—Iraq (Hruz)

Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)

Brian Kubo - Qatar (Mullen)

LTC Eric Maxwell,

Chesapeake, VA

(The Rambergers)

Jimmy Strawhecker - NJ

(Lynne Strawhecker)

Chris Weidman - Japan (Miller)

Ed Tolmie

### SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

#### This Sunday, December 10th

Ushers—8:30 The Bushnells The Hills Greeters—8:30 Ushers—11:00 TRD Joan Saller Greeters-11:00

Acolyte 8:30/11 Mac Catoia/Ian Ditzel

Rubincan/É. Mullen/J. Leaman Nursery 8:30/9:45/11 Jessi Timm/Amy Simonds C. Worship—8:30/11

Lav Reader—8:30 Liturgist—11:00 **Moment All Ages** Joan Leaman

Prayer Room 8:30/11 Pam Howard/Susan Paisley Hospitality 8:30/11

Counters Sound Booth Jordan Howard Sandy Deckard

The Stuhrkes/The Hoovers

Bowers/Beauchamp Keith Schneider & various

### Next Sunday, December 17th

The Simmons

Pat Heist/M. Rubincan

TRD

Joan Saller

Wesley Boyd/Alisabeth Guepet H. McCummings/C. Bratton/OPEN

Kristin Boyd/OPEN John McGinley M. Rinehimer

Eileen Bushnell

Pastor Shirley/Cindy Haley The Covingtons/Scott Steele

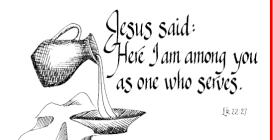
The Sturkes

Keith Schneider & various

# Take the First Steps to Being a

# Christ Servant Minister 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. Please see Pastor Monica or Donna Fackler for more information or to register.



Please visit our Christmas Gift Tree in the Lobby.



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.

### West Grove UMC Live Nativity 2017

# Preparing our Hearts for Christmas Saturday, December 16th 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## How do you feel when you think of Christmas?...

Exhaustion (at the thought of decorating)?...

Overwhelm (at the thought of squeezing more into an already busy schedule)?...

Fear (of over spending)?

## Fear (of over spending)? Pause. There is Good News!

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us John 1:14

JOY came down that first Christmas...

PEACE that passes understanding dwelt among us...

FORGIVENESS came to redeem and heal us....

LOVE In the Flesh became accessible

**LOVE** In the Flesh became accessible.... And He lives in us today! Hallelujah!!!

Be a part of the Live Nativity

Join us for a time of quiet reflection. Invite a neighbor. Bring children to experience the moment with live sheep, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus.

Share TRUE joy, peace, forgiveness and love with friends and neighbors. Warm up with baked goodies, hot chocolate, and fellowship in the church lobby. Sign up in the lobby to be an actor or to bake cookies. Actors serve for 30 minute intervals. Costumes provided!



### 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.

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

## Wednesdays in Advent

Parties, gifts, and family tensions dominate the season. So, maybe



it's time we explore the true meaning of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

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!

This coming Wednesday,
December 13th-Worship at the
Manger



### **Advent Wreath Lighting**



(Sing verse 2 and Chorus) "Christ, Be Our Light!"

Reader One: For Joseph, it seemed that everything was upside down and out of order. Life was coming fast and unfolding unlike anything he had planned.

Reader Two: While he was still trying to figure out a plan and conjecture the future, God spoke through a dream:

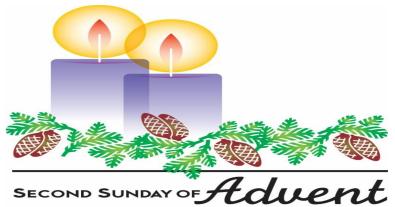
All: Don't be afraid. God is with us. God's plan and way is being worked out through us.

Reader One: Joseph stepped into trust and remained resolute in the face of surprise and daze.

Reader Two: God's word came to Joseph in a dream, and God's word comes to us today.

All: As we light the first candle, we join with those who wait. As we light the second candle, we trust with resolve where we feel very weary and unsure.

(Sing Chorus) "Christ, Be Our Light!"







# Meditations For Your Week Sunday, December 10th—Saturday, December 16th



- **Sunday:** "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation." Psalm 62: 1. Prayerfully consider God's ways.
- **Monday:** "Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us." Psalm 62: 8. Where do you need to trust in God by pouring out your heart?
- **Tuesday:** "Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God," Psalm 62: 11. Where do you hear God's voice and see God's power?
- **Wednesday:** "Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly." Matthew 1: 19. Joseph begins in our story as a person of integrity. His life has been lives in righteousness and dignity. Prayerfully seek to live in integrity and dignity.
- **Thursday:** "But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1: 20-21. God has a way of redirecting our good intentions. Make a time of quietude to hear.
- **Friday:** "All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: which means, 'God is with us.' "Matthew 1: 22-23. God speaks through those around us. Who is God speaking through today?
- **Saturday:** "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus." Matthew 1: 24-25. Even in dreams, God can sometimes speak to us. Where do you need to prayerfully listen for the voice of God?

## 8:30 Contemporary Worship Service

### **OPEN**

\*Opening song

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

PraiseWorks Band

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row. First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here.

\*Celebration Set

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

PraiseWorks Band

"You Are My Hiding Place"

\*Passing of the Peace

PraiseWorks Band

### **GROW**

**Advent Wreath Lighting** 

The Howard Family

Children's Choir

Christmas Hope Medley

Mac Catoia, Preston Catoia, Felicity Guepet, Betsy Hill, Charlie Hill, Grace Reisinger, Lindsay Reisinger, Jacob Rinehimer, Clarissa Robinson

Moment For All Ages

Joan Leaman

**Old Testament Lesson** 

Psalm 62

Jordan Howard

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1: 18-25

Jordan Howard

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10. Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.

Sermon

"Father: Resolute and God-Trusting"

Pastor Monica

### **SERVE**

**Moment of Impact** 

Christmas Music Night

Pastor Monica

Offering

"Joseph's Song"

PraiseWorks Band

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Pastor Monica

Gathered Prayer

Pastor Monica

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Monica

i astor Morno

\*Closing Song

"I Walk By Faith"

PraiseWorks Band

\*Benediction

Pastor Monica