



# The Wesleyan Star

## West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road,  
West Grove, Pa. 19390

Phone: 610-869-9334,

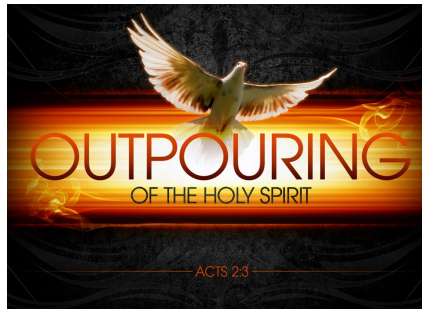
Fax: 610-869-0110

E:mail: [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

## May 2018

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." Acts 2:1-3*



So the disciples were settled into a routine with Jesus again. They been in routine with Jesus for three years of teaching, preaching, healing, and journeying. They thought they had understood life together. They understood that within this life, there was give and there was take. There was change, and there was difference. But they knew to go with the flow.

Then the changes were larger than they could have imagined. The waves bigger than they could ride. Jesus' talk of death, the trial, his crucifixion, and burial. Devastation, deeper and darker, than they had ever experienced.

The women went to care for his body, like others before. It was like the pattern of normalcy was resuming, however deeply sad. When they came back with their blabber of rising from the dead, it was like cruel joke. No one could fall for that joke.

Then, Jesus came among the disciples. ALIVE! He was really alive. The disciples touched him. They watched him eat and knew him to be alive! It was like death had been a bad dream. But death and resurrection were the fulfillment and realization of the words of Jesus.

So, for fifty days, the disciples learned more and went deeper with Jesus. It felt like the routine had come back. When Jesus ascended to God the Father, he promised that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, would gift the followers of Jesus with gifts and fruits of the Spirit. Looking up at the sky, Jesus left the disciples with their mouths hanging open at the sky.

Then, the wind blew and the tongues of fire came upon the heads of all of the disciples. This is the festival of

Pentecost. Here, the disciples came to realize: No longer is there routine and predictability. But rather, dependence on the way of God.

This is one of the hardest lessons for all of the followers of Jesus: Depending on God's timing and not our own sense of how we desire for life's seasons to unfold, deepens a disciple's prayer life and experience of the Holy Spirit.

Here at West Grove, this is an exciting season. Each of our ministries has been modeling and learning to life lives of prayer and dependence on God.

The Holy Spirit is often described as the wind. The wind is seen by the effects, but not in essence. Rachel Held Evans, the writer, describes the Holy Spirit this way: "The Spirit is like wind, earth's oldest sojourner, which in one place readies a sail, in another whittles a rock, in another commands the trees to bow, in another gently lifts a bridal veil. Wind knows no perimeter. The wildest of all wild things, it travels to every corner of a cornerless world and amplifies the atmosphere. It smells like honeysuckle, curry, smoke, sea. It feels like a kiss, a breath, a burn, a sting. It can whisper or whistle or roar, bend and break and inflate. It can be harnessed, but never stopped or contained; its effects observed while its essence remains unseen. To chase the wind is folly, they say, to try and tame it the very definition of futility. "The wind blows wherever it pleases," Jesus said. "You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). We are born into a windy world, where the Spirit is steady as a breeze and as strong as a hurricane. There is no city, no village, no wilderness where you cannot find it, so pay attention." (Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving, and finding the church, 196)

May this Pentecost find you paying attention to the movement of God's spirit when your routine moves around you.

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica



## May Worship at West Grove UMC

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



**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

**Communion Sunday**

**\*Emergency Aid**

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

**Scripture:** Mark 4:1-9; Acts 2:44-45

**Sermon:** DO Give Seeds

God sprinkles extravagantly and cleverly in large and small ways in our lives in economic ways. Jesus tells the stories of seeds to illustrate and provoke our response and urge our reaction.

**Sunday, May 13, 2018**

**Ascension Day**

**Mother's Day**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:44-53; Ephesians 1:15-23

**Sermon:** I DO Believe in the Resurrection

The disciples found themselves staring at the sky with the mouths open amazed at what had happened. Jesus changes our lives. When we believe in the resurrection, our lives are changed here and now, as well as then and there!

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**

**Pentecost**

**Reception of New Members**

**Memory Bells**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-13; Romans 8:22-27

**Sermon:** I DO Believe in the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, we pray. Then, we are amazed, when our vision is inspired with God's way. Who is this third part of God? Let's meet the Holy Spirit.

**Sunday, May 27, 2018**

**Trinity Sunday**

**Scripture:** Psalm 29; John 3:1-17

**Sermon:** I DO Believe in the Trinity

Trinity is a true mystery. Most of the conflict in the church has been fought over the mystery of trinity. How can peel back the layers of who God is?



Join us for worship is on  
**May 13th at 11 am**  
in the **Alison Theater**.  
Led by Pastor Jim.

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

**First  
Sunday**

Our Emergency Food Pantry serves our community and provides much needed food and supplies to families in our area. Your donations are appreciated. An Emergency Aid donation envelope can be found in your bulletin on First Sundays as well. The funds collected help others in need with rent, utility bills, etc. Thank you for your generosity!  
**Our next First Sunday is May 6.**

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: Faithlinks Class

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

## PASTOR MONICA UPDATE

I give thanks to God for the prayers of the faithful.

