

West Grove United Methodist Church

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February 2019



"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12: 7

About 10 years ago, I ripped my ankle ligament in a car accident. I required ankle reconstruction surgery, crutches, and a boot for the better part of 3 months, longer if you count the physical therapy. I became acutely aware of how vital each part of the foot, ankle, knee, hip, arm, and the body is. The whole body was indispensable in the recuperation of my ankle. I might not have understood that I need my pinky toes for balances or my elbows for strengthening or even my hips for good posture, without that experience. Each part was a gift for the common good - necessary and fundamental.

"I'm not sure what I can do"
"I've always done this, what else would I do? "
"I'm not sure I can really do anything"

Have you ever heard others say those things as they reflect on how they serve either in the church or in the community? I notice that often when people use those phrases they are sad or dis-empowered. The church or organization who uses those phrases struggles to engage fans in their mission. And people feel disconnected. Often, we do not know how indispensable we are to the body and what joy we can find when we are serving out of our gifts!

During February, our staff and our leadership will both take time to rediscover their spiritual gifts during our staff meeting and Administrative Council. Are we serving out of joy? What are gifts we have been given and could be used for the common good? Our congregation is blessed with many gifts. Do we know ourselves well enough to know what they are? In early March, we will invite the congregation also to rediscover their spiritual gifts. I hope you will join us on March 3rd for lunch and uncovering our spiritual gifts.

Janice Bowers, one of our four Christ Servant Ministers (CSM) (along with Karen Hruz, Cindy Haley, and Peter Mullen), has taken the certification for Rediscovering our Spiritual Gifts through Be a Disciple.com as part of her continuing education. Be a Disciple, is the online arm of Discipleship Ministries, our denominational resource. Previously, Discipleship Ministries might have been familiar to long-time United Methodists as the General Board of Discipleship. This course gave her background and certification to not only discover her own spiritual gifts, but facilitate others in the process as well.

- Are you heading off to college soon? Join us to discover your gifts.
- Are you looking for a job or a change of jobs?
 Come find out how God has gifted you.
- Are you retired and wondering how you might serve? See if your gifts have developed in new ways
- Do you feel stagnant and not sure what gifts you have? Discover how God has gifted YOU!
- Have you already done this before and sure you know exactly what gifts you have? Support your church and be open to what the Spirit might be doing in the life of the church.
- Is this a new season in your life and curious what God has in store? Uncover your gifts.
- Want to serve and not sure in what ways, either in the church or the community? Reveal with the Holy Spirit's guidance your gifts!

Each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit. Each of us has one of the giftings of the Holy Spirit, and some of us, more than one. God wants us to use them for the common good, whether that is at the church or in the community.

Let us uncover our gifts together for God's glory and our joy!

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



February Worship at West Grove UMC

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

Services at 8:30 a.m. (Contemporary) and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional)

Sunday, February 3, 2019 All Worship Sunday Communion Sunday, *Emergency Aid

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

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:4-13; John 2:1-11 Sermon: One Body, Many Gifts Generous is the Holy Spirit in gifting us. Teachers and preachers, prayers and chair movers, cooks and baby rockers, hammer-ers and drivers. Many gifts in the whole body of Christ and you have at least one gift!

Sunday, February 10, 2019 **Scout Sunday**

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:14-21; Luke 4:14-21 **Sermon:** We Need YOU!

God granted each of us different gifts, so that we might together be the church. Our gifts together reflect the fullness of the image of Christ.

Sunday, February 17, 2019 **Memory Bells**

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:22-26; Matthew 4:23-25

Sermon: Together in the Tool Box In one toolbox, there is joy and pain. We are called to embrace unity, not uniformity in tenderness. Let your spiritual gifts find space together in the body of Christ.

Sunday, February 24, 2019

We welcome Melanie Hartley to the pulpit while Pastor Monica is attending General Conference.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-7; 11-13; Luke 6:27-36

Sermon: Oneness in Faith

As we reflect on each of our different, individual gifts, may we also reflect on our unity in faith: faith in the love of God that is extended to all; faith in the way of Jesus; which makes us more alike one another than different from one another.



Jenner's Pond Residents: Join us for worship is on February 10 at 11 am in the Alison Theater. Led by Karen Hruz.

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. 10ul dollars appreciated. An Emergency Aid 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 collection is February 3.



FEBRUARY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: Missions Team

Due to the increase in food allergies among the general population, as well as our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if there are nuts in them (including coconuts). Thank you.

Pastor's Desk

The body of Christ is blessed by many gifted and committed people. This church is filled with people who give of themselves to the glory of God!

I am so thankful for the long-time commitment of both Sara Ann Ramberger and Margee Michaels as counters. Sara Ann served as both a counter and Financial Secretary, even back to when the church was on Prospect Avenue! Margee served as counter for 25 years!

I am thankful for the faithfulness of Tom Hoover who served on the Board of Trustees. Tom offered his time, talents, service, and helped the team to end on time!:)

Thank you for serving faithfully and out of your gifts!

In God's Love, Pastor Monica





As we celebrate **Scout Sunday on February 10th,** all scouts are
welcome to join us! Boy
Scouts, Girls Scouts,
Venture Crew, and other
scouts as well. Scouting
is a blessing in and to
our community.

At both services we will celebrate scouting as a part of the body of Christ. Join us!

Here is a blessing for our scouts:

O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life.

We lift to you the ministry of scouting.

We offer you thanks for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home; for study and work, to build character; for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;

for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.

Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world,

that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord,

increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people. Amen.

Pastor Monica will be at General Conference February 21 through February 26 with the Moravian Theological Seminary. Seminary students take a course in United Methodist polity as they observe and learn the order of the church. Elders are ordained to Word, Order, Sacrament, and Service. Pastor Monica will guiding the next generation of clergy as they rise up to lead our church.



On January 20th, **Pastor Jim and Betty** left on their worldwide cruise. They will offer worship and Bible study on board ship. Blessings on their travel and ministry. They will return to worship on Sunday, May 5th.

During Pastor Jim's travel, our Jenner's Pond worship will be led by Karen Hruz, one of our Christ Servant Ministers as well as Rev. Dr. David Frame, new Jenner's Pond resident and United Methodist preacher. We give thanks to God for their gifts of ministries shared in leadership of worship.





BOOKS MENTIONED IN SERMONS

- The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, by the Holiness Dalai Lama and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- House of Light by Mary Oliver

FINANCIAL REFLECTIONS

As we end 2018, I give thanks to God for each and every one of you and your faithfulness in giving of your time, talents, offerings, and tithes. Your giving and serving are the sustainable ways through which we impact the community and the world. Together, we have invested in our congregation, community, and the world.

One of our investments this year has been the addition of Melanie Hartley to our staff as our Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We give thanks to God for an investment in our youth averaging 15 youth in youth group and dodgeball. Our Senior High Sunday class has been steadily reforming. This year's Confirmation class of seven has a strong foundation and inquisitive nature. Our Children's Sunday School consistently engages strong biblical teaching in multiple intelligences. You would be delighted to ask the children about their camel races from the last Sunday School unit! Imagine broomsticks turned into hobby horse camels as the children learn about the Magi. Ask one of our children!

As we look forward to the future, we continue to invest in our church. In 2019, we celebrate our 20th year in this building and plan for building maintenance expenditures in the forthcoming years. We invest in our building where over 120 worship services are held, bible studies are offered, small groups gather, community groups meet, and hospitality is extended in the name of Jesus. Our

church is truly a place where God's people congregate!

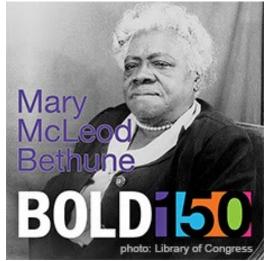
Your giving empowers us, together, to impact our community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Our apportionment giving through the United Methodist Church enables missionaries around the world to share the love of Jesus with children, youth, and adults.

In 2018, we budgeted a planned deficit. Through the faithfulness of our staff and ministry teams, we have reduced expenses over the last year to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted us with and ended slightly ahead of the deficit we budgeted.

In 2019, we are planning sustainable solutions. We give thanks to God for possibilities to explore new ways to refinance and pay down mortgage debt in order to see through to our vision and commitment to mission and ministry. Our January 29th Special Charge Conference will empower us towards this opportunity. Our mortgage with an adjustable rate loan will be up this year. This allows us make sustainable decisions ahead of a pinch point. I am thankful for the wisdom of our finance team. Additionally, we are considering other sustainable paths forward.

Mission and ministry are the fruits of the faithfulness of God's peoples. I celebrate with hope the faithfulness and giftedness of our congregation. We continue to discover our resources and spiritual gifts for such a time as this.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



EDUCATION AND EQUALITY: THE WORK OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

"Invest in the human soul," Mary McLeod Bethune declared. "Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough." And invest Bethune did. This incredibly accomplished public servant founded the school that became Bethune-Cookman College as well as a training school for nurses, advised the White House, founded the National Council of Negro Women, worked towards integration of the Red Cross and served four times as a delegate to General Conference.

Bethune was born in South Carolina in 1875 to Sam and Patsy McLeod, both former slaves. She recognized the importance of access to education and devoted a significant portion of her life to educational issues. She founded the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in 1904 in Daytona Beach, Florida. In 1923, it merged with the Cookman Institute and became a coeducational college. She also founded the Mary McLeod Hospital and Training School for Nurses in 1911, which at the time was the only school of its kind that served African-American women on the

East Coast.

In addition to her considerable educational initiatives, Bethune worked tirelessly for civil rights. During the First and Second World Wars, she advocated for integration of both the American Red Cross and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She worked extensively with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, before founding the National Council of Negro Women in 1935. During the Roosevelt administration, she advised the White House on minority affairs, and after her death she became the first black woman to be honored with a statue in Washington, D.C.

During Bethune's lifetime, the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church included the Central Jurisdiction, which effectively ensured segregation within the church. As Methodist leaders began to work toward unification in the 1930s, Bethune argued vehemently for the elimination of the Central Jurisdiction and a more inclusive denominational structure. She served on the Woman's Division Committee on Minority Groups and Interracial Cooperation and as a delegate to General Conference four times. She served faithfully until death in 1955. Mrs. Bethune was known to say, "Enter to learn, depart to serve." Her life was a shining example to all. We are blessed by as her a Methodist woman in mission.



GROW



CARING FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY: UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SEXUALITY

<u>Sunday Evenings</u> Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoons

January 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

<u>Wednesday Evenings</u> Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13, 7:00-8:00 p.m.



Join Pastor Monica as she teaches on how we care for our brothers and sisters today. In three sessions, we will take a look at Scripture, Spirit, Society as related to caring for human and understanding human sexuality.

