



The Wesleyan Star

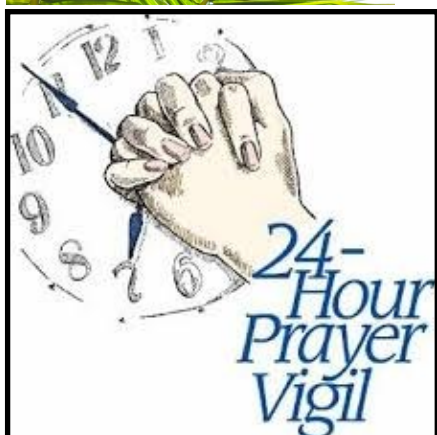
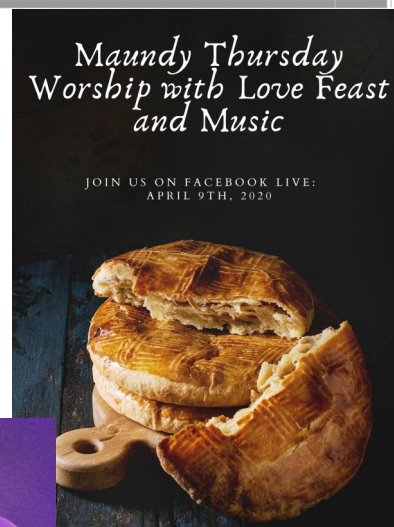
April 2020

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, Pa. 19390
Phone: 610-869-9334

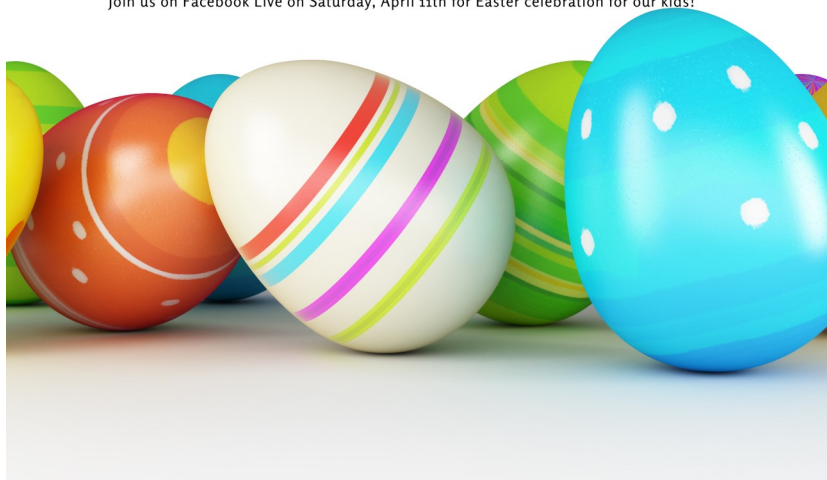
E-mail: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org



Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil

Join us on Facebook Live on Saturday, April 11th for Easter celebration for our kids!





April Worship at West Grove UMC

Join us as we worship together by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing in God's way, and serving God's world.



9:30 Live Cast Worship

Sermon Series: Prayers of Jesus: The Lord's Prayer

Sunday, April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday

Sermon: "A Part of the Crowd"

Scripture: *Matthew 6:14, Isaiah 5:4-9a*
Matthew 12-21

Thursday, April 9, 2020
Maundy Thursday

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Sermon: "Look OUT!"

Scripture: *John 13:1-17, 31b-35, 1*
Corinthians 11:23-26

Friday, April 10, 2020
Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Community Service

Sermon Reflections

Scripture: *Matthew 6:13, Hebrews 4:14-16,*
5:7-9, John 18:1-12, 18:33-19:6, 16-22, 28-40

Saturday, April 11, 2020
Holy Saturday

5:00 p.m. Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday

Sermon: "Without End"

Scripture: *John 20:1-18,*

Psalm 118:1-2, 21-24

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship (Garden)

9:30 LiveCast Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. Jenner's Pond Worship

Sunday, April 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter

Janice Bowers, preaching

Sunday, April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Tell us what we know"

Scripture: *Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 91*



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship is on
Easter
April 12th at 11 am
On your closed circuit
Jenner's Pond TV

Led by Pastor Jim

Join us by tuning in on the Closed Circuit TV at Jenner's Pond.



