



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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

Email: office@westgroveumc.org

October 2020

A well-seasoned pastor once said, "The way of faith is not a fad. Faith lasts. We remember the way it was with Jesus." He goes on to say that Jesus faced so many challenges, dangers, and trials from people, many of whom tried to knock him off track, often in cunning ways. Oh if they had only focused on God's heart and put their creativity to work in salvation's transformative ways, instead of seeking to destroy him. Many of their temptations and attacks were disguised as suggestions for improvements. Many people are so afraid of the transformation God can bring, they avoid Him. These dynamics reached a climax in the Crucifixion, Jesus responded with understanding and mercy, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." Only God would so generously provide such a response. Only God would come up with such a solution to the world's challenges, problems, and sins. And then forgive and reconcile in providing Resurrection's power.

When we read the Gospel of Mark, we are led on a journey of discipleship with Jesus. The first half, Jesus is presented as responding and doing things *for us* while telling us the way things are; he heals and helps, teaches and directs. Then there is a shift half way through the Gospel as he turns to head towards Jerusalem and confrontation; he calls us to discipleship: deny yourself, and take up your cross daily. He points to the freedoms we have to choose and make decisions in how we prioritize our time, our resources, our creativity and our love. We begin to claim life and our identity as God's own. Our lives, our identities are defined in the small and large moments of life, the largest and the smallest of decisions to let God be at the center, our first focus.

The past six months have challenged us all. "If anyone wants to follow me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." At first, it may seem even more difficult during these times to live out these words of Jesus. In the end, it is the best way to live. For we let go of what we really don't need, to be embraced by the One who truly loves us and sacrifices himself for us. And in doing so, God shows us the path to life, and the way to truly live and give from the heart in community. I've asked many people, how have you been blessed these last six months? I hear a lot of great answers. I see and experience how God is laying the foundation for our future and the ways we can share faith with others.

"I'll make a list of God's generous dealings, all the things God has done that need praising." (Isaiah 63:7) Earlier in the summer, I offered a Sunday morning message that lifted up just how essential our daily devotions really are; they are the method in Methodism. Making and creating time to spend with God, God's Word and to see and claim our blessings and then praise God for them, sets the stage for the day, and for a life and community of empowerment and growth, even in the midst of a pandemic. Too many voices are crying out and yelling at us in ways that distract and create dangers for us for us to not be intentional about who we listen to. They want to magnify our fears and scare us to accept a reductionist explanation of God, life, and faith.

Accept the world's voices, we are likely to become bored, depressed, or down right mean and destructive. Make time for God, and we can actually grow in new ways from the challenges we face, assured that God is with us and loves us. "God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love, like Christ in everything." (Ephesians 4:15, The Message) I pray our fellowship can grow together through the challenges we face from the virus. We can be a source of support to one another, when Christ is at the center.

Blessings,
Pastor Tim



October 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 In Person and Streaming



Reopening in Person Plan

We've begun reopening our worship and I am hopeful of the ways we can host fellowship times and offer our CMO preschool's ministry. I'd like to host a Bible study started on Zoom with the hope we might be able to one day meet in person; the theme planned is telling our stories. In all of our efforts to reopen, we will seek to be wise as we discern the specific steps forward while we protect one another. When there is extraordinary change it is understandable that we are likely to be uncomfortable and not feel competent at what we are doing. Add the dangers of contracting a severe virus, and our fears can multiply. We are not alone; God's grace is stronger than our fears as it leads us to thoughtfully, safely go forward.

However small the first steps and efforts may seem, they are vital for us to exercise our social, emotional muscles of envisioning and practicing how to faithfully move forward together. We are learning to faithfully overcome adversity. With God's mercy and grace, we learn and grow from our experiences at many levels.

Thank You

I want to thank the tech team and Betsy Smith and all the musicians for their extraordinary dedication in working to share worship every Sunday morning. I would also like to thank the Re-Opening Team for their unwavering labor in allowing the congregation back into the sanctuary for worship on Sundays. We are blessed by their service.

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

Please go to [Facebook.com/westgroveumc](https://www.facebook.com/westgroveumc) 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**



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on

October 11th 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.



Engaging Communities for Christ

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 Appreciation Month: Celebrate and uphold pastors in prayer

In October, churches across the nation are celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month. Many celebrate Pastor Appreciation Day, or Clergy Appreciation Day, on the second Sunday or another Sunday of the month.