- **Session 1: Scripture**: We will take a look at how God calls us to be family and relate to one another based on what the Bible says.
- **Session 2: Spirit**: We will take a look at how the movement of the Holy Spirit convicts and inspires us today.
- **Session 3: Society**: We will take a look at how people of faith are called to be in the world and not of the world, while caring well for each other.

With three options, you can join us either on Sunday evenings, Tuesday afternoons, or Wednesday evenings. Feel free to mix and match the day or time that works best for you!

Together, we are the body of Christ, the family of God. Let us learn how to care well for one another.

2019 Tools for Ministry Saturday, March 2, 2019 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Eastern University/Palmer Campus 1300 Eagle Road, St. Davids, PA

REGISTRATION FEE

Early (until 12 am Jan. 18) - \$11 Standard (until 12 am Feb. 15) - \$13 Late (after Feb. 15) - \$16

Workshops will be filled according to registration dates.

Please try to register as early as possible. We expect 400 people.

All registration is online. Credit or Debit cards accepted.



SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

8:50 a.m. Welcome:

District Superintendent
Dawn Taylor-Storm

District Lay Leaders Jennifer Lafferty &

Bill Thompson Dr. David Bronkema,

Dean, Palmer Theological Seminary

9:15 a.m. Travel to Session A Workshops

9:30 – 10:50 a.m. Session A Workshops

10:50 – 11:10 a.m. Break/Travel to Session B Workshops

11:10 – 12:30 p.m. Session B Workshops

12:30 p.m. Departure

For more information about the workshops and to register, visit: www.epaumc.org/conference-calendar/south-district-2019tools-for-ministry/

Workshop descriptions are also available in the church lobby.



SAVE THE DATE West Grove UMC "Be Brave"

May 4, 2019 ~ 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

"On the day I called to You, You answered me. You made me strong and brave." Psalm 138:3

Let's be honest. Many Christian women, even after years of knowing Jesus, find themselves stuck and unable to move forward. They dream of a life that is relevant and more reflective of their status as one of His precious daughters but, unfortunately, has to admit that they are simply not there. Can you relate? Using the Word of God and lessons Laura Acuna has learned along the way, she will share the brave steps you can take to grow up, move on and discover that it is never too late to be who He created you to be! Through this message, Laura will help you...

- Dare to be honest with yourself about the areas where you are stuck
- Identify the places where the Lord desires to work in your life
- See beyond your current circumstances to the plan He has for your life
- Exchange the lies you believe about yourself with the truth from God's Word
- Position yourself to bravely tackle the obstacles that keep you from becoming the woman He created you to be

All of the women of the community (and your family and friends) are invited to a Women's Retreat at West Grove UMC on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Our keynote speaker will be Laura Acuna, who has been acclaimed by Paulette Stamper, CEO of Ignite Women: "Laura is a truly gifted and passionate speaker. She skillfully engages her listeners through heart-felt humor and real-world life applications..."



You can read more about Laura on her website: www.Laura-Acuna.com.

The All Day Retreat will open for registration on February 3 and end on March 31, 2019. There will not be any registrations accepted at the door. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church lobby, as well as a link on our website (www.westgroveumc.org) to sign up. The cost is \$25 per person and will include your continental breakfast, lunch and beverages. Checks should be made payable to WGUMC with memo line stating Women's Retreat. Laura will lead us through three sessions. There will be small group questions for each session. Sponsored by: The Prayer Ministry Team Questions? Please contact Susan Paisley at 610-268-3305



Women's Retreat
"Be Brave"

May 4, 2019 ~ 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.



"On the day I called to You, You answered me. You made me strong and brave." Psalm 138:3

Name:	
Address:	
Home Phone:	Cell:
	\$25 Check enclosed, made payable to WGUMC, memo "Women's Retreat"



Are you interested in reading and discussing what others are reading? Join us on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:45 p.m. to discuss a newer title. We'll meet in Room 3. See Pastor Monica for more information.

This month we are reading "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on **February 28 at 5:45 p.m.** to discuss it. Join us!

Coming Up:

March 28—"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in Changing World" by the His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu
This book inspired Pastor Monica's sermon series in January. There is so much more to explore!



Does Jesus Love Me? Wednesday, March 6th Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Join us!

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, March 3rd

Join us on after 11:00 worship to discover your spiritual gifts.

Have you ever had the opportunity to discover your spiritual gifts?



Did you know that sometimes over time your gifts will shift or come into better focus? Everyone has spiritual gifts! Come for lunch and stay to discover how your gifts might bring you joy in serving in God inside or outside the church!



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 PM Building #1

The Luther House Bible Study continues 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 studying the book of Revelation. If you have any questions, please see Cindy Haley or call her at 484-702-7071.

We hope you can join us!

WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST MEN

SAVE THE DATE! Monday, March 25, 2019

If you worship here, you are part of the WG United Methodist Men. We are the host group for the meeting of the Lan-Chester UMM. I urge you to set aside this date. Mark it on your calendars now to to attend and WEL-COME the UMM from the other seven participating churches who make up the Lan-Chester UMM. Help to demonstrate the welcoming spirit of Jesus Christ by your presence as we fellowship with our fellow UMM in the area.

Janice Bowers has agreed to plan a menu & with the aid of several women will prepare & serve the meal.

Our church is also responsible to offer a 45-90 minute program for that evening. Please send me any suggestions &/or ideas you have.

Please contact me to RSVP. (610-869-3863 / spartan57@verizon.net)

I look forward to seeing you on Monday., March. 25, 2019 @ 6:30 pm!