Fellowship Hour and Other Gatherings are suspended during this time of shelter in place. We pray you might have virtual fellowship with one another as you call, text, Zoom, FaceTime, direct message, Snap, or otherwise connect virtually with your siblings in Christ.

Pastor's Desk

A Note From Pastor Monica

The church is not the building; the church is the people. The Holy Spirit cannot be contained, even in quarantine. Please contact Pastor Monica

(pastor@westgroveumc.org) to set up Zoom for your group, Bible study, small group, gathering, or meeting. Please email her with your request and to learn how to use the technology. This is a simple method for us to continue to gather and meet while keeping our distance. You can access Zoom on a landline, a cell phone, a smartphone, a laptop, or a desktop. Please watch your email, our website www.westgroveumc.org, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/westgroveumc for more



Janice Bowers

Bishop Peggy Johnson announces the assignment of Janice Bowers to serve New London United Methodist Church half-time while she continues with her seminary studies, effective July 1, 2020. New London UMC is our sister church in our Mission Link. We celebrate the gifts that God has given to Janice, and the ways in which we have been blessed as a church family with Janice discerning her call here at West Grove. May God bless her and New London in their ministry together. Prayerfully, we will have a time to celebrate this new assignment, and

Annual Conference 2020 will be October 13-14

The 2020 Eastern PA Annual Conference will happen October 13-14, a Tuesday and Wednesday, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. Originally scheduled for June 18-20, the session was postponed because of restrictions against public gatherings due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

The now two-day schedule means a reduced agenda from the usual three-day schedule. The annual Clergy and Laity sessions will meet in the morning, October 13, just prior to the Annual Conference opening worship. Staff will begin event preparations onsite October 12. The Commission on Annual Conference Sessions met March 30 to plan a modified agenda, while the final dates were being negotiated with the Expo Center. Fall dates are hard to acquire now, with so many spring events being rescheduled.

Annual Conference registration fees already paid for June will be refunded, although with conference staff working mostly from home, that process may require weeks to complete. A new fee and registration period for the fall session will be announced soon.

District conferences are now scheduled to convene on Sunday afternoon, October 4. The postponed 2020 General and Jurisdictional conferences are being rescheduled for 2021.

BOOKS & RESOURCES IN MARCH

March 8:

(1) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/georgia-grandfather-86-knit-woolly-hats-premature-babies-cancer-a7432621.html>

(2) Long, Thomas. *Matthew*. Westminster John Knox Press, Jan 1, 1997

March 22:(1)

https://howmuchtoiletpaper.com/?fbclid=IwAR01Zwp3bqaTTzJtFYDd4hidG5cVaw3QRcxDCEF_yG7yORAMG9vVZKBD2SU

(2) Dennis Linn, Matthew Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, *Making Heart-Bread*. Paulist Press, 2006.

March 29: Task Master: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0-C5GH_yxU
Pope Francis. *Our Father: Reflections on the Lord's Prayer*. 2017

PRAYERS TO WALK WITH JESUS DURING HOLY WEEK



Almighty God, on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Hosanna! May our voices praise with those who doubt and deny, as well as those who are hungry and thirsty. Let the palms be our commitment to live to follow Jesus in the way that leads to everlasting life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Inspired by United Methodist Hymn #281)



Loving God, you call us to live out one commandment - to love one another.

You call us to follow you.
You call us again and again.

Today, let us recommit ourselves to follow you through the mystery of faith, serving one another, and with all of our lives, we pray, Amen.



Gracious God, on this day, you stand in solidarity with us, for our pain is your pain.

We believe - help our unbelief - that you forgive us, for we do not know what we do, Amen.

(Feasting on the Word, Year A)



Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of Holy Spirit, you have overcome death and opened the way to everlasting and eternal life!

An empty tomb stands as witness, let your church be a bold witness to proclaim in all we do,

"Christ is risen, Indeed!"

Let the love of God, the life of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit move now and forever, Amen!

WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Prayer Vigil Suggestions

Thank you for your participation in the prayer vigil. Prayer is powerful! Prayer changes things. Prayer changes us. Prayer draws us close to God and directs us. Prayer also unleashes God's power in ways that we cannot understand. Churches and communities have been transformed through prayer. Sit back and relax. Below are a variety of prayer suggestions to help you make the most of your time. You are welcome to use whatever portions of it as you wish.

1. Be seated for a time, and practice being calm in God's presence. If any part of your body is tense, relax each part until you are fully at ease in spirit and body. "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10
2. Reflect on scripture. On this Easter weekend, give thanks for Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, his victory over sin and death, and his unending love for us:
 - "He (Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Romans 4:25
 - "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24
 - "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7
 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1
 - "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7
 - "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Psalm 139:23
3. Spend time remembering the needs of our church:
 - Pray for Pastor Monica and her family, for God's strength and wisdom, for rest and renewal, for good health and God's blessings.
 - Pray for all our pastors for God's gifts and wisdom in their ministries and life.
 - Pray for our church staff: Donna, Melanie, Betsy, Sandy as they serve God in their ministries.
 - Pray for our preschool staff: Director, Tracy, Teachers: Natalie, Jennifer, April, Heather, Samantha and Assistant Teachers: Mary Alice, Gina, Laura, Maira and Michelle as they teach our children.
 - Pray for our church leaders. Pray for their continual protection, wisdom and guidance.
 - Pray for our church family. Pray that we will love the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and that we will love others as ourselves.
 - Pray that we will reach out into our community with Christ's love.
 - Pray that all of our financial needs will be met, and that God's bounty will be poured out through us for His glory.
 - Pray that this facility will continue to be shared by our community.
4. Pray for your personal needs, pray for family and friends. "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2
5. Spend some time lifting up the prayer requests from our congregation.
6. Pray for our community, our nation and our world.
7. Form your own prayer using this "ACTS" prayer model:
 Adoration: Tell the Lord you love Him. Reflect on His greatness, power, mercy and grace.
 Confession: As we come into God's presence we will be convicted of our sin and be sure it is cleansed and forgiven
 Thanksgiving: Count your blessings, name them one by one.
 Supplication: Make your requests known to God.
8. Meditate on words from hymns such as:
 Majesty, Worship His Majesty
 Majesty, worship his majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
 Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from his throne unto his own; his anthem raise.
 So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
 Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
 Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
 And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known;
 In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief,
 And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we'd first begun.

Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side! Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 Leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change He faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul – thy best, thy heav'nly Friend. Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

9. Feel free to describe your experience today in the Prayer Journal Notebook.

CMO PRESCHOOL



the

PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING



We encourage you to join us in prayer from home for the duration of distancing.

The prayer ministry team prays each night at 7pm.

If you would like prayer, you may email me at:

sbrintonpais1@verizon.net

Be well. Stay safe.

Happy Spring! As weather is turning warmer and the flowers and trees are blooming, I like to reflect on how much our preschool children are growing too. It is amazing to see how much they have already grown this school year. The teachers and I are blessed to be a part of this process for our children.

March has not been our typical month at preschool as I am sure it has not been typical for you either. With the closure of the church due to Covid-19, I had to postpone our Spring/Summer Consignment Sale and close preschool for two weeks. With further recommendations from the CDC and the closure of the church now until May 9th, the teachers and I have been busy brainstorming ways to stay in touch with our little friends. This is so hard on everyone, including our families and teachers. But I am fortunate to have a teaching staff that looks to the brighter side of things. To try to help our families stay busy at home and keep their little ones engaged, our teachers and I are sharing learning ideas on our closed facebook preschool page. The teachers are also in contact with the families through



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays

2:00-3:00 PM,

Bldg. #1

We are not able to gather for our Wednesday Bible Study at this time, but continue our Lenten Study based on Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk," doing devotions and study on our own with an outline provided. When we are able to resume meeting, we will continue our study of Isaiah. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Cindy Haley, 484-702-7071 or chaley@zoominternet.net.

UMW Rummage Sale

Due to the extended recommendation of social distancing and the postponement of church gatherings and events, the spring Rummage Sale is canceled. We have decided that instead of trying to reschedule another date in spring or early summer, we will plan to continue with our Fall Rummage Sale currently scheduled for October 2 and 3, 2020. Keep

collecting your goods to donate and look for more information on the Fall Rummage Sale in our summer newsletters.



Our Food Pantry is now open the every Thursday of the month from 4-6pm.

We continue to reach out to our community to help them through these difficult times.



GENERAL CONFERENCE NEWS

With the coronavirus disrupting lives worldwide, General Conference organizers determined they have no choice but to postpone The United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly.

The Minneapolis Convention Center — scheduled to host the 2020 General Conference — announced it is now canceling gatherings of 50 or more people through May 10. The shutdown covers the first five days of the denomination's 10-day meeting, which was set to draw 862 delegates, 66 bishops and others from four continents.

"This news is not unexpected based on the current guidance from health officials and we expect to move forward with new plans as quickly as possible," Kim Simpson said in a statement. She is the chair of the Commission on the General Conference that plans the big meeting.

The commission's executive committee, which met by teleconference March 18, decided the venue's announcement meant that General Conference could no longer go forward May 5-15 as planned. However, commission members do not yet know how quickly they can announce new dates.

The convention center said it made its decision based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health "to protect the public's health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19." "Each week, we will seek guidance from MDH on changes to this policy or in the end date," the convention center added.

Before the convention center's decision, the full Commission on the General Conference had scheduled a teleconference March 21 to consider a possible delay.

The Council of Bishops executive committee requested postponement March 13 in response to the life-threatening virus and increasing travel restrictions that might prevent nearly half of the delegates from reaching the U.S. About 43% of General Conference delegates come from Africa, Europe or the Philippines.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, who leads the Minnesota and Dakotas conferences, is a member of the bishops' executive committee and also has urged churches in his area to suspend in-person worship. "I believe the safety of the delegates and the fairness of the conference's legislative processes are paramount," Ough said.

"The Dakotas-Minnesota Area has worked very hard to extend extraordinary hospitality to the General Conference delegates and guests. If the Conference is postponed, there would, of course, be disappointment. However, this disappointment would not dampen the area's openness to working with the Commission on the General Conference to reschedule the event in Minneapolis."

As of March 18, the virus had infected more than 200,000 people in at least 144 countries. More than 8,000 people have died of the disease. All 50 states in the U.S., including Minnesota, have coronavirus cases.

"The health and safety of participants, as well as their families and communities, is a primary concern. This includes our concern for the Minneapolis area," General Conference organizers said in a joint email to UM News. The leaders include Simpson, the Rev. Gary Graves, General Conference secretary, and Sara Hotchkiss, business manager.

"We also want to do all that is within our power to ensure that all delegates are fully able to participate in the many important decisions we are currently facing as a church," they said.

Under The United Methodist Church's constitution, General Conference is to meet every four years "at such time and in such place" as determined by General Conference itself or "by its duly authorized committees." The General Conference commission, which is elected at General Conference, is that duly authorized committee. Only the full commission is able to set a new date or decide on an alternate plan.

The convention center's announcement means that the church will not incur significant financial penalties for cancellation of the contract.

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KEEP ME INFORMED!

General Conference is not like a typical church meeting or worship service, some of which already have moved online because of the virus. The 10-day international legislative meeting resembles a session of the U.S. Congress with elements of a United Nations general assembly.

Multiple interpreters work with hundreds of delegates throughout the gathering to translate proceedings. During the first week of General Conference, delegates meet simultaneously in different legislative committees — 14 were planned for this year. The delegates then come together to vote in plenary during the second week. All votes are by secret ballot, using secure voting devices of limited range. Many delegates come from countries where internet connections are unreliable, if available at all.

The logistics of General Conference involve obtaining hundreds of visas and reserving hotel rooms, flights and the venue needed for more than 1,000 people.

For this year's gathering, the General Conference commission also was adding stricter requirements for credentialing after an investigation found four ineligible people cast votes during the 2019 special General Conference using credentials of absent delegates.

General Conference organizers and the bishops acknowledge the legislative assembly scheduled this year comes at a particularly sensitive time for the church. United Methodists have submitted multiple proposals to resolve the denomination's longtime debate over homosexuality by splitting the denomination.

General Conference also faces other critical decisions such as setting the denomination's four-year budget and electing numerous leaders including the members of the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court.

"We will be moving forward responsibly and that includes a number of complex matters that must be planned for," General Conference organizers told UM News.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY



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

childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

SUNDAYS via Zoom

youth
group

SCHEDULE

April 5: 5:30 –7pm

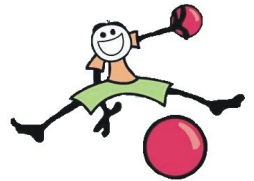
**April 12– No Youth Group
(Easter Sunday)**

April 19: 5:30-7:00 pm

April 26: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Dodgeball!

POSTPONED!
Look for updates
from Melanie via
your email!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VBS SAVE THE DATE

July 20-24, 2020

VBS in only five months away and we are busy planning all the fun the children will have learning about the Armour of God with "Knights of North Castle"!

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

Registration opens on March 23rd.

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/westgroveumc2020>

Check our website at www.westgroveumc.org



FUN & FITNESS



Retired Active People



Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

Thank you, Ray McKay and Sara Ann Ramberger for co-leading our March gathering. Our group was small but we thoroughly enjoyed a last minute program by "Fuzzy the Clown."

Tom Yarnall a/k/a "Fuzzy" part of the Masonic Clowns from the Masonic Lodge in West Chester delighted us with his history of being a part-time clown, entertained us with some magic tricks, balloons and showed how easy it is to transform into a clown. Thank you to Lee Ann for assisting "Fuzzy" with magic and to Dick for allowing "Fuzzy" to make him into a hobo clown.



Unfortunately, we will not be meeting in April or May since all church events and gatherings have been put on hold to comply with the request to practice social

distancing.

We will look forward to a new program year to start in September. Mark your calendars as we plan to continue meeting on

the second Friday each month for an afternoon of great fellowship, lunch and interesting presentations.

We will continue with members co-leading each monthly gathering. If you are interested in a specific month or have a program you wish to present, please let Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net know of your interest.

As we plan ahead, look for more details of upcoming programs and

events in the summer newsletters.



United Methodist Men



Updated information on the UMM Dinner meetings will be provided as they become available. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Dick Price.

UMM Breakfast Meeting

Regretfully, the UMM breakfasts at Perkins are postponed until further notice due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak. Check your bulletins for updated information and we look forward to resuming our breakfasts in the near future!

Dick Price



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

Women's Breakfast

Because of the Covid-19 virus outbreak, our usual diner is closed, so the April get together will be cancelled. Look for further announcements in the bulletin as we go forward this year. Thanks for your continued interest.

Margee Michaels



STEWARDSHIP



WEST GROVE UMC FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our church cash flow resulted in a shortfall for the two months ended February 29, 2020. For the month of February, we received income of \$21,507 and incurred \$44,967 of expenses resulting in a net cash shortfall in the amount of \$23,460.



Expenses were higher for the month primarily from payment of two months apportionments (due to changes in the conference remittance website), a delay in deposit of CMO payroll reimbursement and advances for youth mission and fundraising costs.

For the year-to-date two month period ended February 29, 2020, we received total income of \$46,526 and incurred total expenses of \$72,914 resulting in an excess of expenses over cash received in the amount of \$26,388. This net cash shortfall is \$12,397 higher than budgeted largely due to the items noted above. Also, year-to-date weekly offering was down \$1,792.

Marc Simmons, Chair of the Finance Committee

While we are apart, let us continue to offer our tithes, gifts, and offerings.

There are a couple of ways to give:

1. Please mail in your offerings. We are checking the mail regularly. You can put a stamp on your offering envelope.
2. You can give electronically by setting the church up as one of your vendors on bill pay through your bank, like you do for your electric company or cable company.
3. You can contact Janice Bowers to set up electronic giving through deductions in your account. (janicesemail2@gmail.com)
4. You can click on PayPal on our website. www.westgroveumc.org



Many of you heard about the Stimulus Bill approved this week for which many of you will qualify. Some of you will deeply need the relief offered, and we thank God for the funds when they are needed most. Let us walk beside you as a church family.

Others of you have already felt the movement of the Holy Spirit to consider that God might be inviting you to share those checks with the church, so that we might share those funds with those most in need through our Food Pantry, our Emergency Assistance Fund, Family Promise, and other avenues we are anticipating at this time.

I give thanks to God for your openness to prayer and God's movement.



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

April 8th

Join in Conference-wide Holy Week Worship

Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Eastern PA Conference Cabinet will lead conference churches and members in a mid-Holy Week online worship service on Wednesday, April 8, at 11:30 AM.

The service should last about 45 minutes.

Cabinet members offer this invitation to everyone: We hope you will join us for this unique, virtual experience. Friends and families are welcome.

Together, we will pause in the midst of Holy Week to remember Jesus' walk to the cross amid those who likely understood what God was doing and those who did not. We will pray together and remember our connection as sisters and brothers in Christ. You can join us via computer, tablet, smartphone or landline with the Zoom video-conferencing link below. We can host up to 1,000 people for this mid-week service. We hope you will join us in celebrating the Christ, who is the balm in Gilead and will not leave or forsake us.

<https://epaumc.zoom.us/j/766144817> (Click on link)

Meeting ID: 766 144 817

Telephone participants in the Eastern PA region should use: +1 646 558 8656

The Cabinet plans to record the worship service for later viewing also.



Eastern PA Conference Cabinet Back Row: The Rev. Tracy Bass, The Rev. Steve Morton, The Rev. Bumkoo Chung. Middle Row: The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, The Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark. Front: Bishop Peggy Johnson. (Not Pictured: The Rev. Andrew Foster III. Foster and Clark will both join the Cabinet in July 2020.)

Education Society Grants Provide College Aid

The Eastern PA Conference Education Society will offer grants to assist worthy individuals with defraying the cost of higher education for the 2020-2021 school year. Church members who plan to attend school in fall 2020 should be informed now about these grants and their **deadline: May 11**. See and complete the application.



HIGHER EDUCATION
AND MINISTRY

https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021_01_26_20.pdf

https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EducationSocietyGrantApplication2020-2021_01_26_20.pdf

If you have questions, contact Pastor Monica (pastor@westgroveumc.org)

February 28th, 2020



Dear Friends & Partners,

We hope this email finds you well and looking forward to the coming Spring. With Lent upon us, we would like to take a moment to communicate some changes in the structure of The Constellation Network (TCN).

Over the past year and a half, we have been in conversation with many of you about the future of TCN and how we can be most effective in our mission of supporting collaboration for the common good. Since our inception more than 5 years ago, that mission has stayed the same, and we have seen many good things come out of it as we've worked alongside you, our partners: relationships built, innovative programs supported, new connections made. We believe more than ever in the importance of networks and collaborative work.

However, in evaluating our direction and resources, we recognize that TCN in its current form hasn't quite gained the traction we had hoped for. As we have assessed the best path forward, we have come to the view that narrowing TCN's scope will position it for greater effectiveness. For the time being, that means focusing on the Kennett Square area, and building on our existing inter-church relationships there.

The board, which guided the organization for several years, is therefore in the process of turning over leadership to a group of local pastors. This group, which will include Andrew Smith and Greg Lafferty, two of our original board members, will be reimagining the organization for a new season. It is our hope that they will find new ways to lock arms and do works of common grace for the common good, under the TCN banner. But at least for the time being, while this exploration continues, GSR will not be happening. Stay tuned for more information in the months ahead.

While I (Kate) will still be involved with TCN, I will no longer be in a leadership role with our church networking efforts. That role will be filled for the time being by Andrew and Greg, and I encourage you to reach out to either of them with your questions (contact info below). My focus will be shifting more fully to the leadership role I have taken in the SCC Opportunity Network (Bridges Out of Poverty) through which I hope to continue my relationships and partnership with all of you. I will be doing that under the auspices of Square Roots Collective, which has been a primary supporter of both SCCON and TCN for the past several years.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this message and for all you continue to do in your churches and community. We are truly grateful for your partnership and support.

All the best,
Kate (Uhler) Daneker

kuhler@theconstellationnetwork.com

p.s. On a separate but very happy note, I'd like to clarify that my last name has changed in recent months from "Uhler" to "Daneker," along with my email address. Please feel free to contact me here anytime.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The long tradition of Alaska having its own missionary conference of The United Methodist Church may be nearing an end.

The Future Visions Task Force of the Alaska United Methodist Conference recommended earlier this month that the conference become instead a missionary district within the Pacific Northwest Conference, which has headquarters near Seattle.

Factors included concerns about finances and the ability of a missionary conference to control its future in an uncertain time for the denomination, task force members said.

Great Northwest Area Bishop Elaine Stanovsky said she would soon call a special session of the Alaska United Methodist Conference to vote on petitioning the 2020 General Conference to approve the move from missionary conference status.

Stanovsky said it would then be up to the 2020 Western Jurisdictional Conference to redraw boundaries and place Alaska's United Methodists in an annual conference.

Her area includes Alaska as well as the Oregon-Idaho Conference and Pacific Northwest Conference. She noted the Alaska United Methodist Conference has ties with both. If Alaskan United Methodists clear the obstacle course of United Methodist polity and make the transition to missionary district, that would be a first for the denomination, Stanovsky said.

The bishop said discussion about the best organizational status for the Alaska United Methodist Conference has gone on for years but intensified recently, given reduced financial support and uncertainty about the denomination's future. By remaining a missionary conference, Alaska "could get lost in the bigger currents," she said.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline says: "A conference is a missionary conference because of its particular mission opportunities, its limited membership and resources, its unique leadership requirements, its strategic regional or language considerations, and ministerial needs."

Missionary conferences draw financial and clergy support from across the church. The Alaska conference's clergy come from 16 annual conferences and four other denominations, Stanovsky said.

There are just three missionary conferences in the U.S. — Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference in southeast Kentucky — and Alaska.

Methodist missionary work in Alaska dates to the late 19th century. The Alaska Missionary Conference formed in 1972 and later was renamed the Alaska United Methodist Conference, but retained its missionary conference status.



The choir of Anchorage's First Samoan United Methodist Church sings during the Service of Commissioning and Reading of Appointments at the 2019 annual conference held at Christ First United Methodist Church in Wasilla, Alaska. Photo courtesy of the Alaskan Conference.

The conference has 27 local churches, two fellowships and one church start, representing about 3,000 members, said the Rev. Carlo Rapanut, superintendent. Ministry with Native peoples is part of the conference's character, as is connectionalism.

"We're one church with 30 doors," Rapanut said. "It's really operating as a small system, almost as a multi-site parish." Rapanut and Stanovsky said the mis-

sional impact of the numerically small conference is significant. "Our churches have essential roles in social safety nets in most of the communities we have churches in," Stanovsky said.

But the conference has been strained financially, in part due to the cost of doing ministry over such a vast area. As a missionary district, Alaska would still be eligible for financial and clergy support from across the denomination. There might also be cost savings in coming under an annual conference. "My intention is to call a special session, probably in February, certainly no later than early March," Stanovsky said.

A move from missionary conference to missionary district status would have disadvantages, Brooks acknowledged — not least that it would cost Alaska its two votes at future General Conferences. He also cited the challenge of cultural differences between Alaska and the rest of the Pacific Northwest.

What about the other two missionary conferences in the U.S.?

"The Red Bird Missionary Conference is and will continue to be a viable and necessary mission within the bounds of Kentucky," said Bishop Leonard Fairley, who oversees the Kentucky and Red Bird conferences.

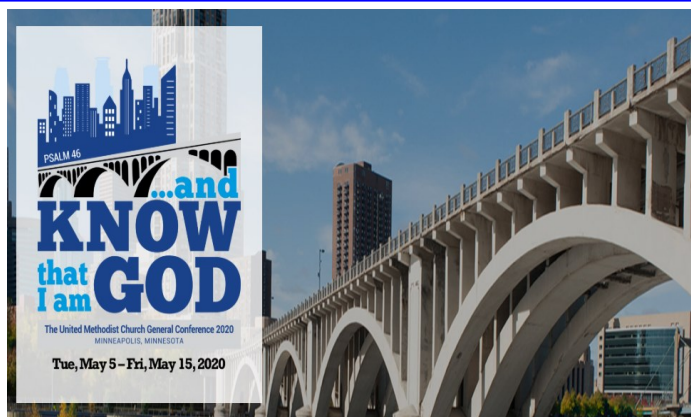
Fairley added, "We are presently in dialogue with the people of Central Appalachia about what that will look like."

The bishop did not want to speak in detail before a series of roundtable meetings scheduled for March.

"We will seek and share guidance about next steps," he said. "Currently Red Bird continues to be able to carry out its works even with cuts in funding. Red Bird has a wonderful history of serving the people of Central Appalachia."

The Rev. David Wilson is superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. He said the conference's ministry with Native people of many tribes, across Oklahoma and beyond, gives it a special identity. He said there are no plans to change from missionary conference status, with members having a strong commitment to remaining together and autonomous. Wilson added: "Who knows what's going to happen after (General Conference) 2020?"

Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.



GC2020 Delegates Listening Sessions Postponed

The Eastern PA Conference delegation to the 2020 General & Jurisdiction conferences has postponed its remaining listening sessions, scheduled for April 2, 4, and 20, until further notice. The sessions will be rescheduled when the UMC's postponed global legislative assembly is rescheduled. They will occur at least two months prior to the new General Conference starting date.

The Eastern PA delegates agree with the General Conference leadership's feeling that "a pause is needed at this unique time," said delegation co-chair Judy Ehninger. "All are encouraged to continue in ministry, sharing God's love and actualizing the church we are called to be."

Ehninger recommends several ways to prepare for General Conference while awaiting the rescheduled dates:

Visit the Resourceumc.org website and read General Conference news and related articles. All proposed legislation should be posted there.

Visit the www.epaumc.org website and find the General Conference 2020 page in the News and Events pull-down menu.

Subscribe to UM News Daily Digest and to our conference's NEWSpirit Digest online newsletter, at communications@epaumc.org

Pray for The United Methodist Church and our Eastern PA Conference delegation. A roster of delegates with email addresses is posted on our conference website. If you would like to send an individual note of encouragement or ask a question, please do so. We are available to answer your questions as best we can.

04/01 Joyce Bischoff

04/02 Alan Bratton

04/04 Sue Curtis

04/07 Felicity Guepet

04/08 Payton Ingiosi

04/10 Patrick Wiwel

04/11 Mildred Chambers

04/14 Janet Phillips

04/15 Virgil Brown

04/16 Maggie Stuhrke



04/17 Charlie Bechtel

04/17 Bob Sweet

04/17 Kathy Wiwel

04/18 Thomas Hoover

04/18 Sue Hutton

04/19 Roxanne Shane

04/23 Helen Carlin

04/26 Roger Bates

04/30 John McGinley

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Your church family wishes all of you a very happy birthday and a year filled with happiness and blessings!!

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting (Zoom)	2 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	3 Pick up Palms	4
5 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship FaceBook Live Youth Group (Zoom)	6 Tech Team Meeting (via Zoom)	7 Trustees Meeting(via Zoom)	8 Full Staff Meeting(via Zoom)	9 Holy Thursday Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm Charge Conference 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship: 12 & 7 Facebook Live	10 Good Friday 24-Hour Prayer Vigil at 9 am Prayer Stations 3pm Community Good Friday Service—7pm Facebook Live	11 Holy Saturday 24-Hour Prayer Vigil from home ends at 9 am Wiggly Giggly Easter Vigil Service—5pm Facebook Live
12 Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise — 7am Facebook Live 9:30 am Celebration Service Facebook Live Worship at Jenner's Pond Service	13	14 Prayer Gathering from home	15 Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting (via Zoom)	16 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	17	18
19 2nd Sunday in Easter Youth Group (via Zoom)	20	21 Finance Meeting (via Zoom) Ad Council Meeting (via Zoom)	22 Staff Meeting (Zoom)	23 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	24	25
26 3rd Sunday in Easter Youth Group (via Zoom)	27	28	29 Staff Meeting (Zoom)	30 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	May 1	May 2



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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www.westgroveumc.org



2020

~ 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.

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pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

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Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

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Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

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Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Ali Wills- Sexton

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Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

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 Stuhcke - SPRC Interim Chair

Steve May—Tech Team Leader

Dick Stuhcke—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 Stuhcke - 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