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:13-16*

I was so moved by how many of you requested prayers for me during the Good Friday prayer Vigil. Even more moved, by how many joined in praying for each other.

At one of my last doctor's appointments, my oncologist shared that I have had NO metastasis.

I give thanks to God and God's people for your faithfulness. I continue to go regularly to control symptoms and stay ahead of any progress.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

In God's Love,  
Pastor Monica

## Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday represents an ending as well as a beginning: the end of the "Great Fifty Days" of the Easter Season (Pentecost means "the 50th day" in Greek) and the beginning of the commemorations of the early church. Pentecost also gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves the question, "What is our community 'on fire' about?" We are passionate about Opening our hearts to Jesus, Growing in our Faith, and Serving our World!

For the early church, Pentecost was the second most important part of the Christian year after Pascha or Easter. Originally, it commemorated both the Ascension of Jesus and the descending of the Holy Spirit, but became two distinct celebrations by the end of the fourth century. (As Christianity became legal, there was no reason not to have as many celebrations as possible.)

Pentecost also became a favorite time for baptisms with its focus on the work of the Holy Spirit within the church and within our lives. The holy day continues to be a wonderful celebrative time for rites of passage including baptism, confirmation and the reception of new members. Every other year, we celebrate Confirmation. This year, we will receive new members and baptize new ones in the faith! The Holy Spirit is moving among us!



## Farewell to Pastor Shirley

It was announced at both worship services on April 8th that Pastor Shirley has been offered, and accepted, a Lead Pastor appointment that has just opened at Friendship United Methodist Church.

As many of you know, Pastor Shirley served at Friendship prior to her current appointment at WGUMC. She is delighted both to return to the church and to grow to a Lead Pastor role, and knows that she has been called by God to make this move.

Please join SPRC in extending your personal messages of congratulations, best wishes, and gratitude to Pastor Shirley for her service here when you see her in the weeks ahead. Of course she will be missed as she is well-loved here and has touched many of us in the congregation personally.

Pastor Shirley will lead worship on June 24, her last day at WGUMC. Please join us in a "Strawberry Shortcake Social" after each service that day.

Thanks all for your continued prayers and support for our clergy and staff!

# Pastor's Desk, cont.

## Books Mentioned In Sermons

- "Problem of Pain" by C. S Lewis
- "United Methodist Book of Resolutions"
- "4 Darkness is My Only Companion: A Christian Response to Mental Illness" by Kathryn Green McCreight
- "Sticky Faith" by Kara Powell and Chap Clark
- "Palm Sunday" by Kurt Vonnegut



## NEW MEMBERS!

We will be receiving New Members in worship on May 20th at both services! Pastor Monica will also offering the Sacrament of Baptism.

Please contact the office, if you have not already, if you wish to become a member or be baptized.

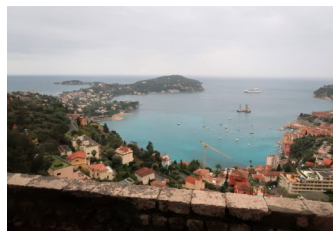
## A.L.I.C.E. TRAINING

We give thanks to God for the ALICE Training that was hosted here on March 18th for our Oxford Mission ConneXion. Rev. Mark Beideiman, pastor of Parkesburg UMC and trained ALICE instructor, led those present through scenario-based training as well as brainstorming solutions for contextual responses.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) classes provide preparation and a plan on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. ALICE Training option based tactics have become the accepted response, versus the traditional "lockdown only" approach.

West Grove UMC was well represented by Pastor Monica, Pastor Shirley, Gene Aucott, Trustee chair, Donna Fackler, Church Administrator, Carol Whelan, Administrative Council chair, Dave Talley, Trustee-at large. Trustees learned a from the training, and have been discussing future options for the safety of the congregation. Thank you to all who were a part of the day as well as ongoing conversations.

## PASTOR JIM UPDATE



We end our World Cruise in Ft. Lauderdale on April 27th and we travel home. It has been 94 days and we look forward to getting home. We hope you enjoyed our updates as we cruised the world.

Our Love,

Pastor Jim and Betty Mundell

## Roberts Park UMC Member Celebrates 100th Birthday with Reaffirmation of Baptism

Betty Johnson, a lifelong member of Roberts Park UMC in Indianapolis, Indiana, chose to celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 18, with a service of reaffirmation of her baptism. In 1918, Betty was baptized in the same sanctuary in which her reaffirmation service, led by Rev. Dr. Andrew Scanlan-Holmes, was held during morning worship.

In a clear and confident voice, Betty shared her profession of faith and continued to say that she has traveled a path with God for 100 years and is ready to travel forward into new life with Him whenever He calls. She believes her faith has taught her to be loving and gracious to everyone, and she has been inspired throughout her life by her family and her church.

To commemorate this event and honor Betty's life and witness, Rev. Dr. Scanlan-Holmes also announced the dedication of an engraved traveling baptismal font and consecrated it during the service. Following a congregational response, Betty drew water from the new font and crossed herself as a sign of her reaffirmation. A reception attended by over 200 family members and friends was held in Fellowship Hall following the service.





