



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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

www.westgroveumc.org



***Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2019***

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

OPEN

Prelude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Memory Bells Choir
Arranged by Michael Mazzatenta

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Folder located on a chair in your row.

First-time guest or member, let us know you were here!

*Call to Worship (Written by Ann Siddall)

Becky Rinehimer

One: We have wilderness and drylands across our world. We may not venture into it very often, but we know it is there.

Many: More familiar to us, however, is the wilderness in our own hearts, the empty spaces in our own lives, the desert of longings that can engulf us during this time of the year.

One: Wilderness is a hard place, but also a place of beauty and grace, revealed by its sunsets and sunrises, the moon shining on the sand.

Many: May we not be afraid of the desert places in life, for it is here that the Good News may be heard most profoundly. May it be so.

*Processional Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Hymn No. 211, Vv. 1, 3, 7

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Becky Rinehimer

**Holy God of Hope, as we continue our Advent journey,
we are conscious of those whose hearts may be wandering in the desert.**

**Give us ears to hear your voice in the wilderness
and hearts to trust that your presence never leaves us.
Help us to remember that joy is always possible. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

Becky Rinehimer

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

GROW

KidSing

"I Will Bring My Worship"

Joan Leaman, Director

Moment For All Ages

Melanie Hartley

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Becky Rinehimer

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

Becky Rinehimer

*Response to the Lesson

Becky Rinehimer

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

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

| | | |
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| Anthem | “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring ” | Chancel Choir |
| Advent Wreath Lighting | The Choir sings first, the congregation joins in after the litany. | The Croft Family |
| Candle Lighting Song | “The Hope Of Your Coming” | PowerPoint |
| Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children’s Worship. Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10. Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities. | | |
| Sermon | “ <i>Second Chances for Joy</i> ” | Melanie Hartley |

SERVE

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| *Hymn of Response | “Christ Be Our Light” | PowerPoint |
| Moment of Impact | Joy of Giving | Pastor Jim |
| Offering | “The Holly and the Ivy” | Memory Bells Choir Arranged by Valerie Stephenson |

***Offertory Response** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH No. 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Offertory Prayer (Unison)** Pastor Jim
God of all, we give you thanks for the gifts of plenty we have received. We pray that these gifts will be given to those who find themselves in the wilderness. May they be a sign of life in the desert. Amen.

Gathered Prayer Pastor Monica

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison) Pastor Monica

***Hymn of Sending Forth** “Joyful, Joyful” Hymn No. 89, Vv. 1,2

***Benediction** Melanie Hartley

***Choral Benediction** “Christmas Peace” Chancel Choir

***Postlude**

* = *Rise in body or spirit* **Bold Print = Say in unison**



Altar Flowers

The flowers gracing our altar space today are
in Celebration of Caitlin O’Neil’s 21st Birthday!
With love from her family



Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 11:2-11*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his
disciples and said to him,
"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered
them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the
lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor
have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at
me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:
"What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who
wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John
the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

OPEN ~ GROW ~ SERVE

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

Welcome, one and all!

We are glad you are here—a place where faith, hope and love abide!

We encourage you to join us again.

Our Welcome Center, in the lobby, is a place to find information about our church.

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

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



Our Assisted Listening system is available to all who could benefit from additional amplification or assistance. Please see our soundboard operators for questions or to use a unit. We would like for you to hear!



CONGREGATION HOSTS FELLOWSHIP: Next **Sunday, December 15**, please bring a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies to share during our Coffee Fellowship time!

Advent began on December 1st! We invite you and your family to sign up to **lead the litany and light the Advent Wreath** at 8:30 or 11:00 worship. Sign up in the Lobby.

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE: Bring your Christmas cards for your church family between 12/1/19-1/5/20. We are setting up a wonderful display of "Mailboxes" that you can into which you can deposit your cards. Place your cards into the box with the first initial of the recipients' last name. Pick up your cards at the same time. It is a wonderful way to share the Christmas joy with our church friends!

