



The Wesleyan Star

West Grove United Methodist Church

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West Grove, Pa. 19390

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February 2020



"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1: 4-9

On Martin Luther King, Jr. day, I gathered with community leaders at the MLK CommUNITY breakfast in Kennett Square. With the recitations and readings of his works, I was reminded of a section from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech on the steps of the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, after the successful completion of the Selma to Montgomery March on March 25, 1965:

"I know you are asking today, "How long will it take?" (Speak, sir) Somebody's asking, "How long will prejudice blind the visions of [men], darken their understanding, and drive bright-eyed wisdom from her sacred throne?..."

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever...

How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

In the face of oppositional adversity, "How long?" was the question for the speaker of the morning, Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Trulear who spoke on "Building a Beloved Community in the Face of Adversity"

Dr. Trulear told this poignant story of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, mentor to MLK, Jr, who grew up with his loving faith-filled grandmother in Daytona Beach. His family moved into the neighborhood, and the white family next door was filled with hate and opposition to their new neighbors. The mother had her son scrap the chicken manure out of the chicken coop and on to the backyard of the Thurmans.

Sometime later, that same woman became quite ill. Mrs. Thurman, being a loving woman of faith, made chicken soup and brought cut red roses to her neighbor.

Her neighbor was so touched. And as she thanked Mrs. Thurman, she couldn't help but ask about the roses. "Did you grow them?" As Mrs. Thurman responded in the affirmative she continued, "These roses are beautiful. How did you get the stems to grow so long as green? And how did you get the flowers to grow so red and full?"

Mrs Thurman said, "You remember that chicken manure you dumped in my backyard? You intended it for bad, but the God I serve saw that as fertilizer. And that God told me to take that which you had thrust in my direction, and to overcome it with something good to bring in your direction."

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



January 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)

Sermon Series: We Belong To Christ

Sunday, February 2, 2020
Communion Sunday and
Emergency Aid

All Worship Sunday

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

*Food Pantry Day is the first Sunday of each month

Sermon: "You Are Not Lacking!"

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 1: 1-9,*
Acts 3: 11-16

Sunday, February 2, 2020
Twin Pines Worship

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 9, 2020
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Scout Sunday

Sermon: "Aligned"

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 1: 10-18,*
Philippians 2: 5-8

11:00 a.m. Jenner's Pond Worship in
Alison Theater with Karen Hruz, CSM



Sunday, February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: "Show Me State"

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 1: 18-31*
Matthew 5: 21-37

Memory Bells perform at 11:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Missions Team

Sunday, February 23, 2020
Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: "God Gives The Growth"

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 3: 1-9*
Matthew 17: 1-9



Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Ash Wednesday

Sermon: "When You Pray"

Scripture: *Matthew 6: 5-9,*
Joel 1-2, 12-17



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship is on **February 9** at 11 am
in the Alison Theater.

Led by Karen Hruz, CSM

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 collection is February 2nd, 2020



FEBRUARY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: The Missions Team

Due to 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 United Methodist Church of the Open Door in Kennett Square will be closing as of June 30th, 2020. We give

thanks to God for their witness and their faith in our community and cluster. West Grove UMC has been a faithful sister church across many years to Church of the Open Door.

It has been our privilege to be in ministry with this congregation in multiple opportunities. In this season, Church of the Open Door will be meeting in our building for worship twice monthly on Saturday afternoons at 4pm, commonly 2nd and 4th Sundays.

The remnant of the congregation gifted our congregation two crosses, and a candle lighter. One of the crosses, pictured here, has been placed in the board room (Room #1). The candle lighter was used for the Advent Wreath lighting. The other cross will find a permanent home. The crosses and candle lighter are reminders of the faith we hold dear. Some members from Church of the Open Door have been worshipping among us.

Please welcome them with open arms.



Dear Pastor Monica ,



I give thanks to God for the sacrificial generosity of West Grove UMC and for the commitment to our shared mission across this Earth that is made possible through connectional giving. In addition, I give thanks for your faithful ministry that continued to chart a path forward, teaching and preaching on stewardship and modeling a ministry of generosity. To end the year in surplus speaks to the miracle of transformation that is possible and I rejoice in God's constant assurance that we have abundantly more than we can even imagine. May God continue to bless the work of your hands and the ongoing ministry of West Grove UMC.

Together in ministry,
Dawn (The Reverend Dawn Taylor-Storm, District Superintendent)

BOOKS & MOVIES MENTIONED IN SERMONS IN JANUARY

January 5, 2020

- *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others.* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *United Methodist Social Principles*, paragraph i65.c.
- <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/united-methodist-traditionalists-centrists-progressives-bishops-sign-agreement-aimed-at-separation>

January 12, 2020

- <https://www.ncronline.org/news/parish/bapt>

ism-rates-slide-despite-high-profile-boosts

- <https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/>
- Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible by Debbie Blue

January 19, 2020

- King, Jr. Martin Luther. Letter from a Birmingham Jail, 1963.
- Dorothy Heights:
<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126136930>





GROW



PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING



The Prayer Ministry team meets the **second Tuesday of every month** for a time of sharing, praying and mutual care. **We welcome you to join us at our next meeting on February 11th at 6:30 p.m.** 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'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.



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays

2:00-3:00 PM, Bldg. #1

The Luther House Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 pm in Bldg. #1.

If you have any questions, please see Cindy Haley or call her at 484-702-7071. We hope you can join us!



"God is whispering in your heart, in the whole existence, just tune your ears."