The Apostle Paul is thought to have first suggested clergy appreciation in 1 Timothy 5:17, when he stated, "The elders who direct the affairs of the

church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." That teaching helped inspire the start of Clergy Appreciation Month in 1992 to recognize pastors and religious workers.

One United Methodist view says that while the congregation or laity are the hands and the feet of the church, the pastor is "the heart of the body who pumps the blood of the body to keep it alive." (Some might arguably see those roles in reverse). Pastoral responsibilities may include administrative duties, leading worship, preaching, teaching, community outreach, evangelism, visiting the sick, pastoral counseling and most importantly, praying.

The pastor is one of the greatest prayer warriors (or carpenters) that a church can have. Whether in worship, church meetings, visiting sick members or other settings—or even when alone—prayer should be the foundation of a pastor's tool box.

As we show appreciation for our pastors during this month and throughout the year, let us support them by keeping them in our prayers, for they too need that hedge of loving care surrounding them as much as we do.

Read the UM Communications (www.umc.org) article "15 ways to pray for your pastor" by Joe Iovino (2018).



As the church has been reopening, to a limited number people, it has been



heartening to see pictures of and read about our church family. We would love to include **more pictures on our bulletin boards**. Please send photos of you and



your family, letting us know what you have been doing during the pandemic, to Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) Here are some photos of the current bulletin boards.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 1st



From the earliest days in the church, community has gathered to remember those who have gone onto the glory. On All Saints' Day, the church remembers those who have died in the previous year. This cherished tradition has been important in this congregation for many years.

We remember beloved members of the church, special loved ones of our families, and those for whom we have performed funeral and memorial services. Our remembrance includes pictures, the tolling of the bell, and the lighting of the candles.

You may be remembering a loved one this year. We would like to give thanks to God for their life in our All Saints Day service on

November 4th during both services.

Please make sure that the office has the name of your loved one, a picture of your loved one, in addition to their date of birth and date of death, by October 25th . It is our privilege to remember those who moved onto the church triumphant, even as we hold the tenderness of loss.



CMO Director

At the writing of this newsletter, we have selected the new CMO Director and are communicating our decision with

the rest of the staff; we had three incredible candidates for the position. We are very hopeful for and excited about this ministry as we build on the great foundation Tracy put in place with such a great staff, vision, and practices. We ask for your prayers for the additional decisions we will work through as we support the children and their families in their learning and growth.

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, texts cards, meals and outpouring of love while I was working from home due to back difficulties. I am so very grateful. The surgery was a success and I am walking without assistance! I still use my cane from time to time, but I think I will be able to ditch it soon, because my back and legs are regaining their strength daily. I'll tell you, I was happy to not have that intense pain anymore!

All of you gave me strength each day. I am so happy to be back in the office and doing the job I have always loved.

Blessings, Donna Fackler

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

We could use your gifts!

- Greet and welcome
- Record videos for impact
- Connect with others to
- Operate a camera
- Edit videos
- Prepare Worship PowerPoints

Volunteer Opportunities Available



people in digital worship
scripture or moments of

virtually pass the peace.

WORLD



COMMUNION

Outdoor Communion Service

On Saturday, October 3rd at 4 PM

we will host an outdoor communion service. It is a "bring your own chair and social distance" event. We will have special

communion preparations, including offering communion elements of bread and juice in one sealed packet to minimize the danger of infection. It will be a brief service with recorded music and a brief message as we gather in a field outside the church.

It's important that we are together as we receive this sacrament. We hope you will join us and invite a friend and family member. I recommend that when you can, please check out the song, "Come to the Table," on You Tube, by Sidewalk Prophets; it's one of my favorite Christian songs and one we are likely to use during the service.

The rain date is the next day, Sunday, October 4 at 4PM.

In addition to the communion service, we will also offer our regular worship at 9:30 on Sunday morning, October 4, broadcasted on Facebook.

Courage does not always roar, sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow."

Mary Anne Radmaster

Covid Information from our Parish Nurse

No matter how often they are repeated, though, they simply aren't true.

WEARING A MASK MYTH V. FACT

⊗ MYTH ⊗	⊙ FACT ⊙
Masks decrease oxygen levels and are unsafe	Masks don't affect oxygen levels and are perfectly safe
Cloth masks aren't effective against COVID-19	Cloth masks offer protection for both the wearer and the public
I'm not sick, so I don't need to wear a mask	You can have COVID-19 and spread it without having symptoms
If you wear a mask, then I don't need one	My mask keeps me from spreading/inhaling COVID droplets + particles
If masks work, we shouldn't have to social distance	Distancing + masks together are the best known prevention

pa.gov/covid-19



Do you receive the weekly Constant Contact emails from the church? We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition

and a Sunday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including a link to the week's bulletin.

If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash.

A lot of information is shared in these two weekly emails and we often publish special editions of timely information you may be interested in. This monthly newsletter is also shared via CC.

If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, email Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator, at office@westgroveumc.org or call the office at 610-869-9334. I will be happy to add you to the list!

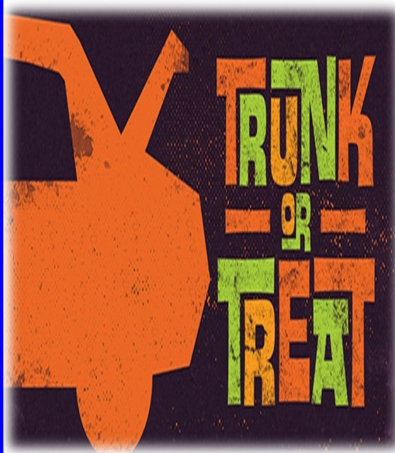
Donna



Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 25
3:00-5:00 p.m.

(See Page 7 for details)

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Trunk or
Treat**
**October 25,
3-5:00 p.m.**

The annual Trunk or Treat tradition is continuing this

year! This year there will be outdoor trick or treating for family and friends.

All participants and attendees are required to wear a mask (it is Halloween, after all!)

Contact Melanie Hartley for more information!

Trunk or Treat: Trunk hosts
Let's get ready to decorate some really fun trunks!

Trunk or Treat is a fun day for all involved, including our volunteers!

This year we want to make sure we have a variety of fun trunks for children to visit.

Some neighborhoods may not have Trick or Treating, or perhaps you just don't get them where you live. This is the perfect way to participate in the fun!

Can you offer an afternoon of fun to our church family and community?

You can contact Melanie Hartley to sign up, for information and help with setting up your trunk!

Contact Melanie to get on the email list and for other children's ministry information.

Youth Group on Sunday

3:30-5:00 p.m.

A time for everything

&

A time such as this

We will be exploring the times we are living in and how we live in a changing world full of the joyful and the difficult. How do we respond? can

we find peace through choosing who we will be and how we will be?



We will explore these ideas from Ecclesiastes and the New Testament.

What's coming up in October

Camp fire & Games night
October 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Our October activity is night games and a fire! We'll have snacks and S'mores for all. Details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Contact Melanie to get on the email list and for other youth information!



STEWARDSHIP



The pandemic has brought financial uncertainty to our homes, our church and to our community and so I want to begin by thanking all of you for the faithful giving of your tithes and offering over the past few months. Our offering overall has been running about 8% below budget. In April, we applied for and received a \$66,700 federal government Cares Act Payroll Protection Program Loan (PPP) that we are able to use to offset our payroll, utilities and mortgage interest expenses in the first couple months of the pandemic shutdown. As permitted under the rules of the PPP, we will apply for and expect to receive loan forgiveness in the last quarter of the year. With the help of the PPP loan proceeds we are cash positive \$22,700 through August 2020. But if you strip out the PPP loan proceeds, which are a one-time cash inflow, we have been running significant cash deficits this year. We ask for your prayers for the financial health of the church as we continue to navigate the shutdown and look forward to the time where we can celebrate the joy of in-person worship services and the restart of our many programs of Christian fellowship.



R. Scott Steele, Treasurer



Generous God,

I give thanks to you for the gifts you have given me -my life, my family, my friends – time, talents, and material possessions. All that I have comes from you. Help me to remember this and rejoice in your goodness.

Walk with me, my God. Help me on my spiritual journey, so that I may constantly renew my relationship with you and all the good people in our parish and beyond.

Renew in me your Spirit. Give me the strength and courage to become a better follower of Jesus, to be a disciple. Help me hear the call to "Come, Follow Me."

I give glory to you, my God, as I make stewardship a way of life. Amen.

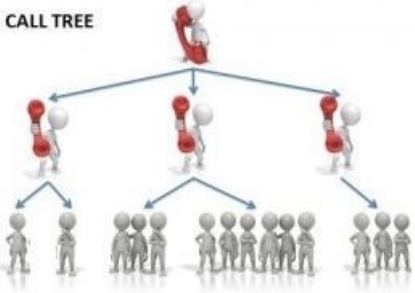
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer



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
Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot	FULFILLED	

CALL TREE



Communications

Via Phone Chain and email

We will continue to use our church's web site and Constant Contact as ways to communicate. I'd also like to establish a **phone chain** for those who do not have a computer that accesses the web, so that we can be sure and reach everyone in our ministries. Please give me a call at my church office if you would like to be

included on the phone chain, (610) 881-5105.