BLUE CHRISTMAS- Friday, December 20th, 6:30 p.m. As we prepare for Christmas, some of us might not feel the joy of the season. Perhaps, this is a season of loss and pain. Anyone who feels that the holly and jolly of the season is not where they find their hearts, is welcome to join us for our Blue Christmas service. The service welcomes all with trust and understanding in what can be a very painful time of the year. The service includes the lighting of candles, meditative music, prayers, comforting scriptures, and the giving of prayer shawls. Join us as we offer a quiet and reflective service of light in the midst of darkness.

Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24th

Wiggly Giggly

12:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

6:00 p.m. Family service

with a pick-up Christmas Pageant and music by our Memory Bells Handbell Choir

Jenner's Pond

7:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond in the Allison Theater

8:30 p.m. Contemporary Service

with music by our PraiseWorks Band

11:00 p.m. Traditional Service

with music by our Chancel Choir and the Sacrament of Holy Communion

There is a place for you at West Grove UMC!

THIS WEEK: December 15 through December 22, 2019

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

Second Sunday in Advent

Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Congregation! Bring your favorite Christmas Cookies to share!

KidSing Choir

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday: | 8:30 a.m. | Contemporary Worship w/PraiseWorks Band |
| | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Jenner's Pond Worship (Allison Theater) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Traditional Worship w/ Chancel Choir |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Counters (#2) |
| | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | Youth Group (#8, 10) |
| Monday: | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) |
| | 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. | Knit Wits (#1) |
| | 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. | Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.) |
| Tuesday: | 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | CMO Preschool—Extended (9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) |
| | 4:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. | GS Troop #447 (#8, 10) |
| | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | GS Troop #41377 (#8, 10) |
| Wednesday: | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | CMO Preschool (9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) |
| | 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Full Staff Meeting (#1) |
| | 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1) |
| | 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | GS Troop #427 (#8, 10) |
| | 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Caregivers Group (#4) |
| Thursday: | 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | CMO Preschool—Extended (9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Preschool Singalong (Sanc.) |
| | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | GS Troop #4567 (#8, 10) |
| | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | GS Troop #4099 (#12) |
| | 6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Choir Rehearsal (#6) |
| | 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | BS Troop #12 (#3, 4, 5) |
| | 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | BS Committee Meeting (#1) |
| | 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | PraiseWorks Rehearsal (Sanc.) |
| Friday: | 6:30 p.m. | Blue Christmas Service (Sanc.) |
| Saturday | 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. | Daily Reflections (#8 and 10) |

Fourth Sunday in Advent

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday: | 8:30 a.m. | Contemporary Worship w/PraiseWorks Band |
| | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School and Faith Learning Academy |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Traditional Worship w/ Chancel Choir |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Counters (#2) |
| | 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. | GS Troop #41403 (#8,10) |
| | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | Christmas Jubilee Youth Group (#8, 10) |

Moment of Impact ~ Joy of Giving

Your giving to the church impacts ministry locally and globally. Our budget includes monthly apportionments from our annual conference. These include developing Christian leaders around the world through our World Service Fund as well as paying our property and liability insurance. Our apportionments contain funding the pensions of previous pastors (before 1982) as well as worker's compensation. These are just four of the many connectional commitments and impacts of our apportionments that allows us to broaden our reach to transform the world for Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

NEED PRAYER?

To be added to the Prayer Chain: Weekdays, contact Donna Fackler at office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334. Evenings and weekends, email prayer@westgroveumc.org. **Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for four Sundays.** Please contact Donna, if you need the request extended. *If you do not want your name listed in the bulletin, please state that in your request.*

Community Prayer Focus for December: Advent Activities and Services Mission Prayer Focus for December: UMCOR

Darlene Alleger (Guepet)
Glenn Allen (Mundell)
Helen Carlin
Joann Coates
Dee Crawford



Linda Eyster (Combs)
Michael Fackler (Fackler)
Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)
Family of Bill Fili (Bratton)
Mary Finn (Mullen)
The Gastaldi Family (Strewjewski)
Stephen Gaughan (Fackler)
John Gorman (McGinley)
Mike Haley
Ellen Hayes
Scott Helsel (Stewart)
Family of Bob Herb (Shiplet)
Linda Herb (Shiplet)
Muff Hurst
Family of Sandy Kates (B. Smith)
Peg Kent
Gordon Maule (Phillips)

