

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

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## **April 2018**





" When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" Mark 16:1-3

I was a senior in high school when the first school shooting transpired at Columbine. That April 20th, 1999, I went to the place where I was taught to go when things get hard, I went to my church, Hopewell UMC. Some of my youth group gathered in the chapel of our church. No one organized an event. No one sent out an email. No one tweeted an invite. There was no evite to which We, too come together finding signs of respond. No phone call chain. Not even a smoke signal that went up. Somehow, we, who had been raised in the church, knew that when there was an event this terrifying, this horrifying, a stone in our way this big - we gathered together in the church.

There was a whole group of us. Let me paint

the scene for you. Imagine about fifteen high schoolers and junior high students and five youth leaders who loved them. Imagine the fear. School shootings were not nearly as common place as they are now. Sad, as that is to say. We were not used to intruder drills, only fire drills.

Columbine was the first. So, some of us were laying on the dark wooden pews; Others of us lay under the pew, as if that might protect us. Students were curled up in balls crying silently. Others were hugging and wondering if they could ever go back to school. But no one doubted they could be safe in the church.

And then, all of the sudden, our pastor appeared among us. He prayed with us. I don't remember the words, except they were simple and soft. We came to church to pray together, be together, and lean on one another's hope.

"Who will roll away our stones of fear and worry, pain and anxiety, despair and distress" we wonder. On this resurrection day, we find ourselves at various points in our own lives, like the disciples on that Easter morning. God had not left them alone, even then.

resurrection. Those first disciples found the stone was rolled away! And the Risen Lord was out in world. Signs of the resurrection were everywhere!

They couldn't help but tell everyone, even the ones who didn't believe them. With whom will you share hope and signs of the resurrection?



### April Worship at West Grove UMC



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

#### **Resurrection Sunday** Sunday, April 1, 2018 Communion Sunday, \*Emergency Aid

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

**Scripture:** Mark 16:1-11; Colossians 3:1-4 **Sermon:** DO Pause for Resurrection After Easter, we walk with the Risen Christ into the world. Karl Barth, the theologian invites us to "Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from vour Bible." Pastor Monica will take media stories from the current week to share the gospel. Since there are some many arenas to choose from, each week will have a focus.



#### Sunday, April 8, 2018

**Scripture:** Mark 3:13-19; Deuteronomy 31:5-6

Bullying afflicts our children and adults in schools and neighborhood, workplaces and public squares. Jesus calls us to address these challenges together.

#### **Sunday, April 15, 2018 Memory Bells**

**Scripture:** Mark 3:20-27; Philippians 4:1-7

The stigma of mental illness can be as debilitating as the specific diagnoses with which one is working. Jesus understand that a community was needed as part of the solution.

#### Sunday, April 22, 2018

The Reverend Dr. Bronwyn Yocum will be preaching as our guest preacher as Pastor Monica is away at her brother's wedding, Pastor Shirley is at the prayer ministry retreat, and Pastor Jim soon returns from ministry abroad. Pastor Bron is an accomplished preacher, former district superintendent, and holds her doctorate in liturgical studies. You wouldn't want to miss her preaching!

#### Sunday, April 29, 2018 Fifth Sunday Coin Collection

Scripture: Mark 3:28-35; Deuteronomy 10:17-19

God has always reminded God's people that once we were strangers, so we shall welcome the strangers in the land. Jesus urges us to ask who is our brothers and sisters.



Join us for worship is on Easter Sunday, April 1st at 11 am in the Alison Theater. Led by Pastor Shirley Diddario

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



Our Emergency Food Pantry serves our community and provides much needed food and supplies to families in our area. rour donated 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: United Methodist Women

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).



## Pastor's Desk

#### **Update From Pastor Monica**

Dear Friends,

Each call I receive from a scheduler I can hear the grace of God. Each time the plan moves or shifts, I find the grace to pause and see that God's steadfast love is never absent but like a stained glass window always shining through a different window pane (or pain—pun intended).

As I write to give you an update, I want to share that I am filled with gratitude. I have transferred my care to the University of Pennsylvania, Abramson Cancer Center neuroendocrine center. I continue to have more tests of various kinds to verify whether tumors removed were the originating location or the metastasis.

I continue to love your prayers. I have also been blessed your kindness. I am open to your questions of clarifications. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee also wants to help in this way as well. Please feel to reach out to our chair, Kristin Reisinger.

Thank you for the privilege of us walking together on this journey. We walk together, with God's grace.

#### GIVE | SERVE | RESTORE

In the famous passage from Luke 10:27, Jesus encounters a man who may not be so unfamiliar to us. Wanting to cover all his bases, he asks Jesus to tell him what exactly is required of him in order to please God. When Jesus replies to him with the well-known words above, the man isn't satisfied. Yes, but "who is my neighbor?", he asks.

As Christians in our world today, I think we often struggle with a different version of this question: "Yes, but how do I love my neighbor?" We're inundated with messages of need from places as far away as a continent across the world and as close as a house across the street -- needs physical and spiritual, social and emotional. And the correct response isn't always as obvious as it was to The Good Samaritan, who Jesus goes on to depict in the passage above.