# GROW



## *Ask, and the Door will be Opened* *Matthew 7:7*

I grew up in a non-religious family – I had a Jewish, non-religious lawyer as a father, my Mom was Episcopalian, sang in the choir, but rarely spoke about religion. That was something not done by social-climbing types. Two of my siblings became atheist, and the other Christian.

The mystery of childbirth and having 3 sons brought us to our church at age 48, in 1997. I was not brought up in kindness and love, but nor was I abused or treated badly in any way. My mom once told me, when I told her I wasn't able to relate well as a child, "I didn't know how to relate to you". This made perfect sense. I felt pretty much empty, in a world of snotty kids in a nose-turned-up school, all competing to be wittier than the rest, in the "neat guys" group. From that start, I can say it is a long way to get back to a sense of identity. I know, it was "all somebody else's fault". But that was my life.

When I meet a person who is inspiring to me– in friendship, lifestyle, or as a role model – I must listen, learn, and follow – to seek out what is special in that person. This happened to me 20 years ago, when I met Mel Leaman. Mel became our pastor. How could he have remembered my name after meeting me once, 5 years before? Mel, like God, was, and is, kind and does not judge. He recognized my personhood. His tutorship and his class curricula and reading suggestions, led me to research the works of people who have helped me understand far more deeply the heart from which Jesus acted out his relationship with God and his social world and how he would have me act in the present world. But I must say God is far more patient with me than I am with myself.

The people I am finding in my spiritual journey are those who put their actions where their mouth is – Walter Wink, Trevor Hudson, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Richard Rohr, Carl Jung. Through Richard Rohr, I have been able to be present to my God in contemplation, while relinquishing my need to control everything (when I speak of my God, I speak of MY God – the one who made me as an unique creation in his/her image.) Carl Jung has allowed me to see the folly in turning away from the dark things in life – the things we have been unable to bear the weight of, which must remain in the unconscious parts of ourselves until we are ready. Trevor Hudson, in "A Mile in My Shoes", speaks of the value of suffering: "A change needs to be brought about within us that we ourselves cannot bring about...we discover that God meets us in our place of deepest broken-ness, accepts us as we are, and offers us with crucified hands the gifts of grace and mercy." This is the inner part. But he says we must also be with those who suffer: "When these painful realities [discovering the reasons for deep suffering] assume a human face to whom we can put a name and to whose story we can listen, a meeting of human hearts takes place... we discover that those present call forth the gifts that only our hearts can give.

Back to this sense of identity – We happen to live in a country and culture which has not addressed the deep dehumanization of an entire race over four centuries, and consequentially many races and cultures have felt, and continue to feel, dehumanized by the "majority". This makes it very difficult to allow a person to feel "at home". The awareness of this is central to the target of my life – which is to be a part of something which does feel like home.

Through the seeking, and the love and forgiveness I experience through my wife, who sees my many disconnects I am continually brought back to some normalcy and peace. She is peace and beauty to me, often when I need it the most. We in this country and time, have experienced so much more peace and safety than most of the world's inhabitants. Yet when I say "we", I must admit that it does not include all of our country's citizens. Is this the road to the greatest character? Not being in dire need is, I think, to my detriment, and I regard it as perhaps my greatest enemy to doing the things that make for true peace – peace with justice. I pray that I may no longer resist the need to enter these spaces, these places which call to me without my hearing. O God, allow me to hear the voices of the voiceless, to mingle with them, and to act.

Peter Mullen

## COMMUNITY DAY OF PRAYER MAY 3, 2018

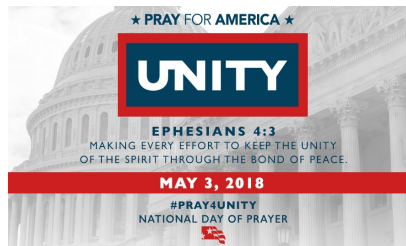
May 3rd is the National Day of Prayer. On that day, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, local Christians will gather together at Penn Park to unite in prayer for our nation and local community.

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.

Rev. Dr. Mel Leaman will be offering a message. Jordan Howard will be reading scripture. Nancy Howard has representing us in coordinating the event. We give thanks to God for all who will be participating.

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!



## 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.



## Sunday Mornings View and Chew:

### Cultivating Tenderheartedness in Race Relations

**Watch at home – discuss it here** through June. 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 YouTube videos 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](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net) or sign-up in the narthex.

#### Sunday - May 20

Cracking the Codes: Systems of Inequality

#### Sunday, June 10

Perspectives on Healing and Reconciliation

## LUTHER HOUSE NEW BIBLE STUDY

We continue to meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 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.

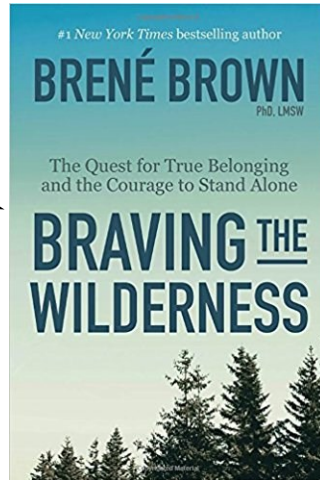
We are starting a new study on **The Fruit of the Spirit**. This study will take us through the month of July.

