

West Grove United Methodist Church

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

> E:mail: office@westgroveumc.org

"Live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Jesus Christ."

Philippian 1:27, The Message.

Being in situations that we don't want to be in, cut off from the people we love, facing challenges that are unexpected and difficult, pushes us into deciding who and what are most important to us, and to decide where we will receive support and guidance. In his book, <u>Run with the Horses</u>, Eugene Peterson asks (when faced with difficulties), "Will I focus my attention on what is wrong with the world and feel sorry for myself? Or will I focus my energies on how I can live at my best in this place that I find myself?"

He goes on to say that we can spend our time broken because we are not who we were ten years ago, or upset at how our expectations today are unfulfilled, even destroyed – Or we can decide, "I will do my best with what is here." We always have the freedom to choose; God provides it. Far more important than the climate, the economics, the politics, or the neighbors, is that God is in this place. "It is possible to live out the will of God here in these moments as any place else." We do pay attention to what is wrong, our emotions, and how life might fall short of what we want or expect. We pay even greater attention to who God is and what God is doing, because we know from the witness of Jesus Christ, and the many saints who have come since, that God really loves us and wants us to be whole, complete. God will help us live in ways that share this love with others, even in a pandemic. Such is the treasure of our faith.

Certainly as I reflect back over the past several months, I'm led to see how God has blessed Julie and me in incredible ways. In coming here, we took a leap of faith, one in a series throughout our lives, that has drawn us to see more closely and clearly what God is doing and how we might take part. We are glad to be with you all. We look forward to meeting the rest of you, as we've met some wonderful people. It has taken longer than I want to get settled. Buying a home here and selling one in Mount Joy had its complications. Yet we were led to creatively work our way through it; the assurance of God's grace kept us flexible and open to engaging the possibilities. And that will be the key for all of us going forward, to be flexible and make adjustments. We have no way of predicting how the rest of the year will unfold. I am hopeful for a vaccine by November. In the mean time, precautions are required and masks, masks, masks, and meeting outside at a safe distance is what I'm doing. I pray that as you all have needs or ideas, you will connect with me; share your story and journey with me, and feel free to call or e-mail.

Blessings,
Pastor Tim
(pastor@westgroveumc.org)



August 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

August 2, 2020

"Active Listening" - Romans 12:1-2, 9-21

Many of us in America are taught that we must be a "Fixer" who jumps in to change and correct things for others. Wisdom in faith in Christ leads us to ask better, deeper, questions full of empathy and compassion, and to work to empower the person in need to listen to God. We hear many voices today, telling us what needs to be done, and how to correct our lives and the world around us. A person, a faithful friend who really listens to us, is a rare treasure.

August 9, 2020 "Devotions and Our Journey" Mark 1:35-39, Psalm 103

How important are your daily devotions? Do you have any? Any favorites? A great foundation of our lives in faith is to take time with God every day. Perhaps you have been pressed to feel guilty when you don't take time for devotions. While there are some important reasons to feel the loss when we don't, there are positive, compelling reasons to choose to spend time with God.

August 16, 2020 "Telling Your Story" – II Samuel 11:1-5

What stories about your life are you likely to tell? How important do you think it is to tell our stories and tell them truthfully, the whole truth? Stories provide identity and telling them helps us define and refine our sense of identity. The Holy

Spirit, the Spirit of Truth is our Advocate who helps us grow in new ways, and reflecting on our journey and sharing it with others is vital to growing and maturing in God's love.

August 23, 2020 "Living In the Midst of Grief" Psalm 137:1-6, Acts

We grieve for the loss of a lot of things, people, situations; any changes or the loss of something or someone can bring up emotions in our hearts. How we respond is a decision we need to make and let God lead us through. It is important to be aware of our feelings, claim them as we offer them to God, for God has a way of lifting our heads up to see the broad horizon and the many choices that are possible.

August 30, 2020 "Setting Healthy Boundaries"

There were many times Jesus slipped away to a quiet place to reconnect with God and be renewed. While he encouraged and encourages us to turn the other cheek, or walk an extra mile, or even give the shirt off of our back, he did so urging us to be thoughtful and use wisdom, being as wise as serpents, innocent as doves. There are so many people and things, responsibilities and opportunities that pull us in many directions. We want to be able to wisely assess the decisions we face as we make decisions. We pray you will join us and urge others to join us for worship in August.

Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on **August 9th** 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.

WGUMC Worship LIVE on Facebook

Please go to <u>Facebook.com/westgroveumc</u> and scroll down for our worship service at each of the times below. You do not need to have Facebook to participate. If you do not have internet capabilities, you can also have audio of church through the phone with ZOOM. Please call at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings Please use this phone number: 1 (929) 436 2866 and enter meeting id# 572-438-033. Password is 30019390

Pastor's Notes

Thank You

We want to express a special thank you to all who have and are helping us in our ministries during the pandemic. In spite of the virus, VBS was held on line, and our community of faith shared faithful insights as they engaged the children in the Bible, crafts, songs, and experiments. (I'm not sure if I want to risk losing any of my M&M's in an experiment; I'll let you check it out on the internet).

Our Sunday morning Tech team has worked hard to permanently keep us on the internet every Sunday, as we plan to continue to web caste our worship on Sundays, even after the virus is under control. We seek prayers of empowerment so that we can continue to meet the challenge to strengthen the quality of our work. We want our work to be engaging and done well. The Wesleys, founders of Methodism, used the phrase that in our journey of faith in life we are "moving on to perfection." (Growing in our maturity of faith, mercy, and love in Christ by God's grace). Yet there is an old saying that perfection can often be the enemy of moving forward. We can often become frozen in place when we don't allow ourselves to try new ideas and possibilities because we are afraid of failure or imperfection. May our faith in God's ability to help us grow be stronger than our fears of failure.



Offering Report & Thank You

It has been my practice in ministry to send out a thank you with the offering reports. I want to express my gratitude and lift up our faithfulness and share what we are focusing on as a fellowship. We always want to remember that the offering is entrusted to God and the disciples who are working to fulfil God's vision. Thank you for putting God's generosity into practice throughout your lives.



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.

Visit Our Website

Keep Your Eye On the Web Site

I've been making some videos to post on the church web site that share more of my journey of faith in life. I hope it helps introduce me to all of you, as it helps us get to know each other better. Topics include what I learned from my dad's dif-

ficult illness; my own experience as an aortic dissection survivor; the power of prayer and how it is eternal. I have some additional ideas too. With the restrictions for worship and in seeing people, and gathering for small groups or Bible study and Sunday School, I want to do all I can to share relationships. IF there is a time you would like to meet with me with careful social distancing, such as outside, please give me a call. I look forward to getting to know you all better. I expect to leave the videos on the web site so people who are new to us will also be able to get to know who I am more easily and quickly. Julie might also post one too; or you can look at her Artos ministry efforts with a video at ArtosRetreats.org. I look forward to hearing your stories and understanding your journey.

Masks, Masks & More Masks

We'll need to know exactly who is coming and how many, and may even ask people to alternate when they come, so that we don't go over the recommended limits put in place by the health authorities. By knowing who is coming, we can arrange the seating in ways that help families sit in clusters, or pods as they are being called, at a safe distance. We also will need to insist on the best practices to eliminate the dangers of spreading the disease. Just as the local Wawa or grocery store requires best practices, (masks and distance) as Christians who care, we too will to do the same. It seems like a great tragedy, that if our nation had insisted on everyone wearing masks five months ago, we would have saved thousands lives and trillion of dollars. Small things, little practices mean a lot.



Our special group working out the plans for a reopening has sent out a survey with some guidelines; those guidelines and some additional ideas are listed below. It's important to prepare for the precautions we must take to be able care for everyone's safety. We do not want to be a source of spreading the virus. We put these practices in place because we care about the health of our community. Please consider:

- If you have been travelling recently, or exposed to a large number of people, it is wise take steps to self-isolate more than normal, including not coming to worship.
- If you have come in contact with someone who has contracted the virus, for safety of our fellowship, we ask that you not come to worship until negative test results have come back and/or an adequate isolation time has been observed.
- While there will not be singing by the congregation, we also ask that you keep low voices and keep talking to a minimum.
- No hymnals or bulletins will be used; we will only use the images projected on the screens to follow along and take part
- We will work to have doors open, so that we minimize contact
- Masks must be worn at all times, except by the presenters who will keep a safe distance from the rest of the attendees

In addition to not having handshakes or hugs, we will not be offering fellowship or social time, and so no coffee of food will be shared.

The communication and survey from our group is below. Thanks to all who are trying to envision how we can work through this great challenge. We continue to need your viewpoints and input. The results of the survey will help us in our planning and timing moving forward.

West Grove UMC Re-opening Guidelines

WGUMC has created a Reopening Committee to develop procedures to allow for a safe reopening of our church. Over the next several weeks, we will be instituting several initiatives designed to allow limited in person worship, in tandem with our online services. Your health and safety is our primary concern.

Using guidelines developed by the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") as well as the PA Department of Health ("DOH"), the Reopening Committee has created the following for a safe and enjoyable worship experience:

- In-person attendance will be limited to comply with Governor Wolf's order. Total allowable attendance includes Pastor, musicians, ushers and others assisting in delivering the service.
- Masks must be worn at all times, except for presenters.
- Only the front Narthex doors will be available for entry. Upon entry, attendants will be greeted by an usher who will use a touch-free thermometer to take their temperature. If your temperature exceeds 100.4*, you will not be permitted in church (including any family members).
- Attendees must sanitize their hands using church provided sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.
- Anyone entering the church will be required to sign in on an attendance sheet. This is necessary for proper contact tracing. Please bring your own pen!
- Ushers will direct you and your family to your seats. Chairs have been arranged in "pods" to ensure proper social distancing. Some pods will be larger than others to allow people who live together to sit together. Please do not rearrange the chairs.
- Services will not include singing or passing of the peace by the congregation.
- While the restrooms will be open, we encourage you to "take care of business" prior to church to help minimize gathering in close quarters.
- There will not be a formal collection: we continue to encourage you to share your tithes and offerings electronically or by mail as we have done since March.
- At the conclusion of the service, the ushers will dismiss the congregation by pods to encourage social distancing of 6 feet or more.
- Please do not congregate in the narthex. Conversations with your fellow attendees can be had safely outside practicing social distancing.

We all miss seeing our church family in person. While you may want to reach out and great each other (handshake, hug etc.) please respect the 6 foot social distance guideline.

The Reopening Committee recognizes many may not be comfortable with the above. Rest assured, our Facebook Live services will continue into the future.

Plans to Open, Restart.

A leadership group has been putting together some plans for what is called in business a "soft opening," when a business opens and wants to get its



when we have more people in attendance than just the tech crew and musicians. Precautions will be required.

procedures and practices right and make them effective and considerate. By starting slowly, we learn how to do what we are doing better, and we do it carefully. Starting up worship with a congregation in attendance feels overwhelming. We anticipate having a limited number of people to start with Please know that if anyone at any time in the next year is not comfortable attending worship or other events because of health concerns, we understand and encourage you all to take appropriate precautions the safeguards are in place so that we can be more confident, and show God's love to each other in the face of the illness.



SHARE YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES FROM YOUR TIME IN THIS PANDEMIC SHUT DOWN! A New Bulletin Board In Lobby

Joan Leaman has stepped forward to offer to decorate the bulletin board in the lobby/ narthex at the main church entrance. She is asking for your help. What have you and your loved ones been doing during the pandemic? What memories have you created? Did you play games? Learn some music? Or take a trip? Have you spent more time with family? If you have, and have some pictures to share and some memories you can tell us, please send them to Joan

Send in your pictures of what your family has been doing during the virus shut down.

Thank You to our Volunteers!

We want to express a special thank you to all who have and are helping us in our ministries



during the pandemic. In spite of the virus, VBS was held on line, and our community of faith shared faithful insights as they engaged the children in the Bible, crafts, songs, and experiments. (I'm not sure if I want to risk losing any of my M&M's in an experiment; I'll let you check it out on the internet).

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Special Gift - Professional Serve Pro Cleaning

We want to extend a special thank you to Jim and Betty Mundell for their gift to cover the deep cleaning of the sanctuary including the carpet. Serve Pro brought their best equipment and disinfect-

ants and crew to bear on their efforts. Jim expressed that they hope their gift inspires us all to give as we can in a variety of ways to these unique challenges we all face with the virus.



Volunteer Opportunities Available



Do you want to serve in worship while we are physically distancing?

We could use your gifts!

- Greet and welcome people in digital worship
- Record videos for scripture or moments of
- Connect with others to virtually pass the peace.
- Operate a camera
- Edit videos
- Prepare Worship PowerPoints

Call, email, text, or message the office for more information.



Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Tim will be in the church office on most Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please feel free to call Pastor Tim at the church office (610-869-9334) or email him (pastor@westgroveumc.org) to set up an appointment to visit.

UMW RUMMAGE SALE POSTPONEMENT

Regrettably, due to the on-going uncertainties of groups gathering at the church, and when that may happen, and what that may look like, the UMW will cancel their Fall Rummage Sale previously scheduled the first weekend in October. There

are still too many unknowns in regard to opening the church building and how we would manage gathering, while continuing to comply with wearing masks and social distancing. We were blessed in 2019 with two

very successful Rummage Sales and were able to make mission donations this spring to the CMO Scholarship Pund, EPAC Camp Innabah, Garage Youth Center, WGUMC's TEmergency Relief Fund and UMCOR's Covid-19 Response Fund. We look

forward to a more normal schedule of events in 2021 and the scheduling of our Spring and Fall Rummage Sales. In the meantime, keep cleaning out those overstocked closets!

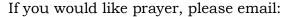


GROW



PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING

The prayer ministry team has been praying faithfully every evening since March 15th at **7pm.** We invite you to join us in prayer from the comfort and safety of your home. While we are apart, in this time of social distancing, our prayers can bind us in community.



prayer@westgroveumc.org

Until the time when we can greet each other face to face, be well, stay safe and wash your hands.



LUTHER HOUSE BIBLE STUDY

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have not met for our study time since March. Luther House remains to be closed to outside groups meeting and gathering. Therefore, we do not know at this time when social distancing restrictions will be lifted so we may resume our Bible Study. If you have any questions, or would like to be notified when we are clear to meet, please contact Cindy Haley at 484-702-7071.

R.A.P. Retired Active People

We were so blessed to have met in March before the Covid-19 Pandemic changed our world and the way we gather. Unfortunately, we have not been able to meet since. As much as we would like to reconvene in September, there are still too many unknowns in regard to opening the church building and how we would manage gathering for fellowship, lunch and a program, while continuing to comply with wearing masks and social distancing. With all this in mind we regrettably agreed that we will not plan on gathering for the remainder of 2020.

We will look forward to starting up again in 2021. Please check the monthly newsletters to keep advised on when that will happen and what upcoming programs and events will be planned for 2021.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help in the new program year, please let Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net know of your interest. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE and EMERGENCY AID UPDATE



Our church food pantry continues to meet the needs of families in our community. The church family has been very generous with food donations and monetary gifts. As a tier two provider for the Chester County Food Bank we are fortunate to receive premade food bags and produce from them. We are also blessed by the many folks who are donating fresh produce from their gardens. We have consistently been serving over 25 families each week throughout these last few months. **Our**

Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 4-6 pm.

In addition to meeting the needs of food and grocery items, there remains a great need for other **financial assistance**. Through your generosity, we have helped with water bills, electricity bills, mortgage payments, rent payments and phone bills. Thank you!

GLOBAL & LOCAL MISSIONS



UMCOR OFFERING HELP IN BEIRUT

A blast that has killed over 150 people and injured another 5,000 to-date, has also left an estimated 300,000 displaced from their homes in Beirut, according to Reuters.

Longtime ministry partners that live and work in Lebanon are being offered assistance by UMCOR to help meet the most immediate and basic needs of those affected by the explosion.

You are there for people who are impacted by disasters when you give to UMCOR.

Please help UMCOR respond to this and other disasters around the world.

A NOTE FROM OUR COVENANT MISSIONARIES IN TANZANIA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the name of Jesus Christ, Greetings from Morogoro-Tanzania.

As you know COVID-19 made an impact in our communities. However, we



are still in mission. We would like to invite you to join our zoom conference on August 20, 2020. We will be sharing about the mission and ministry in Tanzania. It would be a good opportunity for you to learn and ask questions about we do. Please register at the link below to save your place. We hope you can join us.

Here is the link to register . https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscuyqqz8vHtPV85SzHo_-usoIMuisbb1D

When registering select the name UMBA KALANGWA. Peace and Blessings. Yours,

Umba and Ngoy

MISSON CENTRAL VOLUNTEER TRIP CANCELLED

The Missions Team was scheduled to volunteer at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA on Wednesday, August 12, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. I received a message from Laurie the volun-



teer coordinator at Mission Central. She is having knee surgery and they are can-

celing all volunteer groups for the next few weeks. We were scheduled for August 12. She gave us the option to reschedule, but I declined that offer and said we would contact her ear-

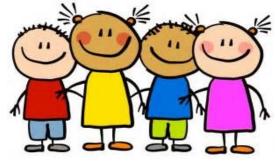
ly 2021 to schedule a work day next summer. Thank you, Cindy

Thank You For Volunteering

The smallest acts of kindness are worth the grandest of intentions.

Oscar Wilde





Re-Opening Planning with Safety and Health Plans

Summer time is in full swing and during this time the teachers and I are typically planning for the new preschool year. This summer has been a bit different as we continue to review the guidelines surrounding Covid 19 to attempt to come up with a reopening plan. The teachers and I have met and are busy brainstorming and sharing ideas about the how and what a reopening may look like for the preschool. Along with the teachers, I have been working with the Pastor Tim, the CMO Advisory Board, and other church committees to design a health and safety plan for the CMO program. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to open some time soon. The well being of the children and families, the CMO staff, and the church members is my highest priority as we continue to navigate this unprecedented time. I hope that our littlest friends will be able to return to the church soon.

Tracy McLaughlin, CMO Director

CMO Reopening Note

At the time of this writing CMO is putting the final touches on its plans to start up in September with extremely careful practices for the teachers, parents, and children to follow. They will limit the size and exposure of the groups to each other.

YOUTH & CHILDREN MINISTRY

The youth had their get together on August 5 and fun was had by all! The weather was great and we were all so excited to be together!

We had games, snacks and s'mores at a camp fire!

Thank you to the Simond Family for hosting us!

We are trying to plan another gathering before September, so watch your emails!

Plans are being made for September Sunday School. We don't know what that looks like yet, but we will keep you informed as we learn how to walk through this time of uncertainty.

Keep an eye out for my emails and don't hesitate to email me with your questions or suggestions!

Melanie Hartley (childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)



STEWARDSHIP



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.

- You can contact Janice Bowers to set up electronic giving through deductions in your account. (<u>janicesemail2@gmail.com</u>)
- 4. You can click on Give Now 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.

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



Eagle Scout Project New Concrete Walkway

A big thank you to the Life Scout, Dylan Huss, who planned and installed the new walkway in the rear of the church as his Eagle Scout project, providing a safe and inviting entry to the administration wing Tank you, as well, to the other Troop 12 members who assisted him and to Steve May and Gene Aucott (representing the trustees) for their guidance in the project.



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!)	\$4,000
Electronic Sign at the street 2	\$15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	\$50,000
Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot 1	\$7,000



300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390 610-869-9334 office@westgroveumc.org www.westgroveumc.org



August 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.

The Reverend Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Staff

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond <u>Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org</u>

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director <u>Childyouthdirector@westgoveumc.org</u>

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator <u>Office@westgroveumc.org</u>

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director Contemporary Music Interim Director Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director daysan5@comcast.net

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant
Ali Wills- Sexton
sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Janice Bowers, <u>janicesemail2@gmail.com</u> Cindy Haley, <u>chaley@zoominternet.net</u> Karen Hruz, <u>khruz@hotmail.com</u> Peter Mullen, <u>psmullen@petermullen.com</u>

Board and Committee Leadership

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair TBA - 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