The answers are not simple, but let us not be like the man in Luke 10:27, who only wanted a simple answer. This year, with our GSR 2018 financial beneficiary Getting Ahead, we have chosen a program that we believe takes on this question of need and our response differently. How so?

Neighbor, in this case, is quite literal. Getting Ahead engages those living in close proximity to us in a relational, respectful, and restorative journey to a better story. It invites those isolated by poverty into a community of support, addressing them as whole people who need not only bread, but also hope.

As a group of over 25 churches, we have the unique opportunity to support this program in a significant way as it expands throughout Southern Chester County. If you haven't already, consider donating \$30 (adults)/\$3 (kids) to Getting Ahead as part of this year's GSR challenge.

#### Pastor Jim Update

Since last update our ports of call have been Singapore, Cochin and Mumbai, India, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, UAE, and Aqaba, Jordan.

In Abu Dhabi we visited the third largest mosque in the world, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.



On the left is the area inside of the mosque. The picture on the right shows the area around the mosque that is filled with water.

We began to transit the Red Sea on our way to Aqaba, Jordan. In Aqaba, as mentioned before, we spent time in the town while about half the ship went to Petra, the lost city in the mountains of Southern Jordan. When you stand on a

hill in this city you can see Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Since we have started, I've taught 36 daily Bible study sessions and conducted 6 worship services.

Until next time!



## Pastor's Desk, cont.

#### **Books Mentioned In Sermons**





- The Emotional Intelligence of Jesus: Relational Smarts for Religious Leaders by Roy Oswald and Arland Jacobson
- The Magnificent Defeat by Frederick Buechner
- The Last Week: What the Gospel Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem, by Marcus Borg, and John Dominic Crossan
- Following Egeria: A Modern Pilgrim in the Holy Land, by Lawrence Farley

#### Giving Thanks to God!

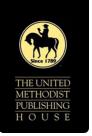
Cindy Haley has been serving as our Delegate to Annual Conference and Lay Leader. We have been blessed! She has served us faithfully! She recently submitted a letter of resignation to the Administration Council to focus on other ministries as well as her family. We give thanks to God for Cindy.

Consider if you might be called to either ministry. See Pastor Monica for more information about attending Annual Conference. Annual Conference is a three day commitment in June. During this time, decisions for the Annual Conference are made, worship is offered, and workshops are held.

#### **BAPTISM**

- Through baptism we are joined with the church and with Christians everywhere.
- Baptism is a symbol of new life and a sign of God's love and forgiveness of our sins.
- Persons of any age can be baptized. We baptize by sprinkling, immersion or pouring.
- A person receives the sacrament of baptism only once in his or her life.
- See One of our Pastors or the Church Office for information about Baptism for you or your children.





#### UM Hymnal Revision Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

The Hymnal Revision Committee of The United Methodist Church held its inaugural meeting March 19-21. The 15 member committee is comprised of a diverse group of laity and

clergy, musicians, scholars, teachers, and worship leaders, representing all 5 jurisdictions in the U. S. and represent variety in age, cultural origin, ministry setting, and experience.

The meeting launched months of activity to identify songs and ritual resources that can be made available in multiple media, including digital downloads and streaming. In addition to hymn texts and tunes, the team will identify and rec-

ommend a wide selection of liturgical resources that provide an essential collection to connect and serve diverse United Methodists in worship. The assortment will be dynamic and augmented at every General Conference going forward.

The committee's many tasks will include work on theology and praxis, reviewing and selecting texts and tunes as well as liturgical resources, and listening deeply to and engaging with congregations to understand their needs and support their ministries.

"Although the work is a little overwhelming, I am hopeful as we are guided by the Holy Spirit that this collection will touch hearts and transform lives," said committee member Monya Davis Logan.



## GROW



#### CHRIST SERVANT MINISTERS

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.

#### **COMMUNITY DAY OF PRAYER**

May 3rd is the National Day of Prayer. On that day, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, local Christians will gather together at Penn Park to unite in prayer for our nation and local community.

The theme is UNITY and prayers will be offered for the eight centers of influence in our culture, i.e., government, military, media arts, business, education, church, family and community.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our Community Day of Prayer. How fortunate we are to live in a country where we can gather and pray in public! Invite your family members, friends and neighbors to join others from Oxford to Kennett Square as we visibly unite and lift our voices in unity to God.

What a blessed event it will be as we come together to pray and worship our Lord!



#### Sunday Mornings View and Chew:

## Cultivating Tenderheartedness in Race Relations

Watch at home - discuss it here the last Sunday of each month from February through June (note two exceptions)! The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to be tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32). Enhancing understanding through education is a means to move from mere tolerance to tenderheartedness. Each month participants will be assigned a movie, videos, or You Tubes to watch that speak to relations between white people and people of color. A list of questions to consider will be sent with the assigned video or movie. Watch it at your leisure, but come ready to share your reactions and responses with the others. Please email Mel Leaman regarding your participation at jmleaman@comcast.net or sign-up in the narthex. **Sunday - April 29** - Slavery by another name: Incarceration

**Sunday - May 20** – Cracking the Codes: Systems of Inequality

**Sunday, June 10** – Perspectives on Healing and Reconciliation



#### LUTHER HOUSE BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet on Wednesdays from 2 - 3:00 PM in Building #1. Everyone is invited to join us as we delve deeper into God's Word and share love and support for one another.