If you have any questions about joining us, please contact Cindy Haley at 484-702-7071.

We hope you can join us!



## DARING GREATLY



A new Sunday School class has started, based on Brené Brown's new book, "Braving the Wilderness". We will be meeting in Room #2 on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Anyone who's interested may join. Please contact Peter Mullen for information about the class and book. (610-960-0596 / [psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto:psmullen@petermullen.com))

## 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.



## SUNDAY, MAY 6

Plan to join us as we worship with our friends at Twin Pines Nursing Home.

The service begins at 2:00 p.m. and will be filled with song and prayer. Pastor Shirley will be bringing our Message and offering Holy Communion.

All are welcome to join us!

## PRAYER ROOM

Our newly updated prayer room will be open each Sunday after worship for anyone seeking prayer.



## 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.



## **PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM RETREAT**

Several members of the prayer ministry team attended a retreat entitled "Resting in Prayer", lead by Reverend Susan Scott, Spiritual Director.

Time spent in prayer and reflection has given the group a renewed and energized spirit. While resting in the love of God and singing, chanting and drumming, meditating and learning, the team began contemplating and planning for the remainder of the year. Sunday's worship service was on the beach, with the music of the ocean in the background, beautiful clear blue sky above us and the semi-warm sand below us. We praised God and His creation with singing and scripture. After a short meditation and anointing, we then went to the waters edge and poured our burdens into the surf.

The team would like to remind you that the prayer room is covered after each service for anyone seeking prayer. They are also looking forward to establishing more intentional group prayer time and an education piece for the congregation regarding different types of prayer.

## **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.



**Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

## **GOD IS GOOD!**

We've all prayed for God to hear our prayers, whatever they might be. So we have created a jar for "Answered Prayers". It is located on the Information Desk in the lobby.

Please leave a note and place it in the jar so people can see that God does answer prayers.



## **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!

**Daily  
Meditations**



# SERVE

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A church is one body made of many parts. This month we are kicking off a new series of articles that will put a spotlight on the many different volunteer opportunities at the church.

**Please consider how you can help to serve our body with your gifts.**

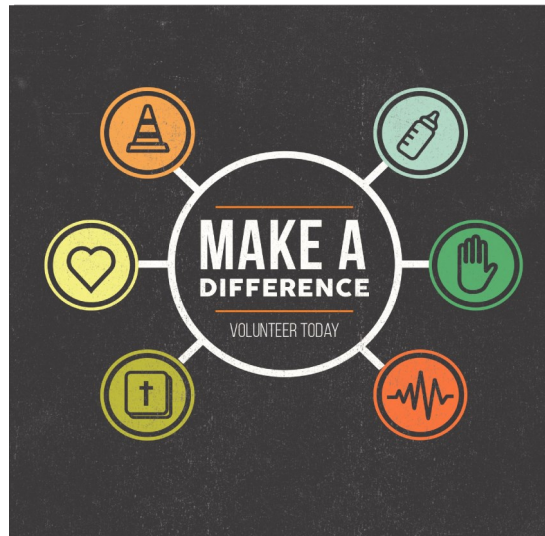
**Look for a Sign-Up Genius to be posted early in May.**

### Greeters

A warm greeting, smile, and a handshake—that is what can make the difference for someone visiting our church for the first time.

We are in need of volunteers for greeters for each service. It is a small commitment—20 minutes before each service.

If you are a “people” person and have the gift of hospitality, this is a wonderful way to serve the church.



### Ushers

Another way to serve the church is as an usher.

Ushers assist with the church service by welcoming people as they enter the sanctuary, handing out bulletins, and assisting with the collection of the offering.

Ushers arrive 15 minutes before each service and then serve for a few minutes during the church offering.

If you have the gift of service, this is an easy way to serve the church in an important way.

## “Dine to Donate” on May 21

### Prayer Bead Garden Fundraiser at Perkins

Join West Grove United Methodist Church for a  
 “Dine to Donate” Fundraiser  
 Perkins Restaurant & Bakery  
 Routes 41 & 1 in Avondale, PA  
 4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.



West Grove UMC will receive 10% of all sales accumulated by our supporters.

Please let your Perkins server and/or cashier when you check out that you are with the “West Grove United Methodist Church” Fundraiser.

Invite your friends and family! Thank you for your support!



## **Annual Spring Rummage Sale**

**Set-Up on Thursday, May 3, 9 a.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 9 a.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!**

## MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE

We have exceeded our goal of Hygiene Kits. The youth assembled 150 kits which Pastor Monica blessed on Sunday, March 25. Julie Hughes is delivering them along with a \$150 check toward the toothpaste for each kit.

The youth are also lined up to help at the SECC Bike Ride for Family Promise on May 12 and we have scheduled July 24 to visit Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA to volunteer for the day.

## VISITATION

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

Call Pastor Shirley

484-268- 0497



## FAITH CIRCLE

After a winter break, Faith Circle is resuming!

Faith Circle meets to make quilts for area shelters and Family Promise. We will be emerging from our winter break and will meet for lunch on Friday, May 18 (location TBD). Enjoy good company and learn about current and future projects.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Chris Curtiss at 610.345.0374. (Sewing skills not essential.)



