



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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**November 2020**

I will  
**THANK GOD**  
for my blessings  
without forgetting  
I am  
**BLESSED  
TO BE A  
BLESSING**

*A Divine Encounter.com*

*"His love has taken over our lives; God's faithful ways are eternal."*

*Psalm 137:2 (The Message)*

As we have been examining our views of heaven in October, and how they lead us as disciples to bring heaven down to earth, there have been many additional things to say that don't fit into the limited time and venue of worship and a Sunday morning meditation. From one of my devotions recently, Eugene Peterson wrote in his book, Where Your Treasure Is, an insight that requires maturity in faith to hear: God does not save us so that we can cultivate private ecstasies. While I look forward to sharing the scripture from John 14:1-9, and how it can assure us, we also understand as we grow and mature as disciples, that the promise of Jesus does not just guarantee us a reservation in a heavenly mansion, without leading us to a deeper understanding; it leads us into living in relationships based on Christ's teaching.

Peterson goes on to say that we are being taught the language of God's kingdom. While we enjoy envisioning God who cares about and is caring for even the smallest of birds (Psalm 84:3 and Matt 6:26) we must also come to terms with God who is equally at home in the most

rugged, obnoxious politics, even the opinionated, smoke filled places of our American political heritage. I have wrestled with just how to share our faith under such times of emotional elections. We need to listen and hear one another. We need to find better ways to communicate than through yard signs, mailings, rallies, and even debates.

As pastors, we are to try to stay true to not endorsing a candidate, yet we need to speak out and speak up about the issues. In a meditation on October 18, I asked you as Christians to consider several questions: If you are a Republican, how are you going to help the Democrats heal from this election if they lose? Or if they *win*? If you are a Democrat, how are you going to help the Republicans heal from this election if they lose? Or if they *win*? If you are an independent, how will you stay engaged in the dialogue we need to have to bring wholeness and healing?

## **Our Heritage of Social Justice**

In our own UMC Book of Discipline, we have many concerns that we are striving to faithfully work on. We can't remain silent on many of the issues and dynamics our nation and world face; to do so would be to passively allow destruction, hate, and evil to run rampant. We need to be faithful in working on effective responses that are based on faith in Christ, and the relationship God offers. The challenges started long before this election and will still be with us after the election. And what we do will have an impact for at least four generations into the future.

We need to work to eliminate racism in our own hearts, as we work to ensure it doesn't happen in our communities, and instead bring real healing in our nation and world. We cannot tolerate having women and men treated as objects to be used, manipulated, and abused, and not seen for their partnership in ministry, life, and love that Christ has taught us all to share. The most effective ways to help a woman bring a child into this world, and not end a life prematurely through an abortion, comes out of our faithful relationships. One first step is to ensure that she, her child, and husband and all people have adequate health care. Additionally, our fellowship must be prepared to create relationships in community that builds trust as we welcome people into our church. How we lift up the vision of love that Christ can create within our marriages, and friendships, through teaching and example, is essential for all ages to experience and share.

The vision caste in Revelation 21 and 22 of restored creation leads us to work towards eliminating pollution and disease; a crystal river flowing through the community of faith castes a vision of heaven on earth where we are good stewards of life and creation; we develop technology and industry based on careful, thoughtful use of what has been entrusted to us. Do you know that in one month in Texas alone last year, as oil was extracted from fracking, more natural gas was flared or burned off than what we use in Pennsylvania homes? Instead of burning up the resource, polluting and wasting it, for what it would have cost to capture and deliver it, it could have been given to heat the homes of people in the Northeast for over a month. Or we now know that a \$5 mask and the willingness to wear it to protect each other, would have saved our nation \$5 Trillion. Let that dynamic sink in. Imagine what we could do with such a resource. We can't squander or hide away the treasure entrusted to us.

So, we ask ourselves and each other, how will we bring healing and God's transformation to our world, our nation, and community? The reasons for God's laws and guidance are to help us to make sound decisions, to be led in making wise decisions that lead to life, and give glory and honor to God.

On Sunday, October 25, we looked at the very challenging parable that Jesus taught in Matthew 25:14-30. Three servants are entrusted with small fortunes to invest for their master. Two of them do very well, doubling what had been entrusted to them; the third only hid away his master's wealth. What the master decides to do is shocking to many people. Yet Jesus is trying to teach us that our decisions have an impact. *The greatest treasure we have, is our relationship with God in Jesus Christ.* It is not to be hidden away or buried; his love in our hearts is meant to be nurtured, to grow and mature and must be shared.