During the season of Lent we will be studying, "Encounters on the Road to the Cross," by Robert Martin Walker. In this 7-week study we will meet characters that tell of their encounter with Jesus, as we find ourselves standing in their shoes and seeing Jesus through their eyes. "From this fresh perspective, we open ourselves to knowing Jesus better and understanding anew what it means for us to encounter him in our life and time." If you have any questions about joining us, please contact Cindy Haley at 484-702-7071.

# MLK CELEBRATION April 4

Willowdale Chapel in Kennett Square is hosting a **Convocation Celebration Service of Dr. Martin Luther King's Spirit and Life** on the 50th anniversary of his death.

**Dr. John Moore**, renowned King portrayer, will bring to life parts of the modern prophet's most profound messages, including "I Have a Dream," "I've Been to the Mountaintop" and "The Drum Major Instinct." Music and prayers will round out the event as people of all races and backgrounds gather to share Dr. King's passion for peace, love and justice.



This is a community event.
All are welcome!
Childcare will be available.
Willowdale Chapel
675 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA

#### PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH

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

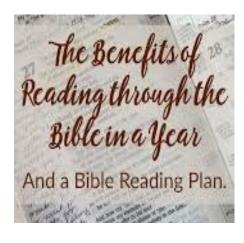
- God will move us from hearers of the word, to doers.
- Each person of the community will be welcomed here as a child of God.
- God will strengthen and grow leadership in our faith community for the next ways God is calling us to DO Faith.



## 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



On Sunday,
May 6, we will join
our friends at
Twin Pines
Nursing Home for



a service at 2:00 p.m. filled with song and prayer. All are welcome to join us!

### **Hearing Assistive Devices**

Do you sometimes miss what's been said in worship?



Do you want to make sure you get every word?

We give thanks to God the technology we have in the sanctuary that can help everyone hear.

Head back to sound booth in the sanctuary and ask one of sound booth technicians about our hearing assistive devices. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you. We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.

# VOCATIONAL INTERN PROGRAM FOR MINISTRY

Are you considering a future in ministry? The Vocational Intern Program of the Eastern PA Conference is seeking interested college-level adults for paid ministerial internships.

- Gain valuable ministry experience
- Help build new or sustain existing communities
- Have financial support while you learn.

The deadline for applying is May 18, 2018.

For more information, please pick up a flier located in the narthex.





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

#### Open~ Grow ~ Serve

How can you stretch to meet our 2018 goals?

- 1. *INVITE:* someone to join you for a church service.
- 2. **READ:** Read Mark chapters 3 and 16.
- 3. **SERVE:** Join us in service. Consider what your service project for GSR will be. Can you make a meal for a friend in need or help someone who needs a extra hand around their house?

#### PRAYER ROOM UPDATE

Our PRAYER ROOM is taking on some new touches. Candles (battery operated), reading materials, scripture on the wall, and a brand new prayer board. This board is larger, as our previous board was full! We hope these changes will make the room more inviting and comfortable.

Also, look in the narthex for the Prayer Jar, where your answered prayers are remembered.

### New Membership Class Save the Date—April 28

Have you been thinking about joining the church?

Have you been wanting to learn more about how you could get plugged in here at West Grove UMC?

Join us on Saturday, April 28th at 9am for breakfast and more information.

No obligation. Enjoy breakfast, have a cup of coffee, drink some tea, hear about the church.

#### The 35th Laity Academy

Save the Date—August 3-5, 2018

'Pass It On- Spreading God's Word Through Action!'

As members of Christ's Church we all have a role to play—no matter how small or large—Paul says it very directly in Corinthians 12 where he tells us that every part of the body of Christ has a role and that the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body."

Class, Registration & Hotel information will be posted after April 1.

#### **Daily Meditations**

They are written one for each day of the week as a short meditation and question to begin

your day. Take your bulletin home and read each day. May your relationship with God be enriched. They are also available on Facebook and our website!



## SERVE

#### **FAMILY PROMISE**

**April 22-29** 

#### **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 Scott Steel's home for storage,

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

Look for sign up in the lobby with a list of food items needed as well as volunteering to serve during the week our guests are here. Also, we are looking for someone who has truck for transporting the cots. Please contact **Joan Leaman at jmleaman@comcast.net or 484-643-2181 for more information.** 

#### **GSR Service Event:**

### A Meal for the Garage West Grove Adult Bible Study

On February 28, members of our congregation got together at the church and prepared a meal for twelve at The Garage. Sue and Sydney Curtis took point on creating a beautiful green salad. Janice Bowers and Cindy Haley prepared a Salsa Chicken and Rice Casserole. Mel Leaman ended it by single-handedly preparing a beautiful Sopapilla Cheesecake!

The folks at the garage were thankful for our service to them.