## Our Emergency Food Bank Depends on You!



WGUMC's Emergency Pantry has distributed over **102** bags of food so far in 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!**



**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

## 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.

	<u>Price each</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	
<b>Full Bead Paver</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	_____	\$ _____
<b>Quarter Bead Paver</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____	\$ _____
<b>Totals:</b>		_____	\$ _____

Please designate below how you wish to offer these Pavers, so it can be recognized in the Dedication Book. Please contact Pastor Monica, Susan Paisley, or the Prayer Bead Garden Team with questions or concerns .

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Envelope #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEST GROVE UMC IS HIRING!

### Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries—Quarter-Time

The Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries is responsible for the practice and coordination of pastoral care. S/he will coordinate with the pastoral and lay visitation team pastoral care ministry to members of the congregation and community as well as visit.

### Director of Children and Youth Ministries—Full-Time

The Director of Children and Youth Ministries is responsible for Christian education at West Grove United Methodist Church. The individual in this role will design and direct discipleship ministry for persons ages birth through young adulthood. The Director will develop and implement the children's program with preschool—6th graders and the youth program with 7-12th graders. S/he will build relationships with children and volunteers and coordinate execution of programs that nurture children to grow in the Christian faith. This is a full-time position that includes frequent evening and weekend responsibilities.



To inquire or apply,  
please send your resume to [staffing@westgroveumc.org](mailto:staffing@westgroveumc.org).



## Pancake Breakfast



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Pancake Breakfast at**  
**West Grove UMC**  
**Saturday, June 9th**  
**7 a.m.-10 a.m.**

Tickets for the All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast are now on sale! Tickets are \$6 each. You can purchase your tickets in advance at the church or you can buy them at the door.

**Children 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!

See Kim Smith or Linda Shiplet to get your tickets. Pick up packs of tickets to sell to your friends and family! Contact the church at 610-869-9334 if you have any questions or need more 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](mailto: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!!**



## GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

Please let the church know about your future plans—educational or vocational. Send the names and plans to [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org).

We want to celebrate with you and keep you in our prayers!



## Grants to Assist in Defraying Higher Education Costs

As of April 30, 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](http://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.

## 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.



If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at [ahass17@hotmail.com](mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com) or [610-468-4321](tel:610-468-4321).



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 in the church office for more information.

### MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

As we approach this season of Mother's day, we know some who are doing so with excitement and others with complications. This prayer from the Rev. Martha Spong, of RevGalPals captures some possible emotions, consider it reflectively:

*Heavenly Parent,  
You are Father and Mother  
to all Creation.*

*You planted us and you  
nourish us.*

*You exist beyond our  
comprehension and  
transcend the labels we  
use to describe you.*

*But we are label-makers,  
and category-keepers,  
and people-sorters,  
and occasion-creators,  
and this Sunday we face  
one*

*we just can't get right.  
Too much, and it hurts  
people.*

*Too little, and it hurts  
others.*

*Also, and you know this,  
we have our own stories.*

*Our mothers have died  
or are still too close  
or were never close enough  
or never quite meshed  
or smacked us too hard  
or ...*

*or nurtured us enough  
or lived life with panache  
or served you with whole  
hearts*

*or loved us unconditionally  
or ...*

*or all these things, in  
unequal measure,  
over a lifetime.*

*That's just to get started.  
Some of your servants are  
mothers,  
and some have lost*

*children,  
and some wanted them but  
never did have,  
and some never wanted to,  
and some had more than  
they expected,  
and some gave theirs to  
other mothers,  
and some feel it goes by too  
fast,  
and some wish it went by  
faster,  
and some worry what their  
kids think of them  
and whether they will  
remember this awful card  
holiday  
and sort of wish they  
would  
even though it shouldn't  
matter.  
Bearing all of this in mind  
and prayer,  
we ask, Holy One, with  
your heart for all people,  
give us a measure of grace  
with one another,  
an instinct for the places  
where some hurt and  
others chafe.  
Give us a measure of mercy  
and a big dose of patience  
where our mercy is  
strained and a sense of  
humor when people get on  
our nerves and a heart full  
of the unconditional love  
you give so freely to us,  
ready to share with those  
who need it most. Amen.*

~Rev. Martha Spong



# CMO PRESCHOOL



It is hard to believe that our school year will be ending soon. It seems like every year, the school year goes by more quickly. April has been a very busy month for us. The children have been learning about Spring, are intrigued by our ladybug larvae and caterpillars, and had a wonderful visit with the West Grove Fire Department. Just like our little caterpillars will grow into beautiful butterflies, our children have grown so much this year. It is amazing to see the transformation of each little one as they come in September, maybe feeling a little nervous and anxious to now seeing them walking in to preschool with confidence. Children are truly a gift and we all feel so blessed that our families are willing to share their children with us. Our year will end with the children singing some of their favorite songs for their families, followed by a special treat.

I also have exciting news to share about our playground. We have been working hard over the years to save for a new playground structure. I am happy to say that we will be installing a new playground structure as well as mulching the entire playground this June. This new structure will enable our children to have more opportunities for physical development outside of the classroom. I cannot wait for everyone to see it!!

