



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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JANUARY 2021



We know the story all so well. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary, greeting her he said, "Do not be afraid..." And he gave her a vision of what God would do, along with the assurance that, "with God nothing will be impossible." She responded in full acceptance: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Perhaps we've heard the story so many times, we miss what a great leap of faith she took in affirming her willingness to live in God's vision of life and faith. Women in her time, did not have a lot of power or status. Yet she was ready to let God lead her on one of the most incredible journeys in life, and her story must be told. As we listen to hear about Mary's faith, we are empowered to move beyond our fears and live by faith too. God is at work all around us, and it's a joy to join in.

The blessings of the Christmas season have their foundation in God's generosity of grace that provides hope, joy, and a wholeness or peace in being close to God. The Holy Spirit often works in places where many people least expect it, even in a manger. Living a life of faith means we let go of fear, let go of focusing on ourselves, and keeping for ourselves. We move to find new outlets for sharing, helping, and giving. Mary was a faithful servant. What a



great way to provide wholeness and joy. In the book, Travelling Light, the author shares an important dynamic that I would say helps make Jesus our Lord and Savior: Jesus leads us to understand that even in our inadequacies, helplessness, and weakness, we are free to give. God provides the freedom to choose, and the empowerment to follow through. Mary, a very real, down to earth person, chose to be a servant of the Lord. She not only said yes, in Luke 1:47-55 she sings for joy, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

To have not given, would have been imprisoning, confining, and reduced her outlook and scope of life. We face the same choices. While we may feel not as much is at stake in *our* lives as it was for Mary, through our prayers and devotions, we need to see just how much God is also counting on, and has entrusted to us in our day. I don't expect many of us will be visited one night by an angel. Yet there will be many, many other ways that God is reaching out to empower us. Each of us have been entrusted with the life of faith in our day, the life of Christ on earth, and we all have unique and important ways to share him. We look forward to sharing in the blessings of Christmas in leading us to envision and live in 2021. With God, so much is possible. Let us not be afraid. – Tim



January 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 by reservation and Live Streaming

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

Scripture: John 1:10-18

Sunday, January 10, 2021

First Sunday After The Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Second Sunday After The Epiphany

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

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

January 10th 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON OFFICE HOURS

The Church will modify its office hours effective immediately. **The office will be open for essential business only from 10 am to 12 pm Monday through Friday.** Please schedule an **appointment in advance** if those hours do not work for you. As often as possible, please use email, calls, and texts to contact the church office. Telephone messages will be checked frequently throughout the day. The shopping cart is on the outside front lobby entrance for donation drop-offs and will be checked regularly. The mailbox is available to drop off information, envelopes, etc. for the office and will be checked daily. **Please call Donna Fackler if you have any questions: 610-869-9334 or email at office@westgroveumc.org**



Pastor's Desk



Reopening Committee

We want to express our thanks to the Reopening Committee for their hard work. It has not been easy to weigh the needs we have to

be in person and the importance of keeping everyone healthy and safe. It will take more wisdom in the year ahead to navigate the best course, and we ask for your prayers and patience. When we meet again, we will still have some requirements in place and need to adhere to them carefully. Please remember, we look forward to singing, greeting, talking, even hugging each other, but not until it is safe to do so. We are likely to still need masks and keep a safe distance. We hope as the year moves forward, we can be more relaxed. We want to respect the care God calls us to show for one another, and we look forward to having you join us. If you would like to be part of the Committee's discussions, please contact the church office.

Thank you

We have many people to thank for special efforts in the past year. The challenge is in naming everyone. We want to give a special thank you to Betsy Smith for her leadership and talent in pulling together all the music, and mixing the parts that we continue to share every week, and especially the Christmas musical celebration. Thank you to everyone who took part and shared their faith. What great diversity of gifts we experienced. I believe people will be playing it throughout the holidays to feel more connected to Christ and one another. We again give a special thank you to the tech crew for their faithfulness every Sunday: Nancy and Michael Duvall, Steve May, Mike Wiwel, and Nate Robinson, along with some new members too.



Budget

Our relationship with God determines our relationship with money and finances. We always pray it is not the other

way around. For 2021 we have set a budget that is very tentative, especially during such challenging times. We've endured a year that in many ways has been on hold, and many of us are ready to live life fully. I trust you will join us, and let God lead us to see how blessed we can be in sharing our faith and friendships. Copies of the budget are always available to members at the office.