## **Annual Spring Rummage Sale**

Set-Up on Thursday, May 3, 12:00 p.m. Sale, Friday, May 4: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sale, Saturday, May 5: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Household goods, adult and children's clothing, toys, and lots of other "treasures" will be for sale. On Saturday, all shoppers may fill a bag for \$2.00

### How can you help?

This is a biannual event pioneered by the United Methodist Women. It offers gently used clothing and household items to the community at record low prices. Many families in our community attend this event and the bargains are very helpful to them in these hard economic times. In order for the event to be held, many hands are needed for the physical labor of setting up the sanctuary and putting the items out on tables on the Thursday before the Friday sale. Then the reverse must happen on Saturday to get the sanctuary set up for Sunday worship. It is also helpful to have a half dozen people available during the busiest sale hours to help with check out on Friday and Saturday morning. Please consider lending an hour or two. The United Methodist Women use the proceeds of this event for various missions or additions to our church.

Also needed, of course, are donations of gently used clothing and household items. These can be brought to the church during office hours the week before the sale.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted in the lobby.

We will be setting up on Thursday, May 3 at 12 p.m.

So, start cleaning and sorting and we will see you at the sale!

Your gently used donations can be dropped off in the lobby coat closet beginning Sunday, April 29 through Wednesday, May 2. The church office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank you!

# 5th SUNDAY COIN COLLECTION April 29

It's time to collect your loose change! Check the sofa cushions, the bottom of your purse and anywhere else loose change might be lurking.

Bring your loose change to church on April 29 for the 5th Sunday Coin Collection.



#### PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Ministry Team of nine servants, follow West Grove United Methodist's traditions to be 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 (NKJV)

3:5-6



## Our Emergency Food Bank Depends on You!



WGUMC's Emergency Pantry has distributed over 40 bags of food in just this first month of 2018! 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 many in our community are struggling this 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!

#### **VISITATION**

Would YOU like to make a visit to a sister or brother in our church family?

Call Pastor Shirley

484-268-0497

#### **Bridges Out of Poverty**

The Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON) is a community-wide initiative based on the Bridges Out of Poverty model. Bridges Out of Poverty is a framework for understanding poverty through the lens of economic class and a model for addressing poverty in a comprehensive way at the community level. It asks all sectors of the community business, nonprofit, education, local governments, etc. - to come to the table and engages those in poverty as problem solvers.

In 2014, a group of local nonprofit leaders and volunteers began to gather and ask each other the question: what can we do to move beyond charity -"quick fix" solutions for those in need - to a community that provides supports and a way up and out for those experiencing poverty. We believe that creating a community where everyone can thrive is a task that belongs to all of us. Bridges Out of Poverty provides a model to bring people together across economic class and sector to do the work that none of us can do alone.



#### SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY BY THE CONGREGATION

Guided by the Trustees Saturday, April 21, 2018 8:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

(or as much time as you can provide that day)

The Trustees hope you can help us make our Church an inviting place to come & worship.

Sign-up sheets with lists of things we would like to get done by that day are in the Narthex. Vernon Ramberger or another Trustee will be there to answer questions.

#### **Community Garden Plots Project**

The BRIDGE (a Avon Grove Community Food Cupboard) housed at the Church of the Nazarene on State Road near the High School has approached us to ask if our community Garden plots could be used to grow fresh produce that they could provide to those in need. They hope to find a leader/co-leader who would supervise the tilling, planting, weeding, harvesting, & delivering to the Bridge.

Volunteers in helping with anyone of these aspects would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers can be from the Bridge, WG-UMC, Nazerene Church, or the Community at Large. Teens, teenagers, adults are all welcome & encouraged to apply.

We would like to make sure these garden Plots are ready by fixing the existing ones & cleaning the area for use during Spring Clean-up. More will be added as

interest & Volunteers enlist to help.

There is a great need for fresh produce to serve this ministry.

Yours in Service to God,



#### PRAYER BEAD GARDEN PAVERS

The Prayer Bead Garden team is offering an opportunity to purchase a *Bead* (paver) in Honor or Memory of a loved one. The names of those Honored or Memorialized will be listed in a laminated book and displayed. A full Bead (paver) is \$100.00 or a quarter Bead for \$25.00. Checks may be made out to West Grove United Methodist Church with Prayer Bead Garden in the memo.

		Price each	Quantity	
	Full Bead Paver	\$100.00		\$
	Quarter Bead Paver	\$25.00		\$
	Totals:			\$
contact Pasto	•	, or the Prayer Bead	Garden Team with question	the Dedication Book. Please ns or concerns .
In Honor of	•			
Your Name:			Envelope #	Amount \$

#### **MISSION POSSIBLE**

Thank you, thank you to everyone who helped with Hygiene Kits for UMCOR—from the generous donations to the hands that assembled them.



Our goal was 100 kits—and we were able to surpass this goal and complete 150 kits!

The kits were blessed on Palm Sunday and are being delivered to Mission Central.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued love and support of our Mission.





#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Pancake Breakfast at West Grove UMC Saturday, June 9th



7 a.m.-10.a.m.

Tickets for this All-You-Can-Eat Pancake

Breakfast are only \$6 each. We love children, and those under the age of 3 are invited to eat for free! The menu includes Pancakes, Sausage links, Fruit Cup and beverages. We also offer Gluten-Free Pancakes!

You can purchase your tickets in advance at the church or you can buy them at the door.

Please call the church at <u>610-869-9334</u> if you have any questions or need additional information.

# 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. Worship 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 the Office for 8:30 volunteers.

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



# Grants to Assist in Defraying Higher Education Costs

April 30 is rapidly approaching. On that date, the Education Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church will be accepting grant applications to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2018-2019 school year. The application is available on the Conference website. It can be accessed as "Grants to Defray Higher Education Costs." at the following website address:

epaumc.org/administration/finance/higher-education-scholarships

All applications received in the Conference Office (between and including) April 30 to May 21 will be considered for a grant. Like last year, all applications will be considered. Unless there is some disqualification, grant recipients will be randomly selected.



# SAVE THE DATE!! JULY 9-13 VBS 2018 NEEDS YOU!!

VBS 2018 at WGUMC is planned for the week of July 9-13 from

9:00-noon for children age 3 through those entering grade 6. The theme is "Rolling River Rampage"-Experience the Adventure of a Lifetime with God! We need lots of volunteers, both adults and youth. Please let Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) know, ASAP, if you would like to help. Thanks!!

# 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 during Sunday School and both services.

or 610-468-4321.



If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at <a href="mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com">ahass17@hotmail.com</a>

# From Vision to Action

Our Vision is moving forward! Children are at the heart of our life together!

We are hiring for a Children's Ministry Coordinator.

If you know someone who loves children, get excited about designing kid-friendly experiences, and can not squeeze in enough creative uses for recyclable projects - this might just be the role for you (or someone you know!)

Pray about it or Pass it on to someone you thought about.

#### DEA National Drug Take Back Day April 28, 2018 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The National Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. The majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

The DEA's Take Back Day event provides an opportunity for Americans to prevent addiction and overdose deaths. Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

As part of the ongoing effort to curb the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania, there are now 65 prescription drug take-back boxes at Pennsylvania State Police(PSP) stations across the commonwealth. Boxes located in PSP stations are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. PSP Troop J Avondale is located at 2 Moxley Lane, Avondale.

(Information obtained from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.)



Looking for a way to serve? Here are some current opportunities:

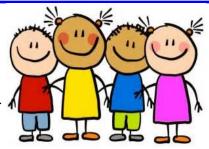
**Monday Office Help**—Mondays are the busiest days in the church office. Having an extra pair of hands would be a wonderful way to keep the office running efficiently.

**Sunday Helpers Coordinator**—Remember how Helen did a great job organizing the helpers for Sundays? We need another Helen.

Interested? Contact Donna Fackler for more information.

# CNO PRESCHOOL

March definitely came in like a lion!! I think it is safe to say, all of the preschool teachers and children are ready for some warmer weather so we can get back outside to play. During March, the



children were busy learning about Spring, Rainbows, and how to catch a leprechaun. Those leprechauns are tricky and we haven't been able catch one yet! The month was finished with preparing for Easter. Also during March we had our Spring/Summer Children's Consignment Sale. Once again, we had a successful sale. As you know, these sales are a way for our preschool program to raise additional funds that go a long way in providing for the preschool children. I can not say thank you enough to everyone who consigns, shops, and especially volunteers their time during the sale. The sale would not be a success without all of you. Our registration for next year is on going and we do still have just a few openings in some of our classes. If you or anyone you know may be looking for a preschool, please encourage them to reach out to me. As always, the support of this mission of the church amazes me. Thank you all for allowing us to provide for so many children and families in the community.

#### CMO CHAPEL TIME

- Books from March ChapelTime:
- Week of March 5th The Boy Who Shared His Lunch: Read Aloud Volume 2
- Week of March 12th The
  Man Who Was Too Little
  Read Aloud Volume 1
- Week of March 19th Younger: The Story of
  Easter: A Spark Bible Story
  part 1
- As we read the story of Zacchaeus, I asked each of the classes what they would feed Jesus if he would come to their houses for dinner. Here are some of the highlights:
- Chicken Nuggets
- Mac and Cheese
- Pizza

- Syrup (I asked, really, just syrup, no pancakes or french toast with it)
- Cookie Sticks
- Candy
- On a Special Plate
- Salad
- Chocolate Cream Pie
- London Broil
- Cake
- Yogurt

So, our friends would treat
Jesus to their best if Jesus
would come to their
houses. We hope you
would, too!



# CMO ART SHOW Tuesday, April 24 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Join us for the WGUMC CMO and Preschool Art Show. Art is such a wonderful way to express yourself and your creativity. Art is a process and we love for the children to be able to express themselves though art. Every child will have art on display in the Sanctuary. Each class has also created two art projects. We will be auctioning off these class projects through a silent auction. The classes have worked really hard on creating these beautiful works of art and we hope that you will see the love and beauty in each of them.

Bidding Art will be 6:00-



on Class Projects from 6:30.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Worship @ Friday Night Live! Friday, April 13 7:00 p.m.

We are adding another event to our lineup: Worship @ Friday Night Live!

This will be a night of interactive and high energy worship that's a cross between a Christian dance party and a praise service.



Bad Movie Night Friday, April 27 7:00 p.m.

About fifteen folks came out for our first Bad Movie Night! We watched "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman" and had a good time making fun of it.



Come out and join us. Invite your friends. Let's see how many people we can get to come out!

Please note—This program is for youth, young adult and young at heart. No children under 6th grade please.

# Dodgeball!

Dodgeball & Pizza Night Friday, April 13 7:00 p.m.

This continues to be a favorite among dodgeball players and pizza lovers alike. As the weather gets warmer we might try some outdoor games too! But, for now, we're sticking with dodgeball. And remember, as Patches O'Houlihan says: "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball!"

Bring \$2 for pizza (if you can) and invite your friends.



PB&J Club

Sunday, May 6 Following 11:00 a.m. Service

Come join us as we make PB&J sandwiches for the homeless. This is a fun and easy way for us to be the heart and hands of Jesus for hungry people living on the streets.

### THANK YOU to everyone who made our first PB&J Club a success!







# FUN & FITNESS



#### BIKE SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2017 8AM 300 N. Guernsey Rd. West Grove. PA 19390

Please join us for the second annual Bike Southern Chester County to benefit **Family Promise**. The ride starts at West Grove United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration starts at 7:30 AM and rides start at 8 AM. NEW for 2018 – a 8 mile ride for the whole family to enjoy!



**Register** online at: www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880; or mail a check made out to West Grove United Methodist Church, 300 N. Guernsey Rd, West Grove, PA 19390.

**Cost**: \$40 until April 30<sup>th</sup>; \$50 the day of event. 8, 35 or 50 Mile routes available through beautiful Southern Chester County – see lovely farmland, scenic woods with rushing creeks and rolling hills. (Rain or shine, no refunds.)



**RIDE INCLUDES**: Two rest stops with food and drink (35 and 50 mile only), Lunch for all riders, SAG support vehicles, well-marked routes as well as cue sheets. Helmets required!

For more information: http://westgroveumc.org/bike-southern-chester-county/



#### Day & Overnight Programs

Providing an impactful Christian camping experience.

Registration is now open!

Campers and retreat guests come from all walks of life, denominations, and other organizations to enjoy the facilities and programs.

Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center, near Mt. Gretna, PA is about 15 minutes east of Hershey, PA.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center. For more information, visit www.gretnaglen.org

God's Place Apart.
Transforming Lives.



# Registration is now open!

Innabah is excited to celebrate our 89th year of camping ministry this year!
Located in beautiful Chester County on 179 acres,
Innabah Camp and Retreat Center offers a wide range of camping and retreat opportunities.

At Innabah, our mission is to provide experiences that last a lifetime in an environment where campers and guests can make new friends, challenge themselves, and explore and grow in their faith. In addition to continuing our long standing camp traditions, we are excited to offer many new summer camp sessions and activities for the 2018 camping season.

Brochures are available at the Welcome Center. For more information, visit www.innabah.org

United in Christ

Committed to Transformation.



#### Susan Paisley, RN Parish Nurse



#### How to Boost Your Willpower to Help Make Healthy Choices Easy

Cheating on your diet or exercise plan? Struggling with self-control or impulse choices? Science shows that willpower can get depleted! Learn how you can strengthen it and increase your ability to resist temptation.

#### Willpower May Be a Finite Resource

Willpower is the epic battle in your prefrontal cortex between the WILL of your logic and the POWER of your emotions.

You know this battle so well. Do you choose the chili cheese fries or have a side of grilled asparagus? After a hard day, do you hit the gym or have margaritas with your crew? Our lives are a constant game of "this or that" that often ends up feeling like "would you rather."

Exerting your willpower can be exhausting. Sometimes you feel like you can't make the best choice and you just can't resist any longer. And there's a reason for that.

Your willpower may be an exhaustible, finite resource. It may be used up over the course of a day in lots of tiny ways. This is called ego depletion.

Research by social psychologist Roy Baumeister and others suggests that if someone initially resists a temptation like warm chocolate chip cookies, the person is then less capable of resisting another willpower challenge or making a difficult decision.

Translation: Doing something tough may use up some willpower, which makes resisting temptation super hard.

Ok, so what can you do about this depletion? Don't fret, here are some simple strategies to level up your willpower.

Arrange things and make decisions when your willpower is sky high.

**Clean**. Get rid of all the temptations. If all the junk food is gone you won't have to resist later.

**Commit**. If you have a plan with a friend for spin class, you won't have to wonder what you're doing later.

**Optimize**. Change your timing for tasks, like grocery shopping right after a meal when your willpower is strong. If you don't use your willpower to battle the cookie aisle in the store, you'll have reserves for resisting dessert later tonight.

## Boost your willpower in the moment it is being challenged.

**Postpone**. "Not now, maybe later." Saying a simple phrase like this can reduce your impulse to listen to that devil on your shoulder.

**Distract**. Try distracting yourself to see if your impulse chills out. Giving yourself something else to focus on can calm the brewing willpower battle.

**Hide**. Remove the temptation from your view or remove yourself from the situation. In the classic "marshmallow experiment," even little kids trying to use willpower to wait for a delicious, squishy marshmallow had more luck if they simply hid it from their view. One kid sat on it to get it out of view! If a kid can do it, so can you.

#### Learn how to strengthen your willpower.

**Meditate**. Yep, this one again. Even brief, 10-minute mindfulness meditations, done over time, can improve your self-control. The deal with mindfulness is you learn to bring your thoughts back to the present moment as they start to wander. And every time you do this, you're flexing your willpower muscle.

**Sleep**. It always come back to getting enough sleep, we know! Studies indicate that getting enough sleep matters for your willpower, too. Healthy sleep can lower psychological strain, give you better self-control, and replenish self-regulatory energy. That's all a fancy way of saying, "Get to bed!"

**Stop swearing**. It's not a joke. Baumeister suggests that challenging yourself to change a speech pattern, like using "hello" instead of "hey" or dropping that expletive and replacing it with something else, can help you learn to extend your willpower.

#### Excuse your setback and get on with it!

Forgiving yourself for an oops moment frees up your willpower, so you can resist next time. It's ok, you're human, and you're going to make mistakes.

In other words, using the first letter of each of these strategies, A-B-L-E, be able! Using your willpower doesn't have to use up all your willpower.

Which willpower boost are you going to try next time you're in a logic vs. emotion throwdown?

Authored by American Heart Association, Healthy For GoodTM .



#### Retired Active People (R.A.P.) Friday, April 13

RAP met on Friday,

March 9, and enjoyed an afternoon program of music presented by Mel Leaman and Friends.

Thank you Vernon Ramberger for being our host.



Our next gathering is Friday, April 13 at noon.
Please join us as Dr. Bob Hayes presents the program entitled, "The Medical Aspects of the Crucifixion."

Bring your friends and your lunch! Beverages and desserts are provided. Join our host,

Karen Boyd, for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

As we near the end of celebrating RAP's 20th year anniversary, a special program is being planned in 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 former and current members. Envelopes to make a donation toward the tree and bench are provided at our greeters table. Please contribute as you feel led. Checks may be made to WGUMC with RAP

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, April 14, 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

Faith Circle is taking a mid-winter break.

Watch for an announcement in the newsletter and bulletin for our Spring start-up date.



#### LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Our Facebook page is a great resource for keeping up-to-date on what is going on here at church.

Be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook.

And when you are at church, check-in on Facebook to let us know you are here!





R.O.M.E.O.

Retired Older Men Eating Out

April 26, 2018

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.

## STEWARDSHIP



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

ltem	Quantity	Approximate Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!)	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 (Dream fulfilled!!!)	1	\$ 150

#### **SCRIP** Scripts

**SCRIP HAS A NEW CONTACT PERSON!** Gene Aucott, the Chair of Trustees, has taken over the SCRIP program since the departure of John Boyd. Should you have any questions, he is the man to contact! His email is <a href="mailto:gene.aucott@comcast.net">gene.aucott@comcast.net</a> or you can leave a message on his home phone #610-869-7355.

You can also ask to be added to his SCRIP ordering group for reminder emails! Remember, by purchasing gift cards through the church for things you need anyway (gas, restaurants, lots of stores) you are helping the church to get a small rebate in return. The more of us who order, the larger the rebate which goes directly to the Mission and Ministry of the church!

Proverbs 13:16 A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't,

#### SHOP & SMILE!

Did you know that you can help WGUMC just by shopping on Amazon? It doesn't cost you anything and earns the church a donation! **IT'S EASY!!!** Type in *smile.amazon.com* in your browser, choose West Grove United Methodist Church as your charity and then shop away! It is all the same stuff, no fees. Tell your family and friends too! It's that easy. A percentage of your spending dollars will be credited to the church.

We received 25.68 from October 1st through December 31st, 2017. Thank you for shopping!

#### APRIL STATISTICAL REPORT

#### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND ONLINE WORSHIP

As promised, we reflect this month on Worship Attendance and Online Worship.

In 2016, we worshiped an average of 188 persons on a Sunday morning. This means on an average Sunday morning between both services there would 188 persons at worship. In 2017, there has been a growth in the number of persons in worship of 8 people. This is 4%. We give thanks to God for you inviting your friends and neighbors to join us in worship. This is the OPEN part of our mission. For our mathematicians and statisticians: These numbers do include both average Sunday mornings and holy days and holidays as both are part of our understandings of what it is to be the body of Christ.

Previous to 2017, West Grove UMC had not formally hosted any online worship opportunities and the denomination had not asked us previously to measure how people were connecting with us in online venue. We did however have a social media presence through our website, Facebook, and YouTube. In 2017, we begun dabbling with online worship. On Christmas Eve at our 11pm service, we livestreamed through Facebook Live. Our analytics tabulate 39 unique views for just that 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Throughout the year, we estimate approximately 290 unique views on our website for sermons and have since turned on the goggle analytics for exact numbers. We also use YouTube to host our worship videos, including anniversary videos, Psalm 23 video, and Moments of Impacts. Those analytics tally 141 unique views.

This tabulated to 410 persons worshipping online for 2017. We give thanks to God for sharing the good news in multiple medium. We look forward to additional ways we can use those mediums in 2018. We need your volunteer help to staff these great technologies. Can you help us with the sound board or camera or PowerPoint? Please let Keith Schneider know.

Are you subscribed to our YouTube channel, checking sermons on our website, live-streaming service?

You don't want to miss it!



Look next month for reflections about baptism, professions, and constituents (which has nothing to do with voting - even as some of us head off to the polls for primary voting in May!).



#### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

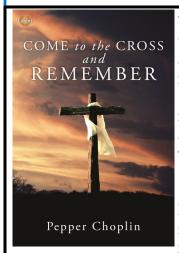


If you are planting a garden this year, you might preparing seeds inside. You might be ordering what you need and setting in your mind what you will be doing. Preparation is key. In our community of faith, preparation is no different. Have you considered investing in West Grove for the future? Our Endowment funds are set up to assist us in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to

generations to come! Sharing the good news to our children, their children, and beyond!

As we prepare the seeds for spinach and tomatoes, let us consider contributing to endowment fund to plant seeds of the gospel. Talk to Pastor Monica for more information.

# 3 Thank You &



We give thanks to God for the incredible preparation and gifts that the choir offered through the cantata, "Come to the Cross and Remember." What a moving and inspirational morning in worship.

Some of the comments overheard included: "Such a meaningful morning" "My favorite cantata" "This was

amazing" "There was not a dry eye", "Fantastic music", "amazing service"

Praise to God for the choir, to all who were involved! A special thanks to Betsy Smith as our incredible choir director as well as Keith Schneider for tireless work behind the scenes.

Your generosity in giving to the emergency aid fund changes lives. We work with the social service agen-



cies in our community to connect those in our community with sustainable solutions to creating bridges out of poverty. Your generosity has allowed us this quarter to work with people to provide a washer and dryer, pay utility bills, provide clothing for children and vulnerable adults, feed veterans, provide gas cars, assist folks living out of their cars, help folks into Family Promise, connect people with the Bridge and Kenett Area Community Services as well the Peacemakers Center. Your giving is truly the hands and feet of Christ. Thank you for giving.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

This rotation, our Sunday School has been learning about Jesus' last week.

They have created a banner to share the story.

Take a look in the Education Wing to see what they have created.

On Palm Sunday, they learned about the tradition of a Seder.

Ask one of the children to tell you about the bitter herbs or about trying horse radish!







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

James 1:22

## EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE NEWS

#### **Annual Conference**

"We Will All Be Changed" will be the theme of the next Eastern PA Annual Conference June 14-16, 2018. The prophetic theme—perhaps a timely, symbolic one for our denomination—comes from 1 Corinthians 15:51. ("Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed...")

The conference will feature a morning teaching session led by the Rev. Eric H. F. Law, an Episcopalian priest, who founded and directs the Kaleidoscope Institute. The institute, which provided anti-racism training for the Conference Cabinet in 2016, promotes "inclusive, sustainable churches and communities."

For over two decades, Law has authored books, led trainings and produced resources to help denominations in the U.S. and Canada, including several UMC annual conferences, create transformative experiences to foster and embrace greater cultural diversity and inclusiveness. That goal remains an ongoing one for our conference and others.

The Rev. Justin Hancock, a clergy member of the North Texas Conference, will preach the opening worship service ("We Will All Be Present") on Thursday, June 14, before the session is called to order and Holy Conferencing begins. Working with college students on campus and in the local church has given him "a passion for helping people discover who God designed them to be."

Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi, who leads the Pittsburgh Episcopal Area (Western PA Conference), will preach the Service of Ordination ("We Will All Be Sent") on Friday evening. A former superintendent in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, she was one of two African American clergywomen elected to the episcopacy at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2016, a historic achievement.

And Presiding Bishop Peggy Johnson will preach the Memorial Service ("We Will All Be Changed") on Saturday morning before the session resumes.

The remainder of the agenda will include necessary conference business as usual, with resolutions and reports, award presentations, visitors' greetings, celebration of ministries and monitoring for

## Celebrating the Resurrection in Central-Congo A witness to resilient hope and radical hospitality

As we prepare to celebrate and share the timeless story of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 1, Eastern PA Conference members and friends are invited to also come learn about "The Resurrection Faith of our Congolese Brothers and Sisters." That's the title of a dynamic visual and vocal presentation planned for April 15, at 6 to 8 PM, at Otterbein UMC, 181 Walnut Street, Mont Clare, PA.

All are welcome to attend, at no cost, to see and hear compelling stories of an exciting, successful mission partnership from members of a joint Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware conference team that visited the Democratic Republic of Congo in February. The eight-member team, led by Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, spent about two weeks visiting and volunteering among various, life-changing mission sites supported by our four-conference Congo Partnership.

Bishop Johnson and Taylor-Storm will join the Rev. Bob Wilt and Tony Barnett, both of Lima UMC, to share what they witnessed, learned and loved about their resilient sisters and brothers in the household of faith at Mpasa, Wembo Nyama and other mission sites.

Come learn and celebrate enthusiastic accounts of God's mission bearing fruit—fruit that will last—in the Central Congo Area, with the help of faithful partners and the support of Eastern PA Conference churches.



300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390 Phone: 610-869-9334, Fax: 610-869-0110 E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org Website: www.westgroveumc.org



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 Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org

Kim Nuzzaci - Administrative Assistant adminasst@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director Contemporary Music Interim Director Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director <u>davsan5@comcast.net</u>

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director <u>Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org</u>

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, RN - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

OPEN - Delegate to Annual Conference

OPEN - Lay Leader

OPEN - U.M.W. President

Prayer Team - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Karen Hruz-Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

John Gambill, Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large