We do still have just a few openings in some of our classes. If you or someone you know may be interested in our preschool program, please reach out to me. I would love to show and tell you about the wonderful preschool of the church.

## CMO CHAPEL TIME

In April, as we returned from our Easter break, our preschool friends were eager to talk about the Easter story! We read from the Spark Bible: Story of Easter. We talked about the good news that Jesus is Alive!

The following week (week of April 9th,) we read Because of You by B.G. Hennessy as we talked in a developmentally appropriate way about how each child is a important. Their actions, big and small, bring peace.

The week of April 16th, we read Good People Everywhere by Lynea Gillen. God invites people, including children to be a part of God's plan for doing God's work in the world.

As we continue learning about God's creation, the week of April 23rd we

will read I will rejoice by Karma Wilson. The language of Psalm 118 gives the children celebration and care of the Earth as care take God's creation.

Our song for April is "He Got the Whole World in His Hands" as we remind one another that God is always with us as we care for one another.

Our most popular request is "This Little Light of Mine." So, we sing it EVERY week! Is there a better sound than our children singing and sight than our children dancing in worship?



## CMO ART SHOW

Thank you to everyone who came to the CMO Art Auction. It was a big success! We had over 200 people in attendance and raised over \$700 for our new playground!

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



**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.

## Dodgeball!

**Dodgeball & Pizza Night**

**Friday, May 11**

**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.

**Bad Movie Night**

**Special Memorial Day Weekend Edition**

**Friday, May 25**

**7:00 p.m.**

# THEM!

About the Movie: A nest of gigantic irradiated ants is discovered in the New Mexico desert; they quickly become a national threat when it is discovered that two young queen ants and their consorts have escaped to establish new nests. The national search that follows finally culminates in a battle with Them in the concrete spillways and sewers of Los Angeles.

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.

## PASTOR KEVIN

It was announced on April 22nd that Pastor Kevin was offered and accepted a lead pastor appointment in addition to his current appointment at Clifton Heights, at Swarthmore UMC.

Pastor Kevin and his family will be serving both Clifton Heights and Swarthmore UMC in half time capacities. This allows he and his family to be in closer proximity to the communities they are serving.

Please join SPRC in extending blessing and prayers in this transition. Pastor Kevin will be in worship with us on June 3rd for the final time. We will celebrate with him on June 8th at dodgeball. His final day will be June 17th.

Thanks for all your prayers and support for our clergy and staff.





# FUN & FITNESS



## **BIKE SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2017 8 A.M. 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  
An 8 mile ride for  
the whole family to  
enjoy!**

**Register** online at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/bike-southern-chester-county-tickets-32002680880](http://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 and route maps:**  
<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](http://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](http://www.innabah.org)

**United in Christ  
Committed to Transformation.**



## Don't Fry Day

Millions of Americans will enjoy the great outdoors this weekend. Skin cancer, caused by too much sun, is the most common of all cancers in the United States. More people will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year than breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer combined.

The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention reminds you to enjoy the outdoors safely. We have named the Friday before Memorial Day Don't Fry Day. In the same way we teach kids to wear bike helmets, we can also teach them to wear wide-brimmed hats.

### What You Can Do to Be Safe in the Sun:

1. **Do Not Burn**—Overexposure to the sun is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer.
2. **Avoid Sun Tanning and Tanning Beds**—Ultraviolet (UV) light from tanning beds and the sun causes skin cancer and wrinkling. If you want to look like you've been in the sun, use a sunless self-tanning product instead.
3. **Cover Up**—Wear protective clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses, where possible.
4. **Seek Shade/Use Umbrellas**—Seek shade when appropriate. Remember that the sun's UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
5. **Generously Apply Sunscreen**—Generously apply sunscreen to all exposed skin using a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30 that provides broad-spectrum protection from both UVA and UVB rays. Reapply every two hours, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating.
6. **Use Extra Caution Near Water, Snow and Sand**—Water, snow and sand reflect the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chance of sunburn.
7. **Check the UV Index**—The UV Index provides important information to help you plan your outdoor activities in ways that prevent overexposure to the sun. Developed by the National Weather Service (NWS) and EPA, you can find the UV Index for your area online at: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>.
8. **Get Vitamin D Safely**—Get vitamin D safely through a diet that includes vitamin supplements and foods fortified with vitamin D. Don't seek the sun or indoor tanning.

(From the  
National Council  
on Skin Cancer Prevention)



## Chester County 50plus EXPO—SAVE THE DATE!

Please come out and be our guest at the 15th annual Chester County 50plus EXPO, the area's dynamic, one-day information and entertainment event focused on the 50-plus community! It will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, at Church Farm School, 1001 E. Lincoln Highway, Exton. Admission is free!

The EXPO will feature more than 80 exhibitors providing up-to-date information focused on the health, lifestyle, and needs of the local 50-plus community. In addition to free health screenings and door prizes, a full lineup of entertainment and informative presentations is scheduled!

Fitness demonstrations; essential oils workshops; and PA State Senior Idol winners Barry Surran (2008) and Peggy Keller (2011) will perform. As well as presentations on senior crime prevention, food, nutrition, and self-care knowledge.