Joel & Heaven McCree
(Combs)
Peggy Mowrer
Betty Mundell
Tim Mullen

Lola Nadolny (Hruz)
Michael Raineri
Family of Vernon Ramberger
Wayne Reisler (Shiplet)
Rick Renzulli (McGinley)
Joan Saller
Doug & Joan Smead (Wolff)
Charlie Smith (B. Smith)
Reed & Joyce Smith
Rick Spencer (Kim Smith)
Flora Spiegel (Strewjewski)
Maureen Stickel (Fackler)
Jeannie Sullivan
Mary Tharp (RAP)
Tommy Lake (Simmons)
Bruce Varney (Shiplet)
Mary Weidman (Miller)
Gisela Winkler (Mullen)



Anderson S. Camp
Navy, Norfolk, VA (Shaub)
Daniel Engberg—Iraq (Hruz)
Nathaniel Howard,
North Carolina
Brian Kubo—Washington (Mullen)
LTC Eric Maxwell,
Fayetteville, NC
(The Rambergers)
Chris Weidman—Japan (Miller)
Dalton Wolfe-U.S. Marine Corps
Drew Zumpino—South Korea
(Beauchamp)

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

This Sunday, December 15

Next Sunday, December 22

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ushers—8:30 | John Gambill | Tim & Eileen Bushnell |
| Greeters—8:30 | John McGinley | Margaret Rubincan |
| Ushers—11:00 | Christy Robinson | Ed Tolmie and Fran Miller |
| Greeters—11:00 | TBD | TBD |
| Acolyte 8:30/11 | Wesley Boyd / Alisabeth Guepet | Hannah McCummings/Jacob Rinehimer |
| Nursery 8:30/9:45/11 | M. Rubincan/C. Bratton/Open | C. Bruno / E. Mullen / J. Leaman |
| C. Worship—8:30/11 | Judy Gambill / TBD | TBD / TBD |
| Lay Reader—8:30 | John McGinley | Joan Leaman |
| Liturgist—11:00 | Becky Rinehimer | Jean Kilmartin |
| Moment All Ages | Melanie Hartley | Eileen Bushnell |
| Roamers | Maryanne Covington | Amy Castaldi |
| Hospitality 8:30 | The Covington Family | Dick & Caryl Stuhrke |
| Hospitality 11:00 | Scott Steele | Linda Peirson |
| Counters | Dick and Caryl Stuhrke | Valerie Kapp-Benner / Alison Aucott |
| Sound Booth | K. Schneider, M. Duvall & Others | K. Schneider, M. Duvall & Others |

8:30 Contemporary Worship Service

OPEN

Opening Song “O Come, All Ye Faithful” PraiseWorks Band

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities Pastor Monica
*Please fill out the Friendship Folder on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.
First-time guest or member, let us know you were here.*

***Celebration Set** “Do You Hear?” PraiseWorks Band
“Christ Be Our Light”

***Passing of the Peace** PraiseWorks Band
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

GROW

KidSing “I Will Bring My Worship” Joan Leaman, Director

Moment For All Ages Melanie Hartley

Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 35:1-10* John McGinley

***Gospel Testament Lesson** *Matthew 11:2-11* John McGinley

Advent Wreath Lighting The Bohnsack Family
PraiseWorks sings first, the congregation joins in after the litany.

Candle Lighting Song “The Hope Of Your Coming” PraiseWorks Band

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

Sermon “Second Chances for Joy” Melanie Hartley

SERVE

Moment of Impact Joy of Giving Pastor Jim

Offering “Joy” PraiseWorks Band

Offertory Prayer (Unison, p. 3) Pastor Jim

Gathered Prayer Pastor Monica

The Lord’s Prayer Pastor Monica

***Closing Song** “Sing For Joy” PraiseWorks Band

***Benediction** Melanie Hartley

***Postlude**