Treasurer

We give a special thanks to Scott Steele for his hard work as church Treasurer these past five years. He guided the church through the loan process and fulfillment that has kept us going through the year. He will be stepping down in February. We are looking for someone to work at this position.

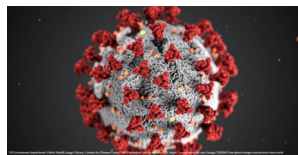
Special Congratulations

A special joy this season is the 59th wedding anniversary of Jim and Betty Mundell. We express our prayers of blessing on their love and friendship, and the ways they share their love with our church family. God bless you Jim and Betty!



Virus Comes Home

Unfortunately the virus has recently hit us personally. On Monday, December 14, Julie and I both had a test for the virus. Julie visits her parents every week and since they are ninety years old, it is important that we take good care of ourselves, and we wanted to check to make sure we didn't spread the virus. While my test came back negative, Julie tested positive for the virus. We do not have any symptoms and will be quarantining for the next couple of weeks, and will return to more normal activity if all goes well at the start of the year. Please keep us in your prayers. I still am available for phone calls, Zoom, and other ways of communicating. I expect to be recording much of the worship service, including the meditation to send to the tech crew. Thanks for your patience.



Dare I say it, closer to life closer we get to the more get. The last may feel like live by hope What will we danger of the (What is on your list?) Can you see it? Here are a few of mine that I look forward to:



but we are getting restored. The ending this illness difficult life may little bit of time an eternity. We based in reality. be doing when the virus subsides?

- We can share communion together.
- In person Sunday School, Bible Study & Disciple Bible Study for Adults & Youth.
- We will greet, sing, shake hands, share hugs, share coffee together on Sunday mornings.
- Choir & PraiseWorks & Music Rehearsals & Offerings Will Be In-person.
- Our Children Can Sing Live In Worship.
- Baptisms Will Be In-person.
- Pre-mission Trip Work and the Mission Trip for Youth Will Go Forward.

Here are some additional efforts I have hope for:

- ♦ Gardening, I enjoy gardening and want to make the church property shine.
- ♦ Praise dance; a close friend is expected to come and share her ministry in worship.
- ♦ Reenactment of scripture; it teaches us all the reality of our faith and the Word.
- ♦ Grief share, connecting about our sense of loss in the past year, allowing God to heal.
- ♦ Build deeper relationships with the Mighty Writers; offer our fellowship in faith and the Good News to people who come; listen and learn from them.
- ♦ We could help the Mighty Writers teach English, and as one of our members suggested, we could accept Spanish lessons from them.

I also find myself working to make a way we can donate some lunches to an addiction center in Philadelphia called, Prevention Point. How might we expand or help the Mighty Writers with their after school as ministry. How might we also connect more with the families of CMO, and our Food Pantry? For me, it's an exciting list that I hope we can share and grow together working on, and I hope we see how much we need each other to fulfill what God is leading us to do. A guiding insight was shared with me: Those who are most in need, most often don't have much of a say. No one seems to be listening. We know God is. I pray we listen and respond. Remember to fill out, and make your commitment, consecrating your time, talents, and financial resources to God, as it helps us build the trust and vision we share as a fellowship. Perhaps we can't do it all; we could with your work and resources.

The Virus Is A Transformative Experience

I recently read an article that points to how Americans are being transformed in the ways we look at a whole host of dynamics in our lives. People have totally reassessed their values, plans, and legacies in life. The movements have helped people clarify and readjust their goals. Three questions have been a catalyst –

What would you do if you had all the time and money in the world?

How would you live if you knew you only had 5-10 years left to live?

What would you most regret if you died tomorrow?

The virus has posed these very questions in some hidden and not so hidden ways. Just since last year, we live more with the view that life is short, and the view feels stronger now than in recent memory for many people. This past year has been more a time of reckoning and knowing the clock is ticking has become clearer. Being more real, the awareness is something people perceive more often, not just once in a while. Finding real meaning has become a higher priority for most people; people are searching to understand and know what really matters. It is important that what we want, be what God wants for us. This season and year is our opportunity to grow closer to God, to share our faith