And it's all free — including admission and parking. So come and spend a few hours or spend the whole day at the Chester County 50plus EXPO! For more information: (610) 675-6240 / [www.50plusExpoPA.com](http://www.50plusExpoPA.com).

Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (R.A.P.) Friday, May 11

RAP met on Friday, April 13 and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and a program presented by Dr. Bob Hayes entitled "The Medical Aspects of the Crucifixion."

Thank you Dr. Hayes for this very informative and interesting presentation.

We also thank Vernon and Sara Ann

Ramberger for hosting our gathering in April.

We were very pleased to announce the planting of a tree in the front of the church to celebrate

RAP's 20th Anniversary

Year. In addition, we will be placing a bench and a plaque near the tree to commemorate RAP and all of its past and present members.



**Our next gathering is Friday, May 11 at noon**

and will be hosted by Caryl and Dick Stuhrke and Cindy and Mike Haley. Please join us for a covered dish luncheon to celebrate the end of this year's meetings and activities. Our program will be music presented by Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass.

Bring your friends and your covered dish.

Beverages will be provided. Join us for a wonderful afternoon of good food, great fellowship and lots of fun.

If you still wish to make a donation toward the tree, bench and plaque, envelopes will be available at the greeters table. We thank everyone - the Scouts for setting up our space each month, the Youth Group for putting the sanctuary back together for us, and all our members and friends for your help each month in serving and greeting, making desserts and hosting our monthly gatherings. This summer look for information of our upcoming programs when we gather again in September.

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies  
Interested in Eating  
Together

Saturday, May 12, 2018



Juliets meet for breakfast and fun... second Saturdays at 9:00! Join us!

We meet at **Sunrise Café, 127 E. State Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348.** (They have free park-

## SAVE THE DATE!

SECOND ANNUAL OPEN MARKET  
AT WEST GROVE U.M.C.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Artists, woodworkers, etched glass, embroidery, potters, wood carvers, crochet items, handmade cards, wreath makers, alpaca items, etc.

And lots of delicious food from local food trucks!

## 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**

**May 31, 2018**

**R.O.M.E.O.**

If you are retired, then we would like to see you at our ROMEO lunch. We get together to eat at Perkins in Avondale on Rt. 41 on the last Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. **Call Roger Bates, at 610-724-0477,** if you have any questions or if you are newly retired. Bring your retired friends.

# STEWARDSHIP

# DREAM BIG

Our opportunity list gives you a chance to give beyond your regular tithe.

Consider how you might impact our congregation and community.

Item	Quantity	Approximate Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!)	2	\$ 4,000
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$ 15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$ 50,000
2 inch slat blinds for classrooms (Dream in process...7 out of 25)	25	\$ 500

## 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 [gene.aucott@comcast.net](mailto:gene.aucott@comcast.net) 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](https://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!





## STATISTICAL REPORT

### Baptisms, Baptized Members, and Constituents

In 2016, five children under the age 12 were baptized. In 2017, two children were baptized, and they were cousins! In 2016, we had no baptism of those over the age of 13. In 2017, we celebrated an adult baptism! Baptism is for all ages. Baptism is God's gift to us offered without price. We give thanks to those of all ages who celebrate Baptism. Talk to Pastor Monica if you would like to talk about Baptism.

In 2016, we tallied 202 baptized members who are not yet, full members. This describes most commonly children, who have not gone through confirmation. In 2017, that number increased to 250. We look forward to engaging our children in continuing faith formation!

What is a constituency roll?

This ranges widely! In an era in which joining the church is not as common as it has been in times gone, many people have become an active part of church community without officially joining our membership rolls. A constituent might be in worship every week or never be in the church.

Officially, a constituent is a person who is not a member of the church, but for whom the church has pastoral responsibility. If the person is hospitalized, dies, desires pastoral support, if it is someone at this church, then this church has pastoral responsibilities for this person. The person may or may not attend church on Sunday morning, may attend a weekday class or outreach program, may be related to a church Member or Constituent, may spend summers or winters in town, may be in town for school, or else wise, the person is a constituent member of the church.

This is the first year, we looked seriously at how we counted our constituency roll. Last year, we counted 384 persons. This year, we counted 1,652 persons. West Grove cares for many in our community as a community church.

Next month, we will take a look at all Christian Education programming.

## ENDOWMENT FUNDS



If you are planting a garden this year, you might be 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.

# Thank You

## Good Friday Service

*I wanted to thank you for hosting the community service on Good Friday. It was a moving service in many ways. The music was meaningful and touching. The themes and readings touched my heart during this most sacred of times.*

*I enjoyed meeting everyone and felt very welcomed. I know this took a lot of work on the part of your staff.*

*One last thing, I absolutely loved seeing the lyrics signed by Rev. Guepet. What a beautiful gift, it added another dimension to the music.*

*Again, thank you for hosting the service.*

*Blessings, Sheila Stump*

## CONSTELLATION

### NETWORK

We give thanks to God for the faithful witness of our congregation who stepped out in faith. Children, youth and adults who gave of themselves in service to our community, we give thanks to God. Children, youth and adults who offered gratitude to our educators in thank you notes, we give thanks to God. Children, youth and adults who gave of their hands and hearts to assist the body of Christ in Getting Ahead, we give thanks to God.