I am prayerful and hopeful of how we can go forward together to faithfully fulfill God's call in our lives. God who can bring forth a resurrection can transform our hearts and lives, and even our troubled world too. May his love truly take over our lives and may we all be blessed to be a blessing. – 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

Reopening the sanctuary for worship has been going very well. We have an average attendance of 25 people and are permitted to have 39 in worship. There is plenty of room to social distance, everyone is wearing a mask and the sanctuary and lobby are sanitized each week prior to worship. 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.

**The Sound Booth need you!** They are offering **FREE LESSIONS** on how to run the sound booth! You not only help the church and give a break to the regulars when needed, but you get to have a **great new skill to add to your resume or College application!** Talk to Michael Duvall or Steve May for details!



*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

**November 8th 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.

### Annual Charge Conference

**On November 4<sup>th</sup> and 7PM** we will hold our Annual Charge Conference with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Evelyn Kent-Clark presiding. We look forward to meeting her and working with her as we go forward in ministry. This meeting is when the church's ministry is assessed, and the future envisioned. All who take part in the church are welcome to join us; only Ad Board members have a vote on any actions taken.

Our nation election is finally upon us; I pray everyone has taken time to pray about these important decisions we are making as a nation. Please be sure and vote. May God bless us in the ways we live and work and worship together. I share a special thank you to Peter Mullen for offering to help people with their voting efforts.





# Pastor's Desk

## Drive-Up Food Distribution



### Summary of Our Efforts & Plans In Ministry

If you haven't heard, our church has been supporting an additional food pantry ministry every week. While we continue to offer the Food Pantry on Thursday afternoons, and we are grateful for your donations, service, and financial support along with prayer, a non-profit group called the Mighty Writers requested we allow them to also distribute food on Friday afternoons. In the five weeks they have been distributing boxes, they have served 1200 packages to families, 225-250 every week. Sara Dickens-Trillo is the director

with many volunteers taking part. The group's web site can be found at: [www.mightywriters.org](http://www.mightywriters.org) The original purpose of their group has been to help bilingual children develop their language skills. With the impact of the virus happening, they recognized the need to reach out with help with food; a hungry child finds it impossible to learn. We are blessed to have the facilities to offer them. Thank you for your prayers and continued support for our ministries. We need your additional help on our Emergency Aid Team. Please let us know at the church or pastor's office, if you can help.



### Sunday School & Small Groups

It is a very high priority for us to make plans for creating time for small groups and Sunday School so we can meet soon. The

pandemic has gone on a long time, and I hope that we can start meeting more by Zoom, and at times in person, planning with the expectation that in the next six months we are likely to be able to meet in person without as much fear of infection. We continue to offer in person worship on Sunday and are offering Thursday morning Bible Study with social distancing requirements in place; a Zoom call is offered Thursday evenings. We can currently receive up to 40 people for worship. Our next set of considerations are when to meet, what to study, and who will help facilitate. We will stay in contact through e-mails and our web site.



## ADVENT STUDIES

We are currently examining two studies for Advent. Pastor Jim will offer one based on the preparation for Christ's coming in the Old Testament into the New. We are also looking at centering the Advent season on a study and book by Rev. Adam Hamilton called, *Incarnation*. We hope you will keep some time reserved during Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in new ways into our lives this season and the coming year. Anticipation magnifies our joyful understanding as it prepares us for the fulfillment of God's promises.

### Looking to the Future Can Provide Hope

I've been engaging in some prayer and visioning, looking to the future, trying to understand what God is calling me, and our fellowship to strive for. I want to be realistic and yet open to the power and possibilities that God can provide. It has led me to live in realistic hope by faith. In January, I'd like to startup a Disciple Bible Study, an important part of my journey into ministry and a life of faith. It was an important source of Christian fellowship for me when I was still working in industry. I was able to develop real relationships with friends in the church and then many additional ones as the years unfolded. I have led and shared in at least 14 Disciple Bible Study classes in the past 25 years; each one has been unique in the fellowship and blessings we have shared. I have several more ministry ideas we can share after the fears of the virus are left behind. I look forward to sharing them with you in the months ahead.