Vernon Ramberger

(The men, who worship in the United Methodist Congregations, are defacto members of the Eastern Pa. Conference.)





SERVE





The annual Give | Serve | Restore (GSR) project has been one of our most important efforts towards this mission over the past four years, as we have joined hands with many of you to show Christ's love in very tangible ways to our neighbors. The past four years of GSR have taught



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 3/23/19

11am-1:30pm

Assumption BVM Churc

us a lot about what works for all of you as well as what seems to have the greatest impact on both those serving and those served. We would therefore like to invite you to join us for our 5th annual Give | Serve | Restore project this spring.

This year's project will begin March 6th on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter Sunday, April 21st, based around the theme of Poverty Awareness, with a specific focus on poverty in our area. We will once again be partnering with local food cupboards as well as other nonprofits working close to the deepest needs of our neighbors.

The SCC Opportunity Network

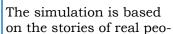


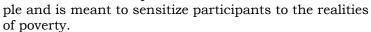
The Constellation Network has been involved in the leadership of the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON) for over 2 years now, and over that

time we have had the joy of watching it grow and expand its impact. SCCON is a community-wide intiative based on the Bridges Out of Poverty model. It focuses on bringing people together across sectors and economic backgrounds to find collaborative, long-term solutions to poverty in our community.

The Constellation Network continues to play an integral role engaging community members in this partnership and providing leadership and administrative support. Find out more by visiting the SCCON page on our website (www.theconstellationnetwork.com).

The Poverty Simulation is coming to Southern Chester County. During the event, participants take on the identity of someone in poverty and work together with their family unit to simulate a month in poverty over the course of an hour.





Space is limited. Email Kate Uhler now to sign up (kuhler@TheConstellationNetwork.com)



Last year, TCN became involved with a new initiative radiness Initiative focused on improving the rates of Kindergarten readi-

ness for vulnerable families in the Kennett Consolidated School District. Local educators and nonprofits formed this collaborative effort after seeing an increase in the number of disadvantaged children arriving for Kindergarten without the adequate skills or preparation to succeed academically and socially. TCN is now coleading this group of over 40 individuals representing over 20 agencies who are working on creative solutions this problem.

Spotlight on Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is one of the most urgent issues currently facing families living on a limited income in our community. Because of our unique set of partnerships with local leaders, TCN has been able to play an important role in bringing together important stakeholders to talk about solutions. This has included facilitating a conversation between local ministeriums and area nonprofits such as Family Promise, Kennett Area Community Service, Oxford Neighborhood Services, & SILO to discuss the role of the faith community in addressing this need.

We Love Our WGUMC Staff!

SPRC is sponsoring a WGUMC staff appreciation taco lunch on Wednesday, February 13th, 12:00-2:00 p.m. for all our staff and CMO teachers. If you would like to contribute food or set-up/clean-up assistance, please add your name to the signup genius below.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4ba8af2 ba3f85-wgumc

We will also post a 'thank you' banner and markers in the church lobby one week prior to the event, and invite you to add your messages of gratitude to our staff.

CMO CONSIGNMENT SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The CMO Consignment sale will be held on March 15-16. We need volunteers to help this sale run smoothly. If you are interested and able to help, please contact Tracy McLaughlin.



PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING

The Prayer Ministry team meets the **second Tuesday of every month** for a time of sharing, praying and mutual care. Our Focus: We pray for the needs of prayer ministry, each other, the congregation, the nation and the world.

We, the Prayer Ministry team are not a perfect people, "saints", but real people who have each been on a journey at various times in our lives. We welcome you to join us at our next meeting on February 12 at 6:30 in the sanctuary/prayer room.

Personal requests are kept confidential and may be placed in the prayer request box in the back of the sanctuary. If you are going through a difficult time and want to stop in just to receive personal prayer during the monthly Tuesday prayer gathering timeframe (6:30-7:30) we welcome you as well.....no need to stay.

If you're curious, but not sure, feel free to visit a couple times to see if this ministry is a good fit for you. No one is expected to pray audibly.





This is our 13th year of donating boxed valentines to the children of Penn London Elementary who do not have Valentines to give to their classmates.

Please consider buying a box of valentines and dropping it off in the collection box provided in the church lobby by **Monday**, **February 4.** Thank you!

UMW FAITH CIRCLE

The Faith Circle's mission is to make items which are distributed in our local area or through UMCOR. We have made many quilts, baby pads, book bags and other items which have been delivered to local shelters, Family Promise, and through UMW district appeals.

We will meet on Friday, February 1 and February 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. We will continue making quilts and pillowcases for area shelters.

New folks are welcome! Contact Chris Curtiss for more information. Sewing skills are not necessary.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



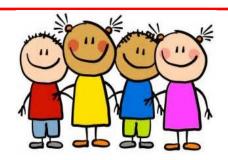
Thank you to all who have spent time on Sunday mornings volunteering in the nursery!

We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

We are in need of additional volunteers, especially during the 11:00 am service.

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





Registration time is here!! Our registration for next school year begins on February 5th for our current families and the following week on February 12 for new families. I am looking forward to having all of our families return and welcoming our new families.

It's Consignment Sale time again! Our consignment sale is March 15th and 16th and instructions and tags will be available beginning February 19th on the small table by the CMO Preschool bulletin board and on the table in the administration wing. If you have gently used Spring and Summer children's clothing and toys, please consider consigning. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a little money and support our program.