**Your gifts totaling \$1,148.00 were given to the Constellation Network for the Getting Ahead project with our prayers and blessings.**

## UMCOR

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your support of UMCOR. **Your gift received in March 2018 of \$1,192 is supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters.** Thank you for joining with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.



*Thank you for thinking of me on our anniversary. It would have been our 68th anniversary this year.*

*Fondly,  
Lois Hocking*

I just had to write and say thank you for the beautiful Palm Sunday service. The choir did a lovely job. But most moving was to see Pastor Monica's interpretation for the deaf. I am very familiar with deaf interpretation—I had it at my former church. I have never, however, seen it done so movingly—the facial expressions were perfect. I had a hard time staying back

WGUMC would like to thank Karen for years of service in CMO. She will be missed. Blessings on her move to NJ as she cares for her mother.

*Thank you for the beautiful cross and thinking of us as we move. Although time and circumstances have changed our ability to routinely attend church over the past few years, we have never stopped feeling your love and support. We wish all of you well in the future and God bless.*

*The Reischke family  
Karen, Ysan, Jack and Miles*

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

James 1:22

# EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### Annual Conference to Vote on 27 Resolutions

Members of the 2018 Eastern PA Annual Conference will consider and vote on 27 resolutions. They are being printed for distribution at the four District Conferences on Sunday, May 6, where members will get a preview of matters to come before Annual Conference, June 14-16.

The diverse resolutions range from proposed changes in conference rules and financial policies, to supporting racial-ethnic justice and missional concerns, to advocating against assault weapons and the offensive use of Native American team names and mascots in sports. Two resolutions address The United Methodist Church's "Way Forward," as it considers, during a Special General Conference in 2019, whether or not to change church laws prohibiting LGBTQ members' participation in pastoral ministry and marriage within the church.

A key pair of resolutions from the Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) proposes cancelling churches' unpaid "prior-years' balances" of apportionments and certain other billings, as of the end of 2017.

Another financial resolution proposes a new special

offering to aid the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico in its recovery from 2017's devastating Hurricane Maria.

The Committee on Native American Ministries asks the Annual Conference to "demonstrate commitment to continuing the journey begun at the 2016 Act of Repentance and to 'stand in solidarity with American Indians.'" by seeking "support for the elimination of logos, mascots and names demeaning to Native Americans by schools, colleges, and professional sports teams", and urging public advocacy to protect sacred Indian sites and reverse recent White House decisions to reduce the size of national monuments on public lands.

A resolution on gun violence asks to affirm the resolve of General Conference 2016 and its Resolution 3428 "Our Call to End Gun Violence" and to support members working to "Demand the Ban" and make deadly assault-style weapons illegal.

Other resolutions propose moving the conference's health insurance coverage to Wespeth's HealthFlex program, approving changes in equitable compensation for pastors in economically disadvantaged churches, and changes in housing allowances for retired and disabled clergy.

### Celebrating 70 years of The Advance: God's love at work every day

Seventy years ago this year, The Advance was born out of disaster — a postwar world where hope seemed lost for many people. Bringing people hope and healing in the hour of greatest need has been near the heart of The Advance for seven decades.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) (UMCOR, Advance #999895) has been central to the work of The Advance from the beginning. Whenever a natural disaster strikes anywhere in the world, UMCOR is likely to be involved, offering aid and relief in the name of Christ.

Today, every U.S. annual conference has a disaster-response office, along with clergy and laity trained and ready to help the church respond to emergency. That is a long-term strategic vision carried out by UMCOR — training people and depending on them to find and train more people, year after year.

UMCOR, one of the more visible ministries supported by The Advance, is only one of hundreds. The Advance funds more than 300 missionaries and over 600 projects affecting every geographical region of the world

and the following areas of focus:

- Disaster Response and Recovery
- Economic Empowerment
- Education
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Food and Agriculture
- Health
- Migration
- Mission Personnel
- Social Justice
- Water and Sanitation
- Women and Children

As United Methodists, we have much for which to be thankful. Please join us in giving thanks for The Advance.

A gift of \$70, \$700 or even \$7,000 would be a great way to celebrate 70 years of The Advance. Visit [UMCMission.org/give](http://UMCMission.org/give) today, and choose the missionary or project you'd like to support.

In Mission,

Thomas Kemper  
General Secretary



**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

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

E:mail address: [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

Website: [www.westgroveumc.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Shirley.daddario@westgroveumc.org)

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

[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

The Reverend Kevin Babcock-Youth Pastor

[Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Pastorkevin@westgroveumc.org)

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

[Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Donna.fackler@westgroveumc.org)

Kim Nuzzaci - Administrative Assistant

[adminasst@westgroveumc.org](mailto:adminasst@westgroveumc.org)

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

[davsan5@comcast.net](mailto:davsan5@comcast.net)

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

[Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org)

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

**Board and Committee Leadership**

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

Barbara Delaney - Finance Chair

Scott Steele - Treasurer

Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary

Kristin Reisinger - Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

Judy Gambill - Christian Education

Joan Leaman - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley, RN - Faith Community Nurse

Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley, Mike Chalmers – 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