**Coffee and Scripture with Pastor Tim**  
**Thursdays beginning October 22, 11 a.m. (Sanctuary)**  
**and 7 p.m. (Zoom)**

Please join us on Thursdays for a time of coffee and scripture with Pastor Tim. We will share a time to look more completely at our views of heaven. We will examine the scriptures we've been sharing on Sunday mornings, and also share some of our own experiences about what we have been taught about heaven. Who was important in your faith journey and what did they have to say about heaven to you? What visions do you have and where do you think they came from? How do our visions of heaven influence the ways we live our lives today?

**We will meet in person in the clean,**



**sanitized sanctuary on Thursday morning from 11AM until noon, and then by Zoom on Thursday evening at 7PM.** Please join us. Tim is looking forward to getting to know you

better and learn more about your journey of faith, so that we can continue to build sacred friendships here at West Grove UMC and in our community. We ask you to **social distance in the morning wearing a mask and we will be seated 8 feet apart; also, please bring your own coffee.** And if you are not a coffee drinker, please bring your favorite soft beverage and come and share the fellowship we can safely have during these challenging times.



**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

**With Pastor Jim**

**Mondays, November 29. December 6, 13, 20**  
**7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Pastor Jim Mundell will be teaching a Bible study entitled **BACKGROUND AND EVENTS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.** It will be a four week study involving both the Old and New Testaments. The weekly studies are entitled:

- 1) OT Prophecies about Jesus**
- 2) God's Covenant with Us**
- 3) Birth of Jesus Foretold**
- 4) The Birth of Jesus.**

This study will be held in the sanctuary on Monday evenings at 7 PM, beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> and continuing on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. We will use masks and social distancing. Your presence along with your Bible will help us gain more understanding about Christ and His incarnation and the importance to each of us as believers in Jesus. See Pastor Jim if you have any questions.

## **Consecration Sundays**

### **Time & Talent; Financial Offering**

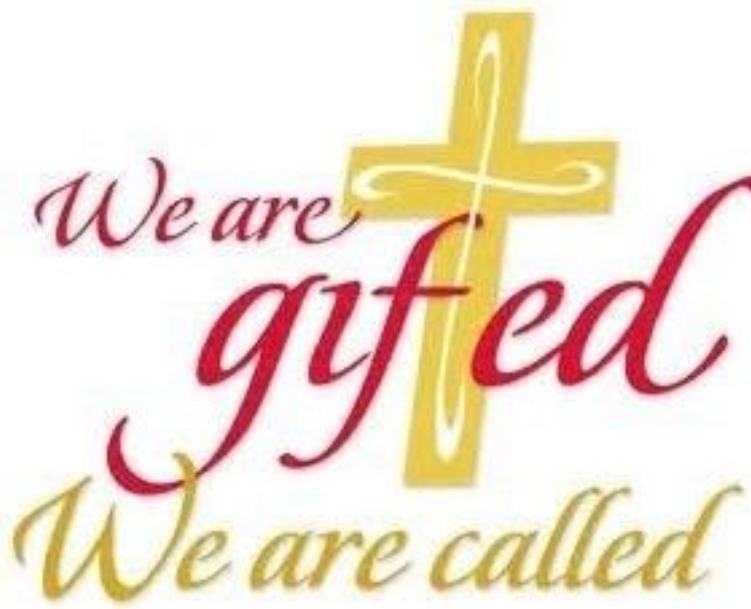
In November, we will celebrate God's blessings to us, first in a **Consecration Sunday of our Time and Talents to be held on November 15 during worship**. We will be sending out a letter with a Consecration form listing our various ministries you are invited to participate in. We ask you to examine the form and prayerfully consider how you will serve Christ in the coming year. Fill in your name, one form for each person, and present in on the 15<sup>th</sup> as an offering that will be placed on the church altar. If you do not yet plan on attending, we ask that you send in your completed form or drop it off during the week before or weeks after. Everyone has something to share. Frequently, our time is the greatest gift we can offer. There is room for you to add ideas of ministries that you may believe God is inspiring us to create and share.

#### **On Sunday, will host a Sunday of**

Everyone is asked a commitment we can, our commitment to 2021. We share an offering to God, to our relationships with Him, and as one of many ways we faithfully fulfill our Covenant. It is important that we consider what God has done for us, and these gifts as part of our discipleship. On a practical side, every year, we use our commitments to help realistically plan for the work ahead. A letter will be sent in the next week or so, explaining our efforts and inviting your participation in our ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness during such challenging times.