The children will be busy this month learning about what it means to love. Many of their ideas of



CMO CHAPEL TIME with Miss Melanie & Pastor Monica February Theme—God's Love is to Share

Our theme for Chapel Time in February is God's Love is to Share.

Our friends will learn to share God's love with others.

Week 1—Friends & Family Show Love

Books:

"We Found a Hat" by Jon Klassen" (younger)
"A Special Kind of Love" by Stephen Michael King (older)

Week 2—Valentine's Day We Can Share God's Love

Book:

"My Valentine for Jesus" by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton (younger & older)

Week 3—God Shows Us Love Forever

Book:

"Forever of a Day" by Sarah Jacoby (younger and older)

Week 4—God Loves Every Friend

Book:

"The Colors of Us" by Karen Katz (younger & older)



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities, contact Melanie Hartley childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Group is back in full swing! Over the next few weeks we will be talking about what it means to have a spiritual life and how we can explore our spirituality.

YOUTH DODGEBALL February 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All youth, grades 6-12 are invited to join us for dodgeball. Students just need \$3 for pizza and a signed waiver form. Invite a friend and we hope to see you on the 8th for a fun night!

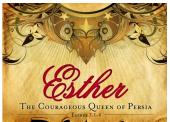
YOUTH GROUP Sunday nights, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

All 7-12 grade students are invited. There's games, snacks and great discussion!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Children & Youth Sunday School Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday school



This five week unit will teach on the story of Oueen Esther; the courageous, young Jewish girl who saved the Israelite people. We

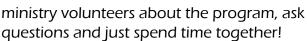
will learn about the characters in this story and celebrate the festival of Purim in her honor!

Sunday school is available for children ages Pre-K (3's & 4's) through grade 12.

PARENTS BREAKFAST

February 10 9:45-10:45 a.m.

The Children's Ministry team invite all parents to join us for delicious food and a chance to chat with Melanie and Children's ministry volunteers about the

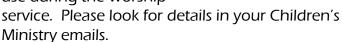


We hope you join us for a lovely breakfast!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & ALL WORSHIP SUNDAYS

All Worship & Communion Sunday - February 3

Children will have activity packets and other things to use during the worship



Not on the email list? Contact Melanie Hartley. For information on all children's worship, activities and youth ministry, contact Melanie Hartley childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org.





FUN & FITNESS





RETIRED ACTIVE PEOPLE (R.A.P.)

February 8 12:00-3:00 p.m.

RAP started the New Year together on Friday, January 11 at noon. Thank you, Linda Shiplet and Kim Smith, for co-leading our gathering.

As we gathered for lunch, we also enjoyed a great program provided by Chris Lengel, Physical Therapist with Penn Medicine. His presentation included "Fall Risks and Balance Issues" relative to Senior Health and how to reduce those risks. Following, there was time to test those balance issues with Chris and two other therapists.





Please join us at our next gathering on **Friday, February 8,**

2019 for lunch and gospel music by the Leaman Brothers Trio. Our February host is Kathryn Steele. If you are available to help

with setup or cleanup, please let Kathryn know. Bring your lunch and enjoy provided beverages and delicious desserts.



Everyone is welcome! Don't forget to Invite your friends and join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.



R.O.M.E.O. Retired Older Men Eating Out

February 28 12:00-1:30 p.m.

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.

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

JULIET...Just us Ladies
Interested
in Eating Together
Saturday, February 9
9:00-10:30 AM



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

We meet at the Sunrise Cafe

Fundraiser Breakfast for Boy Scout Troop 12

March 10, 2019 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Sawmill Grill Oxford, PA

Buffet Breakfast

Scrambled eggs, sausage gravy, biscuits, bacon, pancakes, orange juice, milk, coffee, and soda will be served.

Call or Email Lisa Yaletchko
For tickets
484-368-9030

lyaletchko@zoominternet.net



Thank you for supporting our Troop!
Boy Scout Troop 12

STEWARDSHIP



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

Consider how you might impact our congregation and community.

Item	Qty	Approx Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!) Electronic Sign at the street Electronic Sign at Rt. 1 2 inch slat blinds for classrooms— FULFILLED!	2 2 1 25	\$4,000 \$15,000 \$50,000 \$500
2 laptops (1 for Director of Children and Youth Minis try, 1 for Volunteer Office with docking station) FULFILLED!	- - 2	\$1,500

Rev. Gérard Nsabimana: From Refugee to Senior Pastor

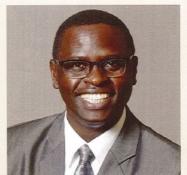
érard Nsabimana fled Burundi in 1995, at the age of 21, because of internecine warfare. He has remained in exile for 23 years and has had to grieve the deaths of relatives and friends from afar.

Gérard grew up in the Methodist church. His late father was a United Methodist pastor. His mother still attends the church that her late husband pastored for 39 years until his untimely death.

After fleeing Burundi, Gérard lived in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in a refugee camp in Tanzania. He enrolled at Africa University in 1997, majored in horticulture and graduated in 2002. He pursued a graduate degree at Oklahoma State University (OSU) with the assistance of Rev. Charles Ellinwood and his late wife, Susanna.

At OSU, Gérard interned at the Wesley Foundation. After earning a master's degree in agricultural economics in 2005, he was hired by the OSU Wesley Foundation as its coordinator of international student ministries.

Gérard said that he had been ignoring the call to ordained ministry for a long time. However, everything changed in 2007. His mother became gravely ill and was hospitalized. He returned to



Rev. Gérard Nsabimana

Burundi to be with her. While ministering to his mother, Gérard decided he could no longer ignore the call to ministry.