If you have a computer connected to the internet, please check your spam or junk folder; many computer systems read anything coming from **Constant Contact** as not worth reading, and you might not be receiving the information Donna sends out by Constant Contact.



Website Updates September 2020



www.westgroveumc.org

Please keep checking our web site as Donna has been updating it to share our ministry with the community. It is a primary tool of our efforts, along with the Face Book page to connect us with the world, and both have become essential to our efforts. There will soon be several additional videos available that share more of my faith journey, including one on the eternal nature of prayer.

Voting

It is my prayer that everyone who is able, will create and make the most of the opportunity to vote this November. While a pastor is not to endorse a candidate, we have the responsibility to guide the community through the issues. I have tried to be very thoughtful, measured and careful in how I approach my responsibilities.

I'm grateful that we have several resources to help people become more fully connected to the voting system should any one need the help.

– Tim



To our brothers and sisters at West Grove United Methodist Church -

Every person eligible to vote in our democracy can, and should, vote. However, COVID puts our lives at risk. Fulfilling our responsibility, should not force us to choose between voting, and the risk of illness or death. Those of you with computers and internet, can do most or all of the requirements online. Please see below for website links, deadlines and rules.

Those who do not have such capacity may rely on others to help, including family members. I, Peter Mullen, am willing to help anyone in our church or your families or friends, to accomplish these tasks. My cell # is 610-299-8899. Please feel free to call me with any questions or to help you fill out information online. I will also be happy to print and send you, or the county election board(s) physical applications in the mail, for Chester County, Lancaster County, and Maryland state (and probably New Castle County, DE

From the PA Government website:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx> Deadline Alert: 10/19/2020 is the last day to register before the 11/03/2020 election. If you have moved since you last voted, you will have to re-register. If you have become age 18, or will be on the election date and therefore eligible, you will have to register. If you are not a U.S. citizen and a resident of Pennsylvania at least 30 days before the next election, you CANNOT register to vote. If you have any additional questions, please call 1.877.VOTESPA (1.877.868.3772). <https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx> Your application to receive a Mail-in or absentee ballot in the mail, for the November 3, 2020, general election, must be received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Voting Continued:



Food Pantry Update

Our church continues its ministry to our community through the weekly food pantry program. For the past month, about 25 families have been coming each Thursday to receive food. We have been able to give shelf stable items that have been donated by members and friends of our church, produce from the Chester County Food Bank, as well as vegetables from our church's raised beds, and Sunshine Boxes, containing non-perishable meals, from the Food Bank.

You are encouraged to donate to our pantry, as the need is great and on-going. **If you bring donations when the church is not open, please feel free to place them in the SHOPPING CART OUTSIDE THE LOBBY DOORS.** Here is a list of most requested foods: canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, canned tuna or chicken, canned or dry beans, rice, corn tortillas and cereal. If you would care to volunteer to pick-up items in Exton, at the Food Bank, or wish to help with packing bags or distribution on Thursdays, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net). If you are already volunteering, there is no need to contact her. Also, if anyone from our church would appreciate bags of food from our pantry, please let Joan know of that need. Food can be delivered to members of our congregation, if you are unable to come to the church.

Thanks for your faithful support of this outreach!

Mighty Writers Food Distribution



Our church is pleased to offer space for the Mighty Writers non-profit, to distribute food, diapers, formula, books, and children's activities. Every Friday at noon, they hand-out these essentials to about 150 families

from our community. We continue to open our church food pantry every Thursday. We have been able to collaborate with Mighty Writers by giving them surplus produce we received from the Chester County Food Bank. They, in turn, have offered eggs and diapers for us to distribute with our bags on Thursdays. This mutually beneficial partnership is a major source of aid to



families facing dire financial hardship. Even though many programs that usually use our church building have discontinued meeting, for the time being, we are so

happy to see our church building being used to support the Mighty Writers' endeavor.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST MEN

West Grove UMC and its men are part of the LanChester United Methodist Men Group that meets monthly for food, fellowship, worship, and program.

Because of the covid-19 virus our monthly plans have changed. Our first gathering will be a "Tailgate Gathering" in our parking lot (West Grove UMC) on Monday, October 12th at 6:30 PM with a tailgate meal of "Ribs, burgers and dogs". Cost is the same as last year, \$11 per meal. Bring a folding chair as we plan to eat the meal and listen to the program by or in your vehicle. The program will be broadcast on your FM car radio. Please wear a mask and practice safe distancing. We need to know if you plan to be at the "Tailgate Gathering" by October 5th for food planning. Please let Pastor Jim or Dick Price know you are coming.



We will have Zoom Meetings on October 26th and November 23rd at 7 PM and the zoom invitation will be available near the date of the meetings.

Toy Drive Giving Children Hope

One of the charitable LanChester UMM take a toy, underwear, and

for the Methodist Home for Children at Christmas time. Your unwrapped toys and clothing can be brought to the church anytime before December 7th as we will take them to the group drop-off on Sunday, December 13th. Our donations to the Home bring a happy and Merry Christmas for these children. We trust you will take part in the event. Gift cards are also accepted.

events that the part in every year is sock collection drive

If you have questions about the UMM please contact Dick Price or Pastor Jim

Boy Scout Troop 12

“Troop 12 so far has had four scouts make Eagle. An important step in the process to achieve the rank of Eagle is the “Eagle Project”. Seeing an “Eagle Project” through from initial conception and approval to execution and final completion is no mean feat. By design it is meant to challenge the scout. He must demonstrate proficiency and initiative in several areas including: research, planning; budgeting (these projects often require funding for which the scout alone is responsible); acquisition of all resources needed to get the job done such as the raw materials, tools and labor; time management; people skills; teamwork; organization; leadership; and safety awareness throughout the entire project. Adults can be involved but only as a resource to lend their expertise. The eagle candidate is required to keep



“Organization Teamwork & Leadership”

records and document each step in the course of completing his project, typically in the form of a three ring binder. At his Eagle Board of Review this binder is given careful scrutiny. As much as 50% of the questions asked, if not more, can be, and often are, devoted to his project.

An important criteria for any Eagle Project is that it must be relevant and meet a recognized need and/or provide a tangible benefit to the community as a whole or some group in particular. The projects that our four Eagle scouts accomplished; Nathaniel Krinock, John Yaletchko, Jackson May and Alex Wilson were no exception.

Nathaniel Krinock completed a physical and historical restoration for the London Tract Cemetery in the White Clay creek Preserve. In addition to cleaning, straightening, resetting and restoring the gravestones, he and his team did research on some of the people buried there that

included veterans of past wars going back to the Revolutionary War. John Yaletchko worked with the Avon Grove Lion’s Club in support of their nationwide campaign to collect and redistribute eye glasses to the needy. John and his team made 15 collection boxes for distribution throughout the area and with the leftover lumber built an 8 ft shelving system to hold medical equipment at their book barn on Baker Station



“Hard Work on a Hot Day”

Continued on next page



"Timing - Ready for Concrete"

As mentioned in last month's newsletter Troop 12 has another Eagle candidate, Dylan Huss, who just this past summer completed his eagle project, the concrete walkway extending from the parking lot to the back door of the church office, replacing the pavers. This will make the walkway cleaner, easier to maintain and much safer. The attached pictures from Dylan's project go a long



"Job Well Done"

Rd in Avondale. Jackson May worked with our Trustee's on a much needed project for the church. He and his team built an enclosure to contain all the garbage and trash bins located outside the back door of the kitchen, which included both a concrete pad and walkway. Alex Wilson and his team built the four picnic tables and two serving tables currently located off the parking lot which have served us well especially during the pandemic.



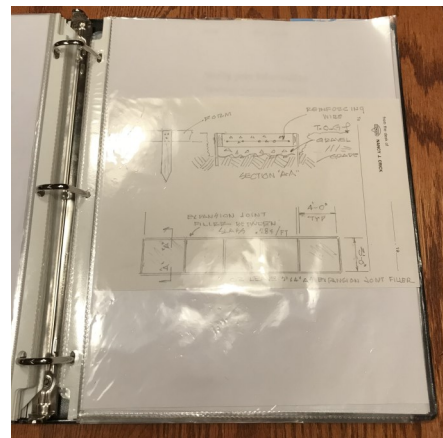
"Adult Expertise at Work"

way toward illustrating some of the important aspects of any eagle project. We hope to be celebrating Dylan's Eagle Court of Honor later this Fall."

Thanks your help on this. Hope you can squeeze in all the pictures with their respective captions, even if it's on a separate page. If you hadn't challenged everyone to write something for the newsletter as you did at Ad Council last

Wednesday, I probably wouldn't have written this. Now that I have I'm glad I did. Any questions, don't hesitate.

Dick Sturhke, Scouting Coordinator



"The Binder"



We may run out of letters this year. It's only September, and already we're nearly through the alphabet!

For only the second time in history, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is so intense that the U.S. National Hurricane Center may resort to naming new storms using letters from the Greek alphabet.

And even as millions on the Gulf coasts are deluged with wind, rain, and flooding, as of this writing millions more out West flee massive wildfires. Across the globe, 2020 has seen massive monsoon flooding in South and Central Asia and torrential rains and catastrophic flooding throughout the African continent.

Vulnerable men, women, and children need your help today more than ever.

The intense 2020 Atlantic hurricane season and massive wildfires out West coincide with a historic pandemic and a coronavirus-fueled global recession. COVID-19 is complicating rescue and recovery efforts. Your help is needed now more than ever.

Your gift will build on the proven partnerships and solid infrastructure that make UMCOR a trusted name in U.S. and international disaster response.

Survivors of natural and manmade disaster stand to lose their homes and their health, their livelihoods and loved ones. But with your help they will not lose hope.

COVID-19 is complicating rescue and recovery efforts. Whatever you give makes a difference.

If you would like to give a donation to UMCOR, please note UMCOR Disasters in the memo line and 100% of your contribution will be helping people to hold onto HOPE.

AACLL

Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders

Called to Witness, Care, and Act: A Message for Laity in the UMC

This is an extraordinary time in the history of our church and world. As Conference Lay Leaders we gathered in February optimistically anticipating a future guided by vision and filled with action. We returned home to face a modern pandemic that has cancelled local, conference, and denomination-wide activities. Many of us are not gathering in our houses of worship right now. Clergy and laity are learning ways to minister differently. Weddings, funerals, celebrations – even times of breaking bread and fellowship -- have been postponed or reduced to minimized gatherings. Separation has brought challenges to how we meaningfully carry on our ministry and mission.

In the same time frame, the lives of Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and so many other Black lives have been violently ended because of the sin of deeply rooted racism. Pain, anger, denial and new realizations have further ripped the already frayed fabric of communities across the world.

"God calls us to stand as witnesses to this dual pandemic. . . . Our acts of witnessing are not those of a spectator or to record history, but to take action and cause change."

Jesus gave us the Great Commandment, to "love one another as I have loved you." Discomfort, fear, loss, grief or anger do not excuse us from this command.

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted." (I Peter 2:9, The Message)

We have been called through our baptism to steadfast leadership in this time.

God calls us to stand as witnesses to this dual pandemic. As laity we are 99.2% of the church and our voices matter. We cannot sit as observers to these events. We will not go back to normal. We cannot be silent. We are vital to the unfolding of God's hope for us, to be people who hold one another and the communities around us, in love. Our acts of witnessing are not those of a spectator or to record history, but to take action and cause change.

God calls us to care for one another during this plague that has taken the lives of over 775,000 people worldwide. Seasons of pandemic and cultural change do not excuse us from being aware and supportive of our neighbors. Rather, they call us to being there for one another, hearing, listening deeply and acting.

"God calls us to care for one another during this plague that has taken the lives of over 775,000 people worldwide."

God calls us to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to the systemic and individual realities of racism. We are called to raise our voices for God's kingdom, for the life we can all live together.

(Continued on Page 10)

God calls us to acknowledge that when one person is denied freedom all are responsible to raise the voice of faith against systems of oppression. It is past time to use our voices.

We are called to act. As laity, consider actions you can take with your families, congregations, and communities.

Lead courageous conversations about this dual pandemic. How can we be supportive while isolated? How can we see and understand the systemic racism that is so deeply rooted?

Hold all of those in prayer who risk their lives to heal the sick and protest against the inequities around

us. Advocate and work for God's justice and mercy for those who suffer.

Shine light on those invisible biases in our relationships, congregations, conferences, and the Church that diminish the voices of some while strengthening others.

Question our assumptions about the way our church works. Seek ministry and mission that expand our understanding of others. Where can we advocate for justice? How can we reach out to the world and help build God's Kingdom here, for everyone?

Renew our commitment to love one another, fully embracing the knowledge that sometimes this means we need to let go of old ways and old thinking that may allow us to think that some people are better than others and deserve more, while accepting that other people, ideas or dreams are disposable.

Collectively use our voices to question, confront, resist, and heal. Every single one of God's Children needs safety, protection, and support. Most of us benefit from larger systems of government, education, health, transportation, recreation and more; are they realistically and equally available to everyone in the community?

Participate in learning that equips laity to engage with justice and mercy efforts. Learn together through books, movies, listening, and taking the risk to think differently.

"We are called to . . . [a]dvocate and work for God's justice and mercy for those who suffer."

If all this seems daunting, let's remember together that God will not give us a task too large nor will God leave us on our own. If we move beyond our comfort zones or encounter disapproval from others, we can think about the late John Lewis whose whole life was grounded in his Christian faith. Mr. Lewis, a great American statesman and advocate for the beloved community once said, "let's get in some good trouble together."

The season for change and transformation is NOW! In all our own places, let us follow God's call.

God's blessings,

The AACLL Executive Committee

Nancy Tam Davis, President, Pacific Northwest

LaToya Redd Thompson, Vice President, Mississippi

Gayla Jo Slauson, Secretary, Mountain Sky

David Koch, Treasurer, Eastern Pennsylvania

Micheal Pope, At-Large, California Nevada

Simon Mafunda, At-Large, East Zimbabwe

Margaret Borgen, At-Large, Iowa

Sharon Gregory, Past President, Western Pennsylvania

Herman Totten, ACDLSM President, North Texas



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Even though our rummage sales have been canceled this year, we still maintain a fairly healthy budget. Our faithful service will allow us to continue with donations to various missions. The following is what has been agreed upon:

\$100 to the New Garment Association, a local West Grove mission

\$150 to the South District UMW Mission Giving Fund

\$200 to the Methodist Services 2020 Toy and Gift Drive

\$250 to UMCOR's Disaster Relief Fund

In addition, the UMW will be preparing our annual Advent Bags for our friends who are home bound and/or without family during the holidays. If you know of someone who would enjoy a bag of Christmas cheer and would be blessed by these gifts, please let Pastor Tim know their name. Thank you for your prayers and support of the UMW.

We look forward to our rummage sales next year. Continue to save your donations.

REACHING OUR MINISTRY/UMC, TANZANIA, MOROGORO UMC, SEPTEMBER 2020

By Missionary Ngoy and Umba Kalangwa

Dear friends in Christ,
Greetings from Morogoro!

We give thanks to God for His continuous blessings upon you all. With the outbreak of covid19, the past few months have been challenging, but we are grateful to God for His unfailing love and grace.

Thank you! Thank you for your prayers and partnering with us as we continue to share the love of God even during these difficult times.

This newsletter highlights our ongoing ministries.

Still in Mission Episode

We take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of you who attended our presentation via zoom StillinMission episode organized by the General Board of Global Ministries. It was a blessing to see so many of you and to share with you our experience and mission here in Tanzania. If you did not get the chance to ask us questions, feel free to reach to us with your questions and we will be glad to answer your questions.



With your help, we dedicated

Mkambalani United Methodist Church building on August 16, 2020.

The pictures above are the old church building and the present church. As you can see, people of God can now worship in the new church building even when it is raining. I remember when people were still worshipping the former church and it started raining. The whole church was full of water and everyone was wet. It was a bad experience as children shaking because it was cold and windy. Thank God, we were able to inaugurate this new building so the people can worship in a convenient place. On behalf of the people of Morogoro, we say once again THANK YOU.

Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken [it]: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever—2 Samuel 7:29

Mosquitoes Nets Distribution



A mosquito net costs only \$7 but due to poverty, many families cannot afford to buy one, so families are left exposed to what could be a deadly mosquito bite.

One of the encouraging things we have seen this last month is traveling to remote areas to distribute mosquitoes nets to help families who cannot afford mosquitoes nets to combat Malaria. We feel so encouraged how the Lord is using you to make a difference in the people of Morogoro. It has been a blessing to see these families receive the nets with much joy.



PERSONAL THANK YOU

Ngoy and I celebrated our 40th anniversary on August 20th. What a journey together! We celebrated our anniversary with friends and our children on zoom. We give thanks to God for the gift of technology because our children live in different parts of the world and only technology could bring us together. Thank for you wishing us happy anniversary on Facebook, email and call. We love hearing from you all.

We are also grateful to be grandparents for the 11th time. Our third daughter, Lauren, gave birth to a baby girl named Emily on September 2 in Oklahoma City. Both mother and baby are doing fine.

Prayer Requests

- More opportunities to share the love of God everyday, as well as courage to take full advantage of open doors.
- Pray for God to raise up a few full time men to travel with me from village to village planting churches over the next year.

Thank you for your continued prayers and unwavering support. May the Lord richly and abundantly bless you all.

Our Contact Information

Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa

nkalangwa@umcmmission.org or
ngoymulangakalangwa@gmail.com

Umba Kalangwa

ukalangwa@umcmmission.org or
umbakalangwa@gmail.com

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center

will launch this weekend Run the Glen, a series of three weekend race excursions—on Fridays (5K) beginning at 6 PM and on Saturdays

(5K and 10K) beginning at 8 AM. Visitors will literally have the run of the place, as they race—whether running or walking—through the scenic camp grounds. The dates are Sept. 18-19, Oct. 16-17 and Nov. 20-21

“We would love to have you join us for as many of these runs as you would like,” says camp director Apryl Miller, “and savings will stack up the more you Run the Glen (i.e., \$10 off for each additional run when purchased together)!”

Masks will be required where social distancing (being 6 feet apart) is not possible. But race rules and allowances will be made to accommodate social distancing. Usage is limited to a total of 100



runners per day. No additional guests will be allowed on site without prior permission. Please encourage your friends and family to support you from home.

The entry fee ranges from \$30 to \$35. All profits will go to support Gretna Glen

operations—and that support is greatly needed. Watch the fun Run the Glen series video. Go to <http://www.gretnaglen.org/about-us/get-involved/runtheglen> to learn more and to register.

In addition, Gretna Glen continues to host its monthly Free Youth Nights this Sunday, Sept. 20, through December at a new time, 2 to 4:30 PM. Other dates are Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20. The agenda includes camp activities like boating, archery, GaGa, 9-square, etc.; socially distanced large-group activities; and worship and prayer; plus a light grab-and-go snack. Learn more about this and other planned activities, and learn about what Gretna Glen is doing to keep all its visitors safe.

Larry Yates	02
Jonathan LeSturgeon	04
Grace Bowes	08
Bradley Dunn	08
Angela DiRamio	09
Bob Hocking	11
Joanna Stephenson	13
Carol Whelan	15
Valerie Kapp-Benner	16
Madeline Smith	17
Lois Hocking	18
Susan Paisley	18
Christian Schneider	18

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Amy Aucott	19
Janice Bowers	20
Joshua Robinson	20
Simonds, Amy	21
Kyle Aucott	23
Jill Croft	23
Jill Hocking	24
Jackson May	26
Fernando Tena	26
Jonathan Tena	26
Donald Anderson	29
Austin McCummings	29
Jessica Timm	29
Tiffany Bohnsack	30

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	2 Request for Church Attendance due by 5pm Mighty Writers Food Distribution 12-1pm	3 Memory Bells Rehearsal Communion at Church in the Parking Lot—4:00 p.m. AG Wildcats Parking
4 9:30 Worship: In person and Live Streaming 3:30 Youth Group in church parking lot	5 Tech Team Meeting (via Zoom) Re-Opening Committee Meeting (via Zoom)	6 Trustees Meeting (via Zoom) Prayer Gathering at home	7	8 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	9 Request for Church Attendance due by 5pm Mighty Writers Food Distribution 12-1pm	10 Juliets meet in the Prayer Garden for a bring your own breakfast Memory Bells Rehearsal AG Wildcats Parking
11 9:30 Worship: In person and Live Streaming Worship at Jenner's Pond Service 3:30 Youth Group in church parking lot	12 UMM Tailgating Dinner & Program at 6:30pm	13 Prayer Gathering from home	14	15 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	16 Request for Church Attendance due by 5pm Mighty Writers Food Distribution 12-1pm	17 Memory Bells Rehearsal AG Wildcats Parking
18 9:30 Worship: In person and Live Streaming 3:30 Youth Group in church parking lot	19	20 SPRC Meeting (Via Zoom) Prayer Gathering from home	21 Finance/Ad Council Meeting (via Zoom)	22 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	23 Request for Church Attendance due by 5pm Mighty Writers Food Distribution 12-1pm	24 Memory Bells Rehearsal AG Wildcats Parking
25 9:30 Worship: In person and Live Streaming 3-5pm TRUNK OR TREAT	26	27 Prayer Gathering from home	28 All Staff Meeting (via Zoom)	29 Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	30 Mighty Writers Food Distribution 12-1pm	31 Memory Bells Rehearsal AG Wildcats Parking



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 office@westgroveumc.org

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 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

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

Office@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

davsan5@comcast.net

TBA—Children's Morning Out Director

Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Ali Wills- Sexton

sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Janice Bowers, janicesemail2@gmail.com

Cindy Haley, chaley@zoominternet.net

Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

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 Tim - 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