#### **November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we Consecration Financial Giving.**

to prayerfully fill out card, naming as best financial our fellowship for this commitment as a personal response



### **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.





## A Great Thanks

I want to again send out a very clear thank you to all who continue to help us share worship on Sunday mornings. The great music and the technical know how are the result of the hard work of extremely generous people, who have given their time and talents so that we can still have worship every week and take part in our community of faith together. We are so grateful for their efforts, persistence, flexibility and the blessed results. We also want to give thanks for the brave people who have come out to worship in person together. It is not the same with masks, without singing and the limited numbers. Yet it is a blessing to be together in worship. And we give special thanks to the Trustees and other leaders in the Reopening Committee who have worked through how to be faithful to the precautions that are required of us. Thank you to Gene Aucott for guiding us through the purchase and use of the fogger, and the additional work and insights of Donna Fackler. We are hopeful about the future, trying our best to be patient with the process of recovery.

Pastor Tim

## 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](https://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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) or call the office at 610-869-9334. I will be happy to add you to the list!

Donna

# YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## CMO PRESCHOOL

### Children's Morning Out



### Preschool

After lots of planning, preparing, and praying, it is finally back-to-school time here at the CMO & Preschool. The teachers and children are thrilled for this exciting news. On October 22, the children and parents had a chance to come meet their teachers and see their new classrooms. The week of October 26 was our first week back for two Pre K classes and our 3 & 4 year old classes. The kiddos were so excited to be able to come back to school to learn, play and have fun together. Even though our class sizes are smaller and we are all wearing our masks, we look forward to coming to school each day. We are so grateful for the support of our families, the church, and Pastor Tim as we head into this new adventure!

Heather Smalley, Director

## Youth

### **Mission Trip 2021 June 20-26**

#### **Boston, Massachusetts**



Our summer mission trip team will be heading to Boston this June.

Any students entering grade 8 through graduating seniors are invited to join!

***The deadline to sign up for the mission trip is December 20, 2020.***

Information about the trip, including cost and important dates is available. Contact Melanie Hartley for specific information.



### ***Youth Group on Sunday***

***3:30-5:00 p.m.***

**November 1, 15, & 29**

## **Children's Ministry News**

**Contact Melanie to get on the email list and for other children's ministry 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
<b>Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>	



Our next meeting will be on November 23rd at 7 PM and the zoom invitation will be available near the date of the meetings.

One of the charitable events that the Lancaster UMM take part in every year is a toy, underwear, and sock collection drive 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.

**Toy Drive**  
Giving Children Hope

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



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.



## Boy Scout Troop 12

### Troop 12 Goes on its Last Campout

Troop 12 weekend past October the Hawkeye Camp Ware. attended by 5 plus former eagle, John who joined us night all day Camp Ware, the west side Octoraro Peach Bottom,



**Scenic Overlook on the Hike**

went on a campout this 23rd – 25th at campsite at The event was boys, 5 adults scout and Yaletchko, at the Friday campfire and Saturday. located along of the

two camps owned and operated by the Chester County Council of the BSA. The other is Camp Horseshoe located adjacent to Camp Ware on the east side of the Octoraro.

The two camps are joined by a rather rickety suspension bridge that can be crossed by no more than three hikers at a time. Both camps operate a summer camp program, which for reasons of the pandemic were closed this past summer. Summer camp is extremely important to the overall scout experience. Summer camp is divided into weeklong sessions that by design provide unique opportunities for leadership, teamwork, skill

building, and advancement. In 2016, the first year I was associated with Troop 12, those boys from Troop 12 who had attended summer camp that year at Camp Horseshoe, collectively earned over 75 merit badges and 5 rank advancements. Both Camp Horseshoe and Camp Ware are now open for weekend campouts, albeit on a limited basis.



In spite of the need to wear masks, practice social distancing, etc, Troop 12's October campout afforded a

**Happy Camper with his Masterpiece on the Far Right**

Continued on next page





memorable experience for all: hiking wooded trails with the Fall colors in all their glory; sleeping in a tent under the stars; waking up at sunrise to the sounds of reveille; campfire stew and an apple/peach cobbler all cooked over the red hot coals of an open fire for dinner; a few heated games of Ga Ga ball; pumpkin carving (thanks to John Y); rank advancement opportunities; and fun, stories, marshmallows and S'mores around the campfire. Although there were only fleeting moments of sunshine, the weather cooperated unlike some other campouts yours truly has been on with Troop 12.