After his mother's health improved, Gérard returned to the United States, enrolled in the graduate program at Duke Divinity School (Durham, North Carolina) and was awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 2011.

Gérard has been senior pastor at First United Methodist Church (Stroud, Oklahoma) since June 2014. He is grateful to The United Methodist Church, Africa University and those God placed in his path along his faith journey.

Having endowed a scholarship, Gérard is the first Africa University graduate to be inducted into the Richard E. "Dick" Reeves Legacy Society. His dream is to return to his beloved country with his wife, Alina, and their three daughters to be of service in the development of Burundi.

Elaine Jenkins Director of Planned Giving

How You Can Help

ocated at Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, Africa University is an accredited United Methodist-related educational institution in Africa, established by the action of the General Conference. Africa University offers degree programs in three colleges: business, peace, leadership and governance; health, agriculture and natural sciences; and social sciences, theology, humanities and education. New academic programs include master's and doctoral degree programs in migration, citizenship, and defugee protection; intellectual property; child rights and childhood studies; and entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity.

Africa University continues to be the evidence of faith, hope and belief in the visions of dreamers. We are counting on you! Encourage your church to set a 100 percent apportionment remittance goal. Sending a portion of your goal each month makes it easier to reach full remittance by year's end. Your church's 100 percent apportionment remittance means 100 percent support of Africa University's operational budget for costs such as utilities, equipment, and faculty salaries.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who brought in coins for our 5th Sunday Coin Collection on December 30. We collected \$256.50! This money will be used for the two meal events for the Ronald McDonald House and Urban Promise, scheduled for 2019.

Thank you for your generosity!

THANK YOU!

Thank you South District for shining the light of Christ in the Democratic Republic of Congo! We exceeded our 2018 District Goal, and through your gifts, eye surgery, eye care and a fully equipped eye clinic will now be a reality in Mpasa, Congo.

This the FIRST eye care center of its kind in this area of 4 million refugees. You have given the best Christmas gift - abundant life for God's beloved children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANK YOUS

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of President's Day.

The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 19.

Thank you for sending me the advent bag. I enjoyed reading the Christmas Story, a sentence each day and opening the useful and tasty gifts. It's nice to know you remember me.

My best wishes for success in all your efforts.

Thanks again,

Lois Hocking

The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to serve coffee and drinks on the 1st or 2nd Sunday after the 11:00 service. Please contact Caryl or Dick at 302-239-1743, if you can help.

HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES

We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.



Hearing assistive devices are located in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.

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

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 check-in" when you are here!



PRAYER ROOM

Need prayer?

Our prayer room is open each Sunday after worship for anyone seeking prayer.



To My Church Family,

My heart is filled with the love shown to me and my family through your prayers, cards, calls, emails and texts. The time spent in the 9CU and then during my momma's hospice care were made so much easier, as 9 knew you were all there with me, supporting and holding me up. It truly gave me strength when 9 thought it had all been spent. My mourning continues, but 9 am also truly celebrating my momma's life and what a wonderful role model she always was to me and my brothers and sisters. The seven of us were blessed to be together as our mother came to the end of her life. As a life-long practicing Catholic, our mother took great solace in being in a Catholic hospital where she was visited daily by the priest or chaplain. She was given her last rites. We were happy to sit and pray the rosary each day, sing hymns, and watch the Mass on television with her. Thank you with all my heart for your love and caring.

With deepest gratitude, Donna

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE NEWS

2019 South District Mission Project "Abundant Life Locally and Globally" District Goal: \$50,000

For 2019, our district mission will be a 1/1 match locally and globally. For every \$1.00 given, half will be given to support a new church start/ministry center in the city of Chester and half will be given to launch a New Life Skills program in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Chester, PA

Trinity UMC of Chester, PA voted in December 2018 to merge with Trainer UMC, but prior to the merger vote, Trinity UMC voted to gift their church properties and educational center to Chester: St. Daniel's to provide residents of Chester opportunities for education, empowerment, spiritual, and economic advancement/development.

Under the leadership of St. Daniel's UMC and with the support of the South District and the Eastern PA Conference, a plan is being developed to engage new ministry on the Trinity Campus.

The educational/empowerment center will be the starting point for this work, with plans being developed to provide residents of Chester opportunities for education, development and economic advancement.

Half of the gifts from the 2019 South District Mission will be used to support the 2019 launch of this new church start/ministry center. Please be in prayer with the people of St. Daniel's as we seek to bring HOPE to children, youth, young adults and wise adults of Chester.

Mpasa, Congo

A priority for the Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership in all its projects in Congo is self-sustainability. Given the extreme poverty in the MPASA region where 4.5 million refugees have settled, the goal of self-sustainability is very difficult. Many of the people cannot afford to adequately feed their children compelling the Partnership to continue to provide nutrition programs for the malnourished children in the area.

The Mpasa Medical Center provides important medical services for this region and has been significantly improved in recent years due to the generosity of the South District. The South District made it possible for Mpasa to construct a new medical building for pediatrics and two well equipped operating theaters and solar power for the entire Medical Center. A new Ophthalmology Clinic will soon be launched adding another vital service for the people in this region.

With the improved medical care and ongoing nutrition provision, many people in the Mpasa region cannot afford to pay for all their medical services or for feeding their children. While the solution to this problem for the entire region is beyond the scope of the Partnership, we do believe we can make a significant difference by providing education and training for people surrounding the Mpasa Medical & Nutrition Center.

New Life Skills (NLS) programming will provide training in a trade and also include other academic skills training. Skill offered will include: Sewing, sandal making, tie dyeing fabrics, soap making (for laundry and personal use), and bakery.

The funding from the South District 2019 Mission will enable the expansion of the New Life Skills Program as well as the creation of a Microloan Program.

Microloans: The South District will provide the funds for the Congo Partnership to launch a Microloan program for the people of Mpasa, Congo. After researching numerous models for providing microloans, it was decided the best model was to develop a Community Bank of the residents in the area. Participants must make some personal investment in the bank. The pooled funds can then allow persons to request a loan from the established "bank".

Education: In addition to providing the funding for New Life Skills Programming and a Community Bank, a portion of the funds raised by the South District will be used to offer partial scholarship for the children in the Nutrition Program to attend public school. Education is the key to break this poverty cycle.

Thank you South District for participating in this vital work.

Please issue checks to West Grove UMC with a memo of District Mission Project.

TO KNOW BEYOND THE UNKNOWN

By Bishop Peggy Johnson

NASA has sent a spacecraft far beyond Pluto that recently took pictures of a reddish rock that astronomers call "Ultima Thule" (which means "beyond the known world"). This hunk of rock and ice stretches about 20 miles across and is about 6.5 billion kilometers from the earth.

Ultima Thule is significant, according to NASA, because it could offer us insights about what the solar system was like at its first forming. It could help scientists understand how the building blocks of planets were made 4 billion years ago.

On January 1 the New Horizons spacecraft sent back pictures—images the like of which we have never seen before. What is even more exciting is that this spacecraft has enough power to continue exploring the unknown universe for another 11 years. So, it will continue traveling further out into space and take even more out-of-this-world pictures that we have never seen before.

As Psalm 19 rejoices, "The heavens declare the glory of God." How amazing is our God to have created so many vast planets and stars?

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place," asks Psalm 8:3, "what is man that

you are mindful of him and the son of man that you care for him?" Compared to all this vastness of space, we on this tiny planet might seem insignificant. Yet, God does love us and care for us as precious beings in God's creation.

Ponder the words of Ephesians 3:20: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work with us..." Or Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing."

Yet, beyond the known world (to borrow our new celestial discovery's moniker) and beyond the new horizons emerging in our sciences, we know an unknowable God. We know this Creator who cares for all creation through mighty words and deeds, through a heaven-sent Son whose birth we celebrated at Christmas, and through our own faith in the reliable evidence of things unseen.

We may continue to journey far in our search and discovery of distant, unknown worlds. But the God we know is always near, listening and peering into our searching hearts, hearing and responding with love to our prayers of faith. Let us believe in that!

(This article may also be found at bishoppeggyjohnson.blogspot.com/2019/01/to-know-beyond-unknown.html)

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference has been allotted 8 delegates - 4 clergy, 4 lay persons. These delegates will be a part of the larger 864 from around the world, who will respond to the recommendations. Let us be in prayer for the delegates.

LAY DELEGATES

Judy Ehninger Clarita Krall Krystl Johnson Jane Bonner First Alternate: Lenora Thompson

CLERGY DELEGATES

Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm Rev. Jeff Raffauf Rev. Joseph Dipaolo Rev. Lydia Muñoz First Alternate: Rev. Robert Wilt Lay Alternates: Dave Koch Ann Jacobs Wilhelmina Young Clergy Alternates: Rev. Tracy Bass Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien

Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto Rev. Robin Hynicka Rev. Mindy McKonly

AC2019 RESOLUTIONS AND GC2020 DELEGATE NOMINATIONS DUE IN MARCH

By John Coleman

We have several March deadlines coming up; and two of the most important relate to the 2019 Session of Annual Conference, June 13-15. Legislative resolutions to be debated and voted on at Annual Conference are due by March 15. And March 1 is the deadline to nominate clergy and lay members for the Annual Conference to consider electing as its delegates to the UMC's 2020 General Conference.

All resolutions and nominations must be submitted to the Rev. Lloyd Speer, Conference Secretary (conferencesecretary@epaumc.org).

The March 15 deadline for resolutions will allow for them to be prepared, published and distributed prior to the four district conferences, which are all scheduled to meet on Sunday, May 5. Speer cautions that resolutions should be submitted well before that date to give time for any needed corrections and resubmissions before the deadline.

As usual, resolutions must be emailed as attached Word documents and may be submitted by any members to annual conference, as well as by congregations or their members, conference-related organizations and institutions. See the Resolution Submission Requirements and Format on our Annual Conference 2019 webpage for more information, including a sample resolution format.

Nominate delegates to the 2020 General Conference

The next General Conference will meet May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our eight delegates, plus alternates, must be elected at our next annual conference in June. The procedures governing their election are laid out in the 2018 Conference Rules of Order.

Nominating petitions will be sent to clergy members (in full connection) and lay members to Annual Conference. Those petitions will allow for no more than 10 nominees. Persons will be considered officially nominated when their names have been identified on at least 10 nominating petitions.

Clergy will nominate and elect clergy members; and laity will nominate and elect only lay members. All nominees must fulfill the Disciplinary and Constitutional requirements outlined in paragraphs 35 and 36 of our UMC Constitution. Nominating petitions must be returned to the Conference Secretary by no later than March 1.

The conference Board of Lay Ministry may make additional laity nominations by March 10. All nominees will receive an acceptance form and must return their completed form—including biographical information and a brief statement—by March 31, for their names to appear on the ballot. We will publish the list of nominees, with their biographical material and statements, on the conference website.

Questions about submission of delegate nominations and legislative resolutions can be directed to the Conference Secretary at 215-943-2343 or at conferencesecretary@epaumc.org.

Our lay delegates are Susan Paisley and Mike Chalmers.

Our clergy delegates are Pastor Monica and Pastor Jim.

UMC: GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

United Methodist agencies: 2018 was productive year

By Jim Patterson United Methodist News Service

Here are the 2018 results and 2019 goals of the 13 UMC agencies:

The Board of Church and Society released a first draft of an updated Social Principles, to speak to the issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation.

The Board of Discipleship distributed more than 25,000 of its "See All the People" guide to winning new disciples for Jesus Christ. This year, plans call for continuing the effort to place an intentional disciple-making process in every church.

The Board of Global Ministries assisted in the release of 3 missionaries from the Philippines detained by the government, and its UM Committee on Relief continued rehabilitation efforts to deal with damage caused by recent hurricanes. In 2019, the agency continues to focus on the Abundant Health initiative, which has the goal of providing life-saving intervention to a million children by 2020.

The Board of Higher Education and Ministry solidified plans to establish a Center for Leadership and Spiritual Formation. In 2019, the agency plans to develop resources for collegiate ministers to assist them in helping students tend to their emotional well-being.

The Commission on Religion and Race hosted the Facing the Future conference where about 300 pastors learned ways to connect with diverse churchgoers when the demographics of a neighborhood change. In 2019, they plan to launch a new campaign, "We Are Becoming," about leaders and churches reaching across lines of difference.

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women, put together a toolkit of resources to help churches and faith

groups go forward with good sexual ethics policies. The commission plans to cultivate more relationships in 2019 in order to get its resources out to more United Methodists.

The Commission on United Methodist Men is working to reinvigorate its meetings and offer a course addressing domestic violence. In 2019, UMM will help facilitate several large events, including a denominational leadership meeting in March and the Scouting Jamboree in in July.

The Commission on Archives and History encouraged the celebration of the UMC's 50th anniversary and remind members of the denomination's DNA and ethos as it prepares for the special session of the General Conference. They plan to continue promoting and caring for the historical interests of the denomination in 2019.

The General Council on Finance and Administration developed a new brand and website, Its goal this year is to provide support and services to the church with easily accessible, downloadable resources.

United Methodist Communications implemented new technologies that will reduce costs, provide multilingual content and streamline communication channels. In 2019, the agency will continue working toward building a comprehensive communication strategy.

The United Methodist Publishing House conducted research on customer needs, for better service and internal processes to achieve gains in quality and efficiency. In 2019, plans call to improve the e-commerce experience and the testing of a mobile Bible study app.

United Methodist Women trained more than 6,000 women on interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and helping to stem climate change from a faith-based perspective. In 2019, UMW plans to mark its 150th anniversary with celebrations, recruit new members and mobilize women for action that is spiritually nurturing.

Wespath Benefits and Investments helping with preparations for the special called session of General Conference, in February. Going forward, Wespath is working to design new benefit plan proposals.

FURLOUGHED GOVERNMENT WORKERS TURN TO THE CHURCH

The North Bethesda United Methodist Church in has provided a forum for furloughed workers to talk about their frustrations as they weather the longest federal government partial shutdown in U.S. history.

While the Washington area is hardest hit, churches around the country are helping federal workers with bills, food, counseling and prayers.

Faith leaders gathered at the United Methodist Building near the U.S. Capitol Hill to call for the end of the shutdown.

Community United Methodist Church has taken extra offerings to build up a fund to help its government workers and is contributing to a nearby food bank.

First United Methodist Church in Manhattan, Kansas, established a \$15,000 fund, financed by its Barnabas Fund, to help people affected by the shutdown.

(This is an excerpt of an article written by Jim Patterson.)

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 UMW Faith Circle	2 Daily Reflections
3 All Worship Caring for the Human Family	4 Knit Wits SOS Ladies	5 Caring for the Human Family Trustees Meeting	6 CMO Registration (current) Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting Luther House Bible study Caring for the Human Family	7	8 RAP Youth Dodgeball	9 Daily Reflections JULIETS
10 Scout Sunday Youth Parent Breakfast Jenner's Pond Worship Caring for the Human Family	11 Knit Wits SOS Ladies	Caring for the Human Family Prayer Gathering	Full Staff Meeting Luther House Bible study Caring for the Human Family	14	15 UMW Faith Circle	16 Daily Reflections
17 Coffee Fellowship Memory Bells	Presidents Day- Church Office Closed Knit Wits SOS Ladies	19 Finance Meeting Ad Council Meeting	20 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting Luther House Bible study	21	22 General Conference	23 General Conference Daily Reflections
24 General Conference	25 General Conference Knit Wits SOS Ladies United Methodist Men	26 General Conference Missions Meeting SPRC Meeting	27 Luther House Bible study	28 ROMEOs		



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



2019

~ 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 Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director Childyouthdirector@westgoveumc.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 davsan5@comcast.net

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 Marc Simmons - Finance Chair Scott Steele - Treasurer Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Interim Chair Steve May—Tech Team Leader Dick Stuhrke—Scouting Coordinator Melanie Hartley - 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 -Delegates to Annual Conference Pastor Monica - Committee on Lay Leadership OPEN - U.M.W. President Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Karen Hruz-Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator John Gambill, Betty Mundell

—Ad Council Member at Large Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator