



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



***First Sunday After Christmas
Sunday, December 31, 2017***

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

OPEN

Prelude

Welcome

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) (Written by Maren C. Tirabassi) Janis Schrader

One: People trot out like truth: Christmas is for children.

Many: Christmas is also for people of age and experience.

One: Elisabeth, Mary's cousin, and Zechariah, the priest, received new birth breaking all their familiar patterns.

Many: Simeon, the singer, and Anna, the prophet, hoped for years to see the Messiah, and then, recognized the gift in a poor couple's baby.

One: How, then, shall we respond to Christ's promised coming?

Many: With flexibility for change, patience in long waiting, silence and singing, and by recognizing Christ in the least likely brothers and sisters.

*Processional Hymn "Joy To The World" UMH No. 246

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Janis Schrader

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.

**In this new year, we come to you with old fears and new desires,
nagging controversies and possible decisions,
ever-present weaknesses and fresh dreams.**

God of love, you redeem all the mistakes of the past.

God of hope, you create all the potentialities of the future.

God with us always, you walk alongside us into the new year.

**May you move with us in this time to bless our time of remembering
and preparing, we pray, Amen.**

*Passing of the peace Janis Schrader

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

GROW

Moment for All Ages Pastor Monica

5th Sunday Coin Collection/Moment of Impact Pastor Monica

Benefits The Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise

New Testament Lesson	<i>Galatians 4:4-7</i>	Janis Schrader
*Gospel Lesson	<i>Luke 2:22-35</i>	Janis Schrader
*Response to the Lessons		Janis Schrader
One: This is the word of God for the people of God.		
Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.		

Anthem	“A Christmas Blessing”	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	“Simeon: Speaking Words of Blessings”	Pastor Monica
---------------	---------------------------------------	---------------

SERVE

*Hymn of Response	“Sing We Now Of Christmas”	UMH No. 237, v. 1-3
--------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------

Offering

*Offertory Response	“In The Bleak Midwinter”	UMH No. 221, v.4
----------------------------	--------------------------	------------------

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Offertory Prayer (Unison)	Pastor Jim
-----------------------------------	------------

Gracious God and Father of Jesus Christ, we praise you with joyful songs! We are glad to celebrate the birth of your only Son, Jesus. His life is the light of all people. Thank you for opening our eyes to recognize Jesus as our Savior. May our lives and ministries embody Christ’s grace and truth so that our neighbors will find new life in relationship with you. We return a portion of your goodness to us in these tithes and offerings, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathered Prayer	Pastor Jim
------------------------	------------

The Lord’s Prayer	Pastor Jim
--------------------------	------------

*Hymn of Sending Forth	“The First Noel”	UMH No. 245, v.1-4
-------------------------------	------------------	--------------------

*Benediction	Pastor Monica
---------------------	---------------

*Choral Benediction	“Blessing”	Chancel Choir
----------------------------	------------	---------------

***Postlude**

New Testament Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."



The flowers gracing the altar this morning are given in
celebration of
Peter Guepet's 3rd Birthday!

With love,
from his family



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.

Joy to the world! Let us worship and adore the Christ child! 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](http://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 questions or to use a unit.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Electronic Giving Cards can be found in the friendship folders. They are a sign-act 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, January 1st** in observance of New Year's Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7:30 a.m.

**TODAY IS THE FIFTH SUNDAY COIN COLLECTION:** Today, **Sunday, December 31st**, is the fifth Sunday of the month. We will be collecting coins to benefit the Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise.

**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](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net) or 484-643-2181.**

**RAP:** RAP will start the New Year together as we gather on **Friday, January 12th at noon.** Linda Peirson will be our monthly host. Hunter Hale from the Chester County Health Department will present a program on Food Safety. Bring your bagged lunch: desserts and beverages will be provided. Invite your friends!

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2018:** Unfortunately, due to a delay in printing, the giving envelopes for 2018 have not yet arrived. Once they arrive, they will be available for pick up in the lobby. If you have any questions, please see Donna in the office.

**SCRIP SCRIPTS:** We are slowly getting more individuals and families to participate. Even one card can net additional income for the church as count our pennies. Please see **Gene Aucott** with questions.

## THIS WEEK: December 31 through January 7, 2018

~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~~

|                   |                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday:</b>    | <b>First Sunday After Christmas</b><br><b>5th Sunday Coin Collection to Benefit Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise</b> |
|                   | 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band                                                                    |
|                   | 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy                                                                          |
|                   | 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with the Chancel Choir                                                                       |
| <b>Monday:</b>    | <b>Happy New Year! CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>                                                                              |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. SOS Ladies (#5)                                                                                         |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Memory Bells Rehearsal                                                                                  |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 16)                                                                      |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting                                                                               |
|                   | 4:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Girl Scouts Junior Troop #447 (#8 & 10)                                                                 |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts Troop #498 (#12)                                                                        |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Junior Troop #41377 (#8 & 10)                                                               |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting (#1)                                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 16)                                                                      |
|                   | 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)                                                                      |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Girl Scout Lottery Event (Sanc.)                                                                        |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Venture Crew (#8, 10)                                                                                   |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 16)                                                                      |
|                   | 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Music Practice (#6)                                                                                   |
|                   | 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Troop 4567 (#8, 10)                                                                      |
|                   | 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Daisy Troop 461 (#11)                                                                                   |
|                   | 6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (#6)                                                                                    |
|                   | 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #12 (#8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)                                                             |
|                   | 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. PraiseWorks Band Rehearsal (Sanc.)                                                                      |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 16)                                                                      |
|                   | 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. UMW Faith Circle (#8, 10)                                                                              |
|                   | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts Troop 4070 (#8, 10)                                                                     |
| <b>Saturday:</b>  | 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections Group (#8 & 10)                                                                     |
| <b>Sunday:</b>    | <b>Epiphany Sunday</b><br><b>Communion Sunday/Emergency Aid Sunday</b>                                                      |
|                   | 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band                                                                    |
|                   | 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy                                                                          |
|                   | 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with the Chancel Choir                                                                       |
|                   | 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting (#1)                                                                                       |

### God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship Report December 24, 2017

**General Offering: \$8,152.95**  
**Building Maintenance Fund: \$1,600.00**  
**Combined Worship Attendance: 145**  
**Combined Christmas Service Worship Attendance: 334**  
**Emergency Groceries YTD: 186 bags**  
**Anniversary Giving YTD: \$9,675.95**  
**Prayer Bead Garden Donations: \$0.00**  
**Total amount received: \$7,981.00**  
**Goal-\$13,000**  
**Christmas Offering: \$2, 640.00**

***It is your tithes, offerings, and gifts that impact and change lives for Christ!***

### **Moment of Impact**

*Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise*

*Ronald McDonald House serves families of children as children receive care at A.I. DuPont. Families travel from around the country and the world to receive specialized medical care. Ronald McDonald House provides lodging. We provide a meal for those families. Urban Promise Street Leader training is a part of preparing youth leaders for the vital ministry of guiding and mentoring other youth. We provide meals during their times of training. Your donations equip us to feed others as they serve and care for their families*

# 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: Mission Prayer Focus in:

Cory Beattie  
(Shaub)  
Greg Bratton  
(Bratton)



Fran Bryan  
Dee Crawford

Nina Dickinson (B. Ranieri)

Jay Durham (Howard)

Tom Fagan

Ed Farrell (Babcock)

Laura Featherston

Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)

Muff Hurst

Juan Jimenez

Peg Kent

William Kirwin

Wanda Kreutzfeldt

Rosemary MacCoun

Dave McClain

Lynn Morgan

(McClain)

Peggy Mowrer

Tim Mullen

Lola Nadolny (Hruz)

Nancy Pearo (Heist)

Rick Renzulli (McGinley)

Roann Schneider

The family of Bob Shappell  
(Mundell)

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 31st

**Ushers—8:30**

**Greeters—8:30**

**Ushers—11:00**

**Greeters—11:00**

**Acolyte 8:30/11**

**Nursery 8:30/9:45/11**

**C. Worship—8:30/11**

**Lay Reader—8:30**

**Liturgist—11:00**

**Moment All Ages**

**Prayer Room 8:30/11**

**Hospitality 8:30/11**

**Counters**

**Sound Booth**

The Catoias

The Catoias

TBD

Joan Saller

Anna Castaldi/Parker Featherston

C. Bruno/R. Catoia/A. Castaldi

OPEN/Joan Leaman

Julie Hughes

Janis Schrader

Pastor Monica

Pam Howard/Sandi Hampton

John Gambill/Don Hurst

Talley/Michaels

Keith Schneider & various

### Next Sunday, January 7th

The Simmons

The McGinleys

TBD

Joan Saller

Mac Catoia/Nate Robinson

K. Hendrickson/E. Mullen/J. Leaman

OPEN/OPEN

Mike Chalmers

Margee Michaels

Pastor Monica

Nancy Howard/Joan Saller

Rain Catoia/The Stuhrkes

Anderson/Shaub

Keith Schneider & various

# 8:30 Contemporary Worship Service

## OPEN

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>*Opening Song</b>                      | "Glory To God"                                                                                                                                                                | PraiseWorks Band |
| <b>Welcome and Ministry Opportunities</b> | Pastor Monica<br><i>Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.<br/>First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here.</i> |                  |
| <b>*Celebration Set</b>                   | "Our King Has Come"<br>"Word of God Speak"                                                                                                                                    | PraiseWorks Band |
| <b>Passing of the Peace</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                               | PraiseWorks Band |

## GROW

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Moment For All Ages</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                       | Pastor Monica |
| <b>5th Sunday Coin Collection/Moment of Impact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       | Pastor Monica |
| <b><i>Benefits The Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       |               |
| <b>New Testament Lesson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Galatians 4:4-7                       | Julie Hughes  |
| <b>*Gospel Lesson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Luke 2:22-35                          | Julie Hughes  |
| 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. |                                       |               |
| <b>Sermon</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | "Simeon: Speaking Words of Blessings" | Pastor Monica |

## SERVE

|                                  |                             |                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Offering</b>                  | "May The Words of My Mouth" | PraiseWorks Band |
| <b>Offertory Prayer (Unison)</b> |                             | Pastor Shirley   |
| <b>Gathered Prayer</b>           |                             | Pastor Shirley   |
| <b>The Lord's Prayer</b>         |                             | Pastor Shirley   |
| <b>*Closing Song</b>             | "Blessed to Be A Blessing"  | PraiseWorks Band |
| <b>*Benediction</b>              |                             | Pastor Monica    |
| <b>Postlude</b>                  |                             |                  |

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