Perhaps a highlight of the weekend was the 2+ mile hike from Camp Ware, across the rickety suspension bridge over to Camp Horseshoe. There, the troop visited the campsite Troop 12 used on its very first summer camp back in 2014. This provided a

### **Even Steve got into the Act**

bittersweet moment for reflection as this campout will be the last campout for Troop 12. Troop 12 will not be re-chartering in November and as of December 31st will become a cherished memory for our church until such time enough interest in scouting can again bring us to the point of sponsoring another troop. During its nearly 8 years of existence, over 46 boys joined and experienced the joys, challenges, comradery and ideals of the Boy Scout program. Over that time 4 boys, Nathaniel Krinnock, John Yaletchko, Jackson May and Alex Wilson achieved the rank of Eagle and a 5th, Dylan Huss, who we expect will have successfully passed his final hurdle, the Eagle Board of Review, by the time this newsletter is published. This is a fine record and speaks to the outstanding and dedicated adult leadership that Troop 12 was so fortunate to have had, in particular Steve May, who has served as Troop 12's scoutmaster since its founding in August of 2013. Steve's leadership style was to constantly challenge the scouts to take on much of the responsibility of running the troop themselves and to make each scout accountable to each other for its success. This was never more evident than in our October campout, as a good time was had by all, filled with learning experiences, leadership opportunities and memories to last a lifetime even for us older adults."

Dick Stuhrke – Scout Coordinator





**Council of Bishops**  
The United Methodist Church



## **A Crisis of Faith and Democracy**

### **A statement by United Methodist Bishops in the United States**

#### **Signatures below**

**October 12, 2020**

The right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons. We call United Methodists to vote and to protect free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power.

A faithful retelling of the story of Methodism in America and the history of The United States must consider the influence of each on the other. They came into being alongside one another, and similarities in development of the two are undeniable. The narrative includes noble ideals and shameful actions, astonishing opportunity and disturbing discrimination, ethical vision and moral failure.

Our church and our nation are both democratic institutions. Through a system of conferences, from the local church to a global assembly, Methodists discuss, debate, and vote in order to discern the will of God. The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm that we “hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections.” (BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, ¶164).

As Bishops of The United Methodist Church who reside in The United States, we affirm our democratic institutions. However, we believe that the democratic processes of our country are under great threat. This is particularly evident in the reality of widespread initiatives to obstruct voter registration and to suppress voters from casting their ballots with confidence they will be accurately counted.

The right to vote is rooted in a commitment to the value of all persons, created in the image of God as individuals of sacred worth. This belief in the sacredness of humanity is a foundational principle of many religious traditions present in

the American body politic.

The legacy of injustice told in civil rights museums across our country is one of suppression of the vote. And the legacy of white supremacy and privilege continues. At times this suppression has been overt, as when one was required to own property or be a white male to vote. At other times it is more nuanced, as in moving or eliminating polling places, or in sowing confusion over early voting or voting by mail. Such actions undermine the people’s confidence that voting matters. And in some instances, where the people have affirmed the right to vote for convicted felons who have served their sentences, state legislatures and governor’s offices have sought to overturn the will of the people in order to suppress the vote.

Efforts by our government or elected officials to suppress the freedom to cast ballots violate the high principles upon which our nation was founded. By contrast, these high principles are affirmed and realized when elected officials and government entities promote, defend, and guarantee the unfettered right of all citizens to choose our leaders in free and fair elections.

The greatest hallmark of a democratic institution is the peaceful transfer of power once the will of the people has been established. This model of democracy has existed within our country for over 220 years. It is incumbent upon those who participate in democratic processes not only to ensure each citizen’s right to cast their ballot, but to respect the result of those ballots once counted. When we resist this aspect of our democratic franchise, we undermine the whole and corrupt the foundation of our republic.

We are in a moment of national crisis as we

navigate two viruses, COVID and Racism, and suffer the economic consequences of both. In these crises we are reminded that our religious faith and our nation's principles support elections that faithfully reflect the will of the American people. Our faith in God who created all people in the divine image, and our hope that our nation can live into the aspirations of our founding ideals, lead us to pledge ourselves to the fullest expansion of this right to vote.

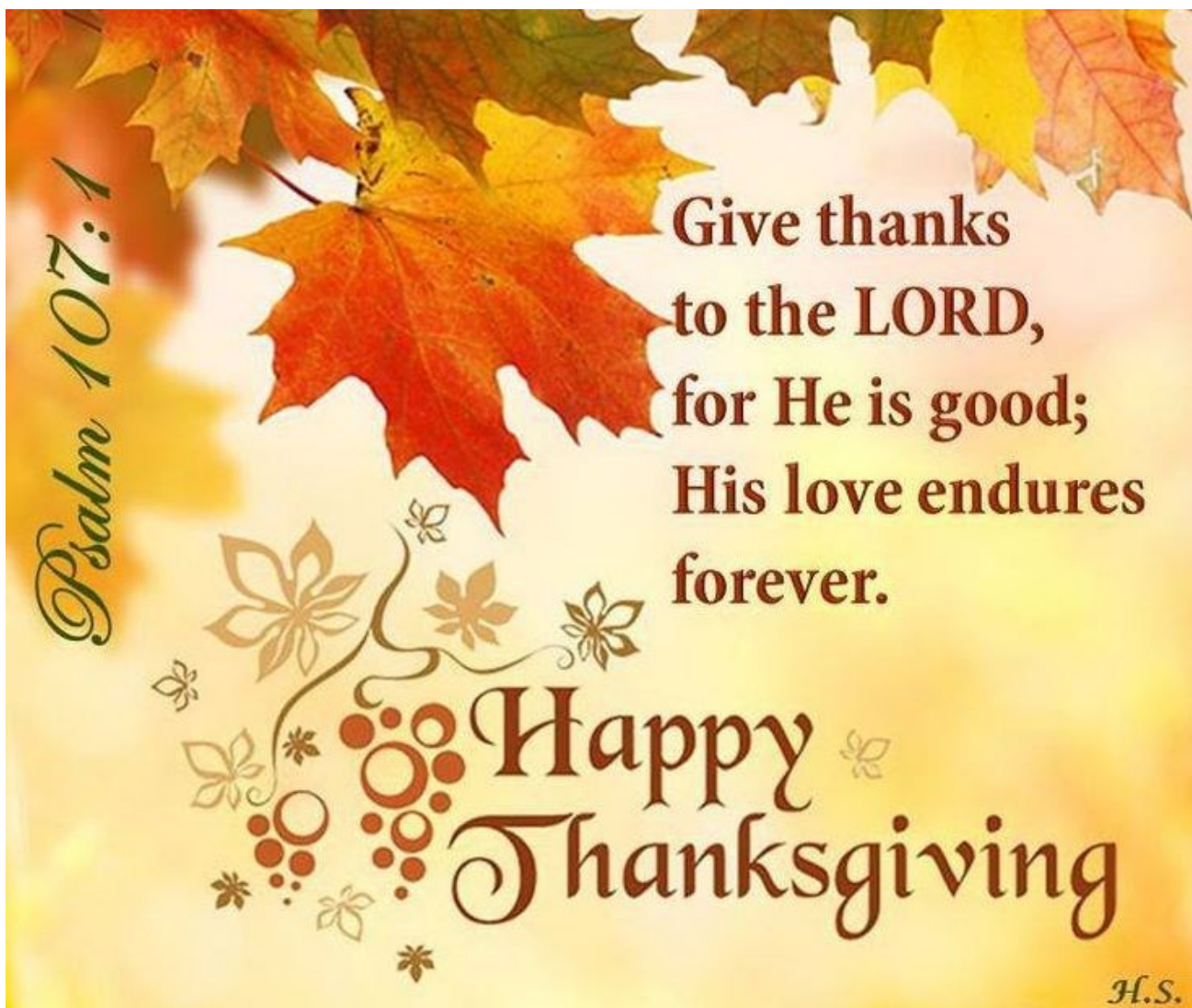
To that end we call upon the people of the United Methodist Church to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest possible participation in November's elections. This would include the provision of an adequate number of accessible polling sites and the support of an efficient process of counting mail-in ballots. Our identity as a democracy requires no less.

Affirmed by the following United Methodist Bishops in the United States:

Bishop David Alan Bard, Michigan Area  
 Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, New York Area  
 Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, San Francisco Area  
 Bishop Ken Carder, Retired  
 Bishop Kenneth Carter, Florida Area  
 Bishop Ray Chamberlain, Retired  
 Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher, Retired  
 Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield, Retired  
 Bishop Sally Dyck, Chicago Area  
 Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Boston Area  
 Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, Washington Area  
 Bishop Elias Galvan, Retired  
 Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Retired  
 Bishop William Boyd Grove, Retired  
 Bishop Grant Hagiya, Los Angeles Area  
 Bishop Laurie Haller, Iowa Area  
 Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Louisiana Area  
 Bishop Susan Hassinger, Retired  
 Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, North Georgia Area  
 Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Phoenix Area

Bishop Janice Huie, Retired  
 Bishop Alfred Johnson, Retired  
 Bishop Peggy A. Johnson, Philadelphia Area  
 Bishop Scott Jones, Houston Area  
 Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Wisconsin Area  
 Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer, Retired  
 Bishop Paul L. Leeland, Charlotte Area  
 Bishop Richard C. Looney, Retired  
 Bishop John M. (Mike) Lowry, Fort Worth Area  
 Bishop Ernest Lyght, Retired  
 Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Ohio East Area  
 Bishop Joel Martinez, Retired  
 Bishop Marcus Matthews, Retired  
 Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, Retired  
 Bishop Michael McKee, Dallas Area  
 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Pittsburgh Area  
 Bishop Sue Morrison, Retired  
 Bishop Fritz Mutti, Retired  
 Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Area  
 Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Dakotas-Minnesota Area  
 Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Ohio West Area  
 Bishop Jeremiah Park, Harrisburg Area  
 Bishop Joseph Pennel, Retired  
 Bishop Sharon Rader, Retired  
 Bishop Ruben Saenz, Great Plains Area  
 Bishop Robert Schnase, San Antonio Area  
 Bishop John Schol, Greater New Jersey Area  
 Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, Retired  
 Bishop Dan E. Solomon, Retired  
 Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, Greater Northwest Area  
 Bishop Forrest Stith, Retired  
 Bishop James E. Swanson, Mississippi Area  
 Bishop Julius Trimble, Indiana Area  
 Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Raleigh Area  
 Bishop Peter Weaver, Retired  
 Bishop Woodie W. White, Retired  
 Bishop Richard B. Wilke, Retired  
 Bishop Richard J. Wills, Jr., Retired  
 Bishop Joe A. Wilson, Retired





Chuck Dunn	11/03
Marc Simmons	11/05
Pastor Jim Mundell	11/06
Jamie Hocking	11/07
Heather Wolfe	11/09
Chris Bruno	11/09
Abby Herman	11/10
Grace Reisinger	11/10
Lauren Reisinger	11/10
George Anderson	11/11
Dick Chambers	11/11
Jacob McMinn	11/11
Carol Sweet	11/11
Brian Barrett	11/13
David Covington	11/14
Jayna Bruno	11/16

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Bonnie Wolfe	11/17
Gillian Chase	11/18
Dee Crawford	11/18
Mel Leaman	11/18
Holly Stewart	11/18
Aaron Boyd	11/18
Ben LeSturgeon	11/20
Lynne Strawhecker	11/21
Tom Warfel	11/22
Betty Mundell	11/22
Darlene Murphy	11/23
Justin Lytle	11/24
Alyssa Lytle	11/24
Emily Lytle	11/24
Kelly Hendrickson	11/24
Megan Gula	11/26
Luke Chalmers	11/28
Linda Brown	11/29



**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

[www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

## NOVEMBER 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](mailto: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](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

[Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

[Office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Office@westgroveumc.org)

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director

Contemporary Music Interim Director

Keyboardist

[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

[davsan5@comcast.net](mailto:davsan5@comcast.net)

TBA—Children's Morning Out Director

[Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org)

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Ali Wills- Sexton

[sexton@westgroveumc.org](mailto:sexton@westgroveumc.org)

### **Christ Servant Ministers**

Janice Bowers, [janicesemail2@gmail.com](mailto:janicesemail2@gmail.com)

Cindy Haley, [chaley@zoominternet.net](mailto:chaley@zoominternet.net)

Karen Hruz, [khruz@hotmail.com](mailto:khruz@hotmail.com)

Peter Mullen, [psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto: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