— **Amit Ray**, Meditation: Insights and Inspirations

"Journey to Jesus, Journey to Love"

Are you saddened by the hate, violence, and disregard for life in our world?

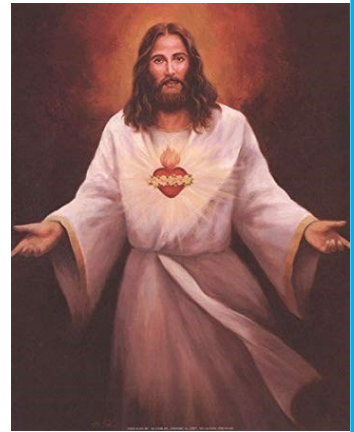
Now, imagine a world where love and respect for everyone reigned. Imagine a world where everyone actually obeyed Jesus' one

commandment: love as you wish to be loved and forgive as you wish to be forgiven.

The only way to combat evil and hatred in our world is for us to better fulfill the example and commandment that Jesus gave to us: love. LOVE, PURE AND SIMPLE.

Come – take the Journey to Jesus, Journey to Love **beginning Sunday, March 1st through April 5th at 9:45-10:45** and learn how to better connect your heart with the heart of Jesus. **Sign-up sheets are in the church lobby on the bulletin board.**

Carol McGinley, Leader



Artist T. C. Chiu



© Can Stock Photo

A short-term class, beginning Sunday, February 2, led by Pastor Monica will present information for the future of United Methodism

that are to be debated to the General Conference in May. **Pastor Monica's class will meet on Sundays from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in Room 5.** All interested persons are welcome to attend this informative series of classes.



To West
Grove United
Methodist
Church:

Pastor Jim and Betty
give thanks to the
congregation and the
SPRC

for their wonderful
gifts of cards and
support during the
Christmas Season.

Dear West Grove United
Methodist Church,

On behalf of the staff and board of
directors of The Constellation
Network (GSR), thank you for
your continued, generous support
of this organization.

Donation amount: \$760

Kate Daneker

Director of
Community
Engagement



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the most
generous gift at
Christmas.



It is always my joy to
serve you from the
church office in any way that I
can.

With affection and appreciation

Donna Fackler



Dear West Grove United Methodist
Church,

Thank you so much for the generous
donation of \$100 to support the
Garage Community and Youth Center.
Supporting The Garage helps
vulnerable students stay in school,
graduate on time, avoid risky
behaviors, increase self-esteem, and

pursue post-secondary education.

During the 2018-2019 school year, support from you and hundreds
of other donors made the following outcomes possible:

- ◆ 556 students were served throughout the school year (including
144 new students)
- ◆ More than 150 students used bus transportation to get home
after program.
- ◆ 82 students received post-secondary guidance and support
through our MAPS program.
- ◆ 404 students provided 1,932 hours of community service
throughout the school year.
- ◆ 18 students will participate in our Career Compass internship
program this summer.

If you have any questions or want to learn more about The Garage
and how you can get more involved at The Garage, please do not
hesitate to contact us at 610-444-6464, info@garageyouthcenter.org
or visit our website at www.garageyouthcenter.org.

Best Regards,

Kristin Proto, Executive Director

To West Grove UMC:

I want to share my
sincerest gratitude
for the Advent Bag,
which gave me great
joy to open a gift
each day and read a Bible verse. I also
was thankful for the Christmas cards
sent by so many wonderful folks.



God Bless You,

Sue Hutton

A Luther House Thank You!

Dear Ones,

I am a bit tardy in sending a
thank you note to you—"tis the
season!"

So kind of you to remember us at
Luther Home. Many of us
have returned to our childlike
responses—especially our
spontaneous delight at
receiving a "Goodie" bag.
My the Lord bless each and
every one in the New Year
2020. Sincerely, Constance

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY



WHEN: Thursday MARCH 5th

WHERE: Willowdale Chapel at 675 Unionville Rd. in Kennett Square, Pa.

WHAT TIME: 9am-12:30pm.

PLEASE RSVP to Kate Daneker
(kdaneker@ksqroots.com) or

484-678-3889

The Bridges Out of Poverty model is a comprehensive approach to understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to the system level.

Bridges Out of Poverty uses concrete tools, strategies, and concepts to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty and build a healthy, sustainable community. Bridges Out of Poverty brings people from ALL sectors and economic classes together to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty.

It's all about collective impact.

Leah M. Reynolds,
M.S.P.L., Executive Director Kennett Area Community Service (K.A.C.S.), Cell: 412-915-5308

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity.

It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

(Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa)



This is our 14th 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. **We will be collecting the valentines from January 13th through February 2nd.** Thank you!



The following items have been turned in to the church office:

- **Bible marker w/cross**
- **Car key**
- **Wooden handled box cutter**

Our Food Pantry is now open the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from

4-6pm.

February dates are the 14th and 28th.





VBS SAVE THE DATE

July 20-24, 2020

Vacation Bible School is six months away, but we are already planning and getting excited for our summer ministries!

If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure to let Melanie Hartley know!

Save the dates for VBS and keep your eye out for more information to come!

YOUTH MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities,
contact Melanie Hartley

childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

**youth
group**
SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

February 2: 5:30 –7pm

February 9: 5:30-7:00
pm

February 16: 5:30-
7:00 pm

February 23: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

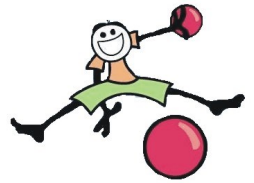
Dodgeball!

Youth Dodgeball
Night

Friday, February
14th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Bring your friends!!!

And \$3.00 for pizza!



Children are
not the
church of
tomorrow:
children are
the church of
today.

Esme Schmitt

Spring Retreat 2020 March 6-8, 2020

We are gearing up for a weekend away at Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center for fun and time to unwind.

We will be doing a series of sessions on prayer and different ways we can experience prayer, with an emphasis on the Lord's Prayer.



**Final sign ups are due by March 1. Contact
Melanie Hartley for information and questions.**

Tee's & Totes Fundraiser Starting February 16

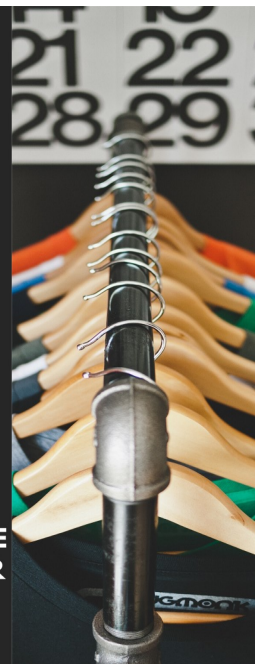
Our next mission trip fundraiser is coming soon! The youth mission team will be selling t-shirts and tote bags featuring our church!

**TEE'S
&
TOTES
SALE**

FEB. 16-MAR. 29

**HELP SUPPORT THE
YOUTH MISSION
TRIP**

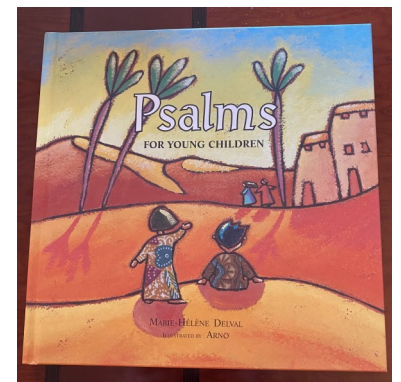
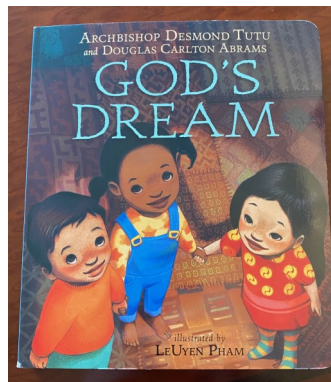
**STOP BY OUR TABLE
TO CHECK OUT OUR
PRODUCTS!**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Check It Out: New & Improved Children's Library

Has it been a while since you checked out the children's books? Well now is your chance! There are new books and new categories to see. We hope to entice all of our children and families with new stories and lessons. Bookcase located just outside the library!



All Worship Sunday

February 2nd:
8:30 & 11:00
Services

Children are invited to participate in worship on communion Sunday, so that all can partake at the Lord's table together. We provide worship packets and hands on toys to keep our kids engaged and teach them about worship.

Children & Youth Sunday School Sunday

mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.



WoRM Unit: Fruits of the Spirit January 5- February 23

Our first unit of 2020 will be focused on the Fruits of the Spirit. The apostle Paul writes in Galatians about the tendencies that lead us away from a full life in Christ and the fruits of the spirit of God that lead us back to that life. We will be learning what those fruits are over eight weeks with lessons like our fruits of the spirit tree and a fruits of the spirit pizza!

What's happening on Sundays:

For information or questions, contact
Melanie Hartley at
childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

CMO PRESCHOOL



CMO and Preschool News for February

The children will be busy this month learning about love and how we can show love. One of the ways that Miss Melanie and Pastor Monica show their love is through their dedication to our weekly chapel time. We are blessed that the preschool children have this experience. We will also be celebrating Groundhog Day this month. Although we have had a fairly mild Winter, we are hoping the groundhog will predict an early Spring.

Registration time is here!! Our registration for next school year begins on February 3rd for our current families and the following week 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 20th and 21st** and instructions and tags will be available beginning February 18th on the small table by the Preschool classrooms. 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. I am always looking for volunteers. Please reach out to me if you would like to volunteer some time. Happy February!

Tracy McLaughlin, Director



Children's Morning Out Preschool Open House and Registration

Our preschool will host an Open House on **Wednesday, January 29th**, 6-7 p.m. Come out to meet the teachers and see all the wonderful things happening in the classrooms!

Registration begins on **February 3rd** for our current CMO Families.

On **February 5th**, Alumni families can register their new preschoolers.

On **February 11th**, registration is open to the community.

All registrations begin at 9:15 a.m. in the lobby.

CMO CHAPEL TIME

with Melanie Hartley and Pastor Monica

Books we will read in February!

The month of February is all about love. What does it mean to love others? How do we show love? How does God show his love to us? We will be rounding out our time together with "Jesus Loves Me". We love the time that we get to spend with our smallest friends!





FUN & FITNESS



Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.) February 14, 2020 12:00-3:00 PM

RAP started the New Year together on Friday, January 10, 2020 at noon.



Thank you, Gloria Anderson and Sara Ann Ramberger for co-leading our gathering.

Our program in January was provided by Reed and Joyce Smith. Their presentation included pictures of their time in Sweden and some of the beautiful churches they visited in Europe. Thank you Reed and Joyce for

sharing your travels and pictures with us!



The next RAP gathering will be held Friday, February 14, 2020 at noon.

Paulette Bryan and Sara Ann Ramberger are our co-leaders. Bring your lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship with one another. Delicious desserts and beverages are provided.

We are so pleased to present a program by Jeanette Stryjewski entitled, "Queens for a Day", a discussion of five of the most popular Egyptian queens and stories of how they were subjects of legends and gossip.

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

United Methodist Men Monday, February 24 6:45 p.m.



The meeting for February will be held at the **Faith Community UMC in Atglen**. Dinner (\$11.00) will be followed by program. All men of the church are invited. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Dick Price.

UMM Breakfast Meeting

**Saturday, February 8th
at 7:30 a.m.**

Join the United Methodist Men for breakfast at Perkins in

Avondale on the second Saturday

of each month. Eight men enjoyed conversation and some inspiration from the Gospel of John in January. You are always invited to join them!



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

Women's Breakfast

The Juliets, a group of women who just like eating together, will meet at the Creekside Diner, 717 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square on **Saturday, February 8th** at 9:00 a.m. They meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship and laughter! Join us!





Boy Scout Corner - Troop 12 holds Court of Honor for its Third Eagle

Boy Scout Troop 12 was founded in 2013 when several cub scouts from the same pack crossed over and decided to form their own troop here at West Grove United Methodist Church. These boys have the distinction of being "founders" as designated by a patch sewn on the left sleeve of their uniforms just underneath the troop numerals. Many of these same boys have stayed with the troop and have advanced up through the ranks

from Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and for some now Eagle. In August of 2018, Troop 12 held its first Eagle Court of Honor for one of these founding

scouts, Nathaniel Krinnock. In September of last year Troop 12 awarded its 2nd Eagle to another of its founding scouts, John Yaletchko and on Sunday

January 12 of this year Troop 12 held its third Eagle Court of Honor for Jackson May, also a founder. (See the attached photos) Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Since scouting in America began back in 1911, only about 4% of boys who enter the program have earned this rank. A scout has to progress up through the ranks, lead by example and demonstrate proficiency in a number of skills. In addition to 21 merit badges, of which 13 are specifically required, he must put in many hours of service including an "Eagle Project", two of which are in evidence here at our church. These young men are to be congratulated for this great achievement.



"An Eagle Court of Honor is a Family Affair"



"Special Citation from State Representative John Lawrence"

There is a partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and the Methodist Church that dates back 100 hundred years when on February 12, 1920 an agreement was signed formalizing this relationship. Boy Scout Sunday will be celebrated this year on Sunday, February 9th, when not only will the scouts be celebrating their founding here in America which dates back to 1911, but we as a church can celebrate 100 years of what has been a great and lasting partnership. Troop

12 meets most every Thursday night in room 5. Troop 12 invites you to stop by and check out the wall that has its rank board with the names of all scouts and their current rank as well as the very busy bulletin board of its many activities and events.



"Proud Moment for Father and Son"



"Opening Ceremony following Presentation of the Colors"



"Shared Memories from a Loving Grandfather"



STEWARDSHIP



WEST GROVE UMC FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Good News! We are happy to report that our church finances for the month of December and for the year 2019 ended with a surplus.

In December, we received income of \$60,986 and incurred \$54,340 of expenses resulting in an excess of cash received over expenses in the amount of \$6,646. December's positive cash flow came primarily from strong offerings.

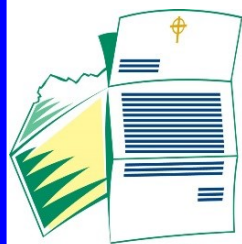


For the year ended December 31, 2019, we received total income of \$416,956 and incurred total expenses of \$404,141 resulting in an excess of cash received over expenses in the amount of \$12,815. This surplus came about from a combination of careful expense management and the receipt of significant gifts throughout the year.

The above results take into account the payment of ALL our apportionments for 2019. We are currently paid up in FULL.

We note that our budget for 2020 projects a potential deficit (as did 2019) of \$51,848. This includes the full apportionment expense of \$62,938 for 2020. Income only includes regular projected offerings without accounting for possible special gifts during the year.

Marc Simmons, Chair of the Finance Committee



Annual Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2019 will be received next week. Please look for your statement in the mail. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Janice Bowers, Financial Secretary, at 484-888-6821 or email her at janicesemail2@gmail.com

Thank you for faithful and generous support of the missions and ministries of the West Grove United Methodist Church!



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!) | 2 | \$4,000 |
| Electronic Sign at the street | 2 | \$15,000 |
| Electronic Sign at Rt. 1 | 1 | \$50,000 |
| Carpet in Room 14 (FULFILLED) | 1 | \$500 |
| Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot | 1 | \$7,000 |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Valentine's Day

Church Office is closed on Friday, February 14th.

AMAZON SMILE is super easy to use every time you shop on Amazon and it helps support YOUR CHURCH!



You go to your same login except choose Amazon Smile and support West Grove United Methodist Church. You still get the same deals, but a percentage of your spending is donated by Amazon to your designated non-profit! So, don't forget to log in to **SMILE** before you shop!!

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.

amazon.com



Best Selection of Retailer Brands and Products

LANDS'END

BARNES & NOBLE
B/N.com



Order gift cards for over 750 of the most popular brands, from groceries to coffee to entertainment to gas.



STARBUCKS®



Over 300 brands are available immediately with our eGift card products, and over 100 are reloadable.

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.

SCRIP SCRIPTS

Many of us purchase gift cards to use as gifts not just during the holidays, but year round!

Shop With Scrip is an easy way to patronize your favorite merchants and raise money for WGUMC.

For every dollar you spend, merchants will rebate WGUMC from 1% to 20% (and sometimes even more during special promotions). Order forms are in the Narthex. Simply place your order form and a check made payable to WGUMC in Gene Aucott's mailbox in the mailroom. Contact Gene to get on his reminder email list!

Questions? Contact Gene Aucott
gene.aucott@comcast.net / 610-869-7355.

South District Tools for Ministry
March 7, 2020

Eastern University/Palmer Seminary
Campus
1300 Eagle Road, St. Davids, PA 19087

Golf Cart Shuttles from Parking Lots
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Registration and Light Breakfast

(Snacks available throughout the morning)

8:50 a.m. Welcome:
District Superintendent
Dawn Taylor-Storm
District Lay Leaders Jennifer Lafferty & Bill Thompson
Dr. David Bronkema, Dean, Palmer 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

REGISTRATION FEES

Early (until Jan. 20) \$11

Standard (until Feb. 16) \$13

Late (after Feb. 16) \$16

FREE REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS - STILL
MUST REGISTER

(High School, College, Seminary)

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE
Debit & Credit Cards May Be Used

To Register: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=513581&>

Session "A" Workshops
9:30 – 10:50 a.m.

#1 A. Ministry – No Place for "Lone Rangers"

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Raffauf & Staff Members of West Lawn UMC

Members of the ministry staff of West Lawn UMC will share failures and successes achieved in ministry, especially as it relates to working alone or working as a team.

#2 A. Sustainable Leadership

Dr. Keima Sheriff, Ed-D Higher Education; Master of Social Service; BA Psychology and Political Science, Asst. Dean of Student Support Programs at Montgomery County Community College

Interactive discussion around understanding your personal leadership style and ways to develop a regenerative and restorative leadership practice.

#3 A. Reaching Children of All Abilities Through Sunday School and Other Programming

Stephanie Campitelli, Teacher and Connections Educational Consultant; Teaching Certifications in Special Education K-12, Math, Language Arts,

Spanish (fluent), and ESL

This workshop will provide educational background with references to current public educational research-based practices and the concept of inclusion. Attendees' philosophy of education will be examined and its importance discussed. Biblical basis and rationale for the practice of inclusion will be given. Several educational strategies and interventions will be provided, with a range of less to more intensive examples offered. There will be time for a "workshop" and question and answer session during which attendees can receive specific feedback from small groups and the presenter on types of strategies and implementation that may be effective for specific situations within congregations.

#4 A. The Gospel of John: Knowledge and Vital Piety

Rhonda Burnette-Bletsch, Ph.D Duke University;

Prof. of Biblical Studies, Eastern University
Historical, academic approaches to the Bible provide a lot of information but often little material that is usable for spiritual formation and ministry. Likewise, spiritual approaches to reading Scripture can be overly subjective, not grounded in the original meaning of the text. This workshop will combine Lectio Divina with biblical scholarship to increase our appreciation of John's Gospel.

#5 A. Wealth & Want in Scripture: Understanding how God's Proactive Love Makes Possible Our Own

Rev. Dr. Deborah Watson, Affiliate Professor of N.T. and N.T. Greek, Chaplain, Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University

Scripture is peppered with references to wealth (i.e. money), want (poverty). Each one is followed by a description of God's perspective on these things, and prescriptions to God's people about how to live (think/plan/act) in light of what they (we) know of God. In this workshop, we will do the following: - consider the scriptural foundations for understanding what we have, and what we do (or don't do) with it; gain a greater understanding of ourselves as givers and recipients; deepen our awareness of the Lord's provision for his Body: the Church

#6 A. Work of Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Rev. Dr. Bronwyn Yocum, Retired Elder, Former District Superintendent

This workshop will cover the Disciplinary requirements of the Pastor Parish/Staff Parish Relations Committee and the workings of the committee during the year. Highlights will include practical suggestions for the committee's work, a timeline for the year, review of the process of pastoral evaluation including creating a covenant and Disciplinary expectations. A good introduction for new members or review for chairpersons

and long-time members.

#7 A. ALICE – Introduction to ALICE Armed Intruder Training

Rev. Mark Beideman, Certified ALICE Trainer

The #1 Active Shooter Civilian Response Training for all Organizations. ALICE Training Institute has created a House of Worship training program to:

- Maximize Survival of congregants, staff, volunteers and leadership
- Provide Accountability by documenting completed training and preparation
- Reduce Liability by implementing and training in alignment with state and federal standards of care for violent intruder events.

A variety of factors may have an impact on your religious institution's safety. As the leadership, you must ask, "How would our institution react, survive and cope, if we came under attack from a violent intruder?"

#8 A. Ready to Explore Change? The Jeremiah 29 Team Can Help

Rev. Mark Terry, Chair, South District Jeremiah 29 Team

Does your church feel stuck, or in decline? Have you had trouble coming to a common vision for your church? The Jeremiah 29 team is here to help. At the workshop we will present our process for working with churches that helps them focus their energies on the ministry work that they believe God is calling them to. We will also discuss how to assess whether your church is ready to change, and if not, what you can do to start cultivating the soil for change down the road.

#9 A. Orientation to Ministry

Rev. Monica Guepet, Co-Chair South District Committee on Ministry

Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, Co-Chair South District Committee on Ministry

Might God be calling you? This workshop is for anyone who is exploring ordained, licensed, or other forms of ministry in the United Methodist Church and fulfills a Book of Discipline requirement. Join us for insights, information, and assistance as you discern where God is calling you.

#10 A. Effective & Efficient Church Meetings

John Lafferty, CSM, CLM

Everyone seems to complain that here we go again "another church meeting". This workshop will show you all the basics of what a church meeting should look like. Meeting Basics will be covered. also, new forms of electronic meetings like teleconferencing, video type, etc. will be covered. If you are tired of attending the same old meeting style, this might just be the workshop to help your church committee recharged your team meetings into the new year.

#11 A. Identifying Resources for Ministry – Part I

Lenora Thompson, President, The Thompson Group Consulting Services

This is a highly interactive workshop. Participants will learn what to do and what not to do regarding proposal writing. In addition, participants will be able to identify resources within the United Methodist Church and the secular society. Please also register for Session B #10 for Part II.

Session “B” Workshops

11:10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#1 B. Intentional Discipleship

Rev. Amy Banka, Lead Pastor, Hopewell UMC

Ally Bartlett, Children's Ministry Assistant, Hopewell UMC

Discipleship ... there's no quick fix. No “package” program. No ten-point list. It's an intentional effort to share the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that inspire folks to commit their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ and to live with purpose and vision. One plus one plus one.

#2 B. Adaptive Re Use of Church Property

Robert V Peters, B.Th., M.A, M.P.S. M.Div works as Consultant

Join the conversation about how to intentionally and faithfully make disciples who make disciples. How can we re use our old unsustainable buildings and attached lands to build a new model of church where funds are freed up for mission and church renewal? Many older churches can no longer continue spending 80-90% of their funds to maintain older energy inefficient buildings and keep up the repairs required etc....Hundreds of churches in the USA are being sold off or converted into new uses to allow for new wineskins to emerge and to support the renewal of the mission of Jesus! This session will explore in an interactive fashion what your options are in dealing with the reality of trying to maintain unsustainable properties with the goal of freeing up funds for ministries that meet local community needs and help grow your congregations again!

#3 B. Financial Protocols for Local Churches/Narrative Budgets & Ways to Increase Generosity

Rev. Joanne Miles, Deacon of Social Justice Ministries – St Luke UMC, Bryn Mawr: AVP Finance Operation, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Join this workshop where we will review good financial protocols, talk about how to build a budget and write a budget narrative, review tools and resources available to local church Finance Teams, explore building models to project for future financial sustainability, talk about why people give (mission) and ways to increase generosity and way to use technology in giving.

#4 B. Creating an Emergency Aid Program for your Church

Janice L. Bowers, Workshop Facilitator

Have you wanted to help those in financial crisis in your congregation or community? Do you have funds in reserve for emergency needs, but are not certain how to utilize them? This workshop provides a plan for creating a team and processes to implement an Emergency Aid Program for your church.

#5 B. Implicit Bias: What We Don't Think We Think

Rev. Jacqueline Hines, MDIV Cross racial/cross cultural appointment in Chester County; member EPAUMC Cross -Racial/Cross-Cultural Training & Resource Team; co-Chair EPAUMC Domestic Violence Committee.

Rev. Susan Worrell, MS, CADC, LPC - member of EPAUMC's Cross-Racial/ Cross-Cultural Training & Resource Team; co-Chair Conference Commission on Religion and Race

As followers of Jesus, we are created and called by the God who consistently questions beliefs, values, and motives. By taking an intentional look at implicit bias and the ways it works in our brains and in our actions, we commit to rooting out the biases that are corrupted by stereotype or prejudice and separate us from the Beloved Community.

#6 B. Struggling to Thrive: An Exploration of the Burdens Facing the Next Generation of Clergy & How to Alleviate Them

James K. P. Williams, MDIV; Pastor First Baptist Church, Phila.; '19-20 Resident Campolo Fellow, Campolo Center for Ministry

In 2019, the average student loan debt for college graduates was \$37,172. It is projected that this figure will continue to increase over the coming decades. Coupled with the many challenges that face those seeking to engage in full-time ministry, it is no surprise that nearly 50% of pastors feel that the demands of ministry are greater than they can handle. This seminar seeks to explore the challenges facing those exiting college with hopes of being full-time members of clergy, and how we can help alleviate burdens, financial and other, for the next generation of clergypersons.

#7 B. An Overview of General Conference Legislation & Process

Kristine Adams, Workshop Facilitator

Presenters: Kristine Adams, Johnson Dodla, Krystl Johnson, Ann Jacob, Lydia Munoz and Eddie Cameron, members of the Eastern PA Delegation Team

This workshop will cover some of the issues that will be brought up at General Conference especially resolutions regarding full inclusion of LGBTQ community. Key resolutions that are expected to be presented at GC will be reviewed. There will also be explanation of the different levels within The United

Methodist Church.

#8 B. New Evangelism Models: Lesson Learned from Methodist Missions with Native Americans

The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Duchesne, PhD, EPA Com. Native American Ministries, Communications Chair NE Juris. Native American Ministries Com.; Adjunct Sem. Faculty/Preaching & Worship; Research: church renewal & history Methodist Missions & Deaconesses with Indigenous People

The Rev. Gary Jacobella, MDIV, MA Holistic Spirituality, Trained Spiritual Director

This study will trace the history and models of Methodist missions with Indigenous Peoples up until the 21st century. Participants will learn about modern relational evangelism models that emerged from the United Methodist Church's engagement with Native Peoples. The relational model is relevant to ministry with other cultures today. This course will also provide knowledge that can help us move on in our journey toward healing and wholeness with our Native American brothers and sisters on the reservations, in urban areas, and in the communities around us. The workshop will also equip Native American Representatives in local churches to plan a Native American Ministries Sunday service or a program at some time during the year to focus on Native American gifts and contributions to the church and community.

#9 B. Effective Communication Strategies in This Digital Age

Rev. John Bletsch, Pastor, St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge; Chairperson EPA Conference Communications

This session will focus on ideas and guidelines for churches who want to use social media to communicate with their existing members and reach new people with the message of the Gospel. The session will also explore ideas on how to create a sense of community using social media.

#10 B. Identifying Resources for Ministry – Part II

Lenora Thompson, President, The Thompson Group Consulting Services

This is a highly interactive workshop. Participants will learn what to do and what not to do regarding proposal writing. In addition, participants will be able to identify resources within the United Methodist Church and the secular society.

#11 B. Sexual Misconduct in the Church

Rev. Allen Keller, Eastern Pa Conference I-Care Team Member

When the Worst Happens, What Do We Do? It does happen. We hear the news stories. Maybe it has happened to you or someone you know. Come learn what to do and how, we in the EPAUMC, are prepared to respond.



The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation Agreement:

"It's Not a Done Deal" by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conferences

January 4, 2020

The people called United Methodists have been on a long journey of conversation and debate regarding human sexuality: specifically the marriage and ordination of homosexual people and what "the practice of homosexuality being contrary to Christian teaching" means. The Protocol Statement that was released on January 3, 2020 seems to be a significant break-through in this 47 year impasse. It was crafted by a diverse group of 16 key United Methodist leaders along with a professional mediator. My deepest appreciation goes to them for this faithful and courageous work.

This was initiated by Bishop John Yambasu, from the Sierra Leone Annual Conference in July 2019. He yearned for the United Methodist Church to remain a denomination in the midst of much talk of schism and the many unhappy conversations after the 2019 General Conference that included blame and shame. This group of 16 continued to meet throughout the fall and the Protocol statement that was just issued will go to General Conference. It must also be considered by Judicial Council (constitutional legality), the General Commission on Finance and Administration (financial impacts) and the Commission on General Conference (logistics and scheduling). It is important to note that this must be approved by the delegates of General Conference (May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN) for this to become a reality. This Protocol still needs to be written into legislation form and presented to the delegates. So it is not a done deal! My email inbox was flooded yesterday by numerous concerned pastors and laity and I was interviewed by three newspapers. The major concern was the same: The UMC has split!! Not so! Please tell people this is not a done deal!

This Protocol is significant, ground breaking, and has the potential to accomplish much good. Among the components of this protocol are:

- The moratorium on all complaints and trials with regard to homosexuality between now and the General Conference.
- It keeps the Global UMC intact. The plan is to have the UMC be organized in regions that will determine their way of living with regard to paragraphs regarding homosexuality.
- It allows the Traditional churches to leave with their assets and be able to create their own denomination. A sum of \$25 million dollars will be paid over the next 4 years toward this end. As a result, there will be no court battles over property matters.
- It sets aside \$39 million dollars from both the UMC and the Traditionalist denomination for reparations in acknowledgement of the harm done to people of color during past changes in structure and system. These funds are to support programs, training and agency work to ensure the health and vitality of our ethnic constituencies going forward.
- It also sets aside \$2 million dollars for any future denomination that might want to also be developed.
- It ensures that clergy will still keep their pensions as everyone will continue to have Wespath Pension services.
- It allows for Disaffiliation for churches that wish to go on their own. However they must follow the Disciplinary paragraphs regarding this process.

All of this takes a very long time and with the Protocols are time-lines and benchmarks that will spin out for at least the next four years. So it is not a done deal even at the close of General Conference. (There will likely be amendments and changes to the plan if it does pass so it will not look exactly like the statement we have before us.)

What do we do in the meantime?

- Dispel any rumors that we have already "split" as a denomination.
- Continue to follow the news articles about the developments with the Protocols (umc.org).
- Attend the General Conference delegate listening sessions that will be happening this spring.
- Continue with the ministry and mission of the church. Make disciples! Be the presence of Christ's love in this world.
- Most importantly PRAY. Pray for the United Methodist Church and its witness to the world. It is my hope that moving forward what we decide at General Conference will ultimately multiply our witness and we will be poised to reach more and more people for Jesus Christ.

I do offer a personal lament at this time. Being who I am, with the image of the "Body of Christ" as a central part of my theology and heart, it is important for me to offer my thought that with a divided body we will be less whole. A denomination or any church that separates over their understanding of God's truth has left itself without the possibility of more understanding and growth. We can only mature spiritually and personally by the refining fire of discourse and collective prayer with those with whom we disagree. When we go to our respective "corners" I believe we will soon discover that we are "less than" we could be without the other.

However, having struggled together for 47 years, it is likely a season for this Protocol to be enacted for many practical and important reasons. Our witness has taken a serious hit as people from the outside see us as a warring body and much ministry time has been spent engaging in disagreeable conversations. May there come a day when we get back together, we people called Methodists. Just as the Apostle Paul apparently reconciled with John Mark (II Timothy 4:11) after separating from Barnabas over a dispute that had something to do with Mark's desertion (Acts 15:37), I am hopeful that we too can find our way back together in the future.

Peggy A. Johnson

Bishop Peggy Johnson, Philadelphia Area

EASTERN PA CONFERENCE NEWS



Bishop Peggy Johnson is asking members and friends of the Eastern PA Conference to offer heartfelt prayers as they learn and share the latest news about Puerto Rico's continuing onslaught of earthquakes. A 5.9 magnitude quake struck the island on Saturday morning, Jan. 11, following the stronger 6.4 magnitude one last Tuesday. Aftershocks have been continuous.

Bishop Johnson also appeals to us all to please support the relief efforts of UMCOR (UM Committee on Relief) and its Methodist Church of Puerto Rico partner agency, REHACE, by donating funds now to **Advance #901670**. Saturday morning's earthquake struck

southwestern Puerto Rico again but shook nearly the entire island. While there were no reported casualties, there were more landslides and damage to homes and businesses. More than 2,000 tremors have occurred since December 28.

Four thousand residents are still in shelters, and thousands more are living outside, afraid to enter or remain in their homes, for fear of more destructive quakes. Puerto Ricans reportedly are waiting to see if President Donald Trump will sign a major disaster declaration to authorize much-needed aid to this beleaguered U.S. territory.

Also, while FEMA has been working there, the island hasn't received more than \$18 billion in federal funding that was designated after hurricanes there more than two years ago, according to the Washington Post. We will collecting this special offering to go directly to our neighbors in Puerto Rico over the next four weeks. Thank you for giving generously.

The World is Growing!

The U.S.'s majority status in The United Methodist Church is coming to an end — and may be there already. That's according to projections from the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration — based on the continuing decline in U.S. membership as much as growth in Africa.

According to the agency's forecast, total membership in the central conferences — church regions in Africa, the Philippines and Europe — will exceed that of the U.S. jurisdictions in 2020. "Based on trends that have occurred over the last several years, we are annually averaging a decline of 2.0% overall for the jurisdictional membership," Kevin Dunn, the agency's director of data services, told the GCFA board at its November meeting.

"We may fall below 6 million (U.S.) members by 2025." It's a significant development for a church whose governance and history have both helped shape and been shaped by the United States, where the denomination got its start in 1784. Dunn said the U.S. decline has largely resulted from members' deaths — people leaving The United Methodist Church for the church triumphant. Dunn noted that United Methodist numbers are in keeping with overall U.S. religious trends. In October, Pew Research Center reported losses across Christian groups while showing the religiously unaffiliated rising to more than a quarter of U.S. adults. Even with shrinking U.S. rolls, The United Methodist Church is still the country's third largest denomination — behind the Catholic Church and Southern Baptist Convention. The most recent data



GCFA actually has on hand is the U.S. membership and attendance figures for 2018. Unequal infrastructure and technology typically mean that membership reports are usually out of sync between the U.S. and the rest of the globe. On its website, umdata.org, the agency reports the U.S. church had just under 6.7 million members at the end of 2018 — down from about 6.8 million in 2017. In the U.S., average weekly attendance was under 2.5 million in 2018, a decline of about 3.6% from the previous year.

The agency's most recent data for the central conferences is from 2017, when the denomination counted more than 6.4 million members in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. That's up from about 5.7 million members in 2015. However, the central conference total comes with an asterisk. On its data services website, GCFA notes that the 2017 numbers reflect the most recent submitted. Where conferences have not reported any new data, the agency carries over numbers from previous reporting. The story of the church in the U.S. is not strictly one of decline. "We have some good news," Dunn said. "Our Hispanic and multiracial growth has consistently been trending upwards 2% to 3% (a year) in each category." Between 2009 and 2018, the number of U.S. members identifying as multiracial increased from 45,955 to 68,029. In the same period, the number of Hispanic United Methodists has grown from 68,088 to 80,968.

Hahn is a multimedia news reporter for United Methodist News. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Daily Reflections Group |
| 2 4th Sunday After Epiphany All Worship Communion Emergency Aid Disciple Bible Study Twin Pines Worship Youth Group | 3 CMO Registration Knit Wits Making Sense of the Bible Tech Team Meets | 4 Trustees Meeting Cardio-Drumming | 5 CMO Registration Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting | 6 BOOM Retreat | 7 BOOM Retreat | 8 BOOM Retreat Daily Reflections Group |
| 9 5th Sunday After Epiphany Worship at Jenner's Pond with Karen Hruz Disciple Bible Study Youth Group | 10 Knit Wits | 11 Cardio-Drumming | 12 Full Staff Meeting Caregivers Group | 13 Disciple Bible Class Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm | 14  Church Office is Closed R.A.P. Youth Dodgeball | 15 Daily Reflections Group UMM Breakfast at Perkins J.U.L.I.E.T.S |
| 16 6th Sunday After Epiphany Memory Bells Coffee Fellowship Disciple Bible Study Youth Group | 17  PRESIDENT'S DAY—CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED | 18 Cardio-Drumming Finance Meeting Ad Council Meeting | 19 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting | 20 | 21 | 22 Daily Reflections Group DCOM |
| 23 Transfiguration Sunday Disciple Bible Study Youth Group | 24 Knit Wits UMM Meeting-Faith Community Church | 25 Cardio-Drumming Missions Meeting SPRC Meeting | 26  ASH WEDNESDAY 12 & 7pm Services | 27 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm | 28 | 29 Daily Reflections Group |



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Website: www.westgroveumc.org



~ 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

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Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

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Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

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Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

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Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director

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Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Ali Wills- Sexton

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Christ Servant Ministers

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Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

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Board and Committee Leadership

Tom Hoover - 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

Melanie Hartley - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Susan Paisley, RN - Faith Community Nurse

TBA - Missions Team Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley & Janice Bowers -

Delegates to Annual Conference

Pastor Monica - Committee on Lay Leadership

Open—Lay Leader

Cindy Haley & Fran Miller - U.M.W. Co-Presidents

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Betty Mundell, Dick Price

—Ad Council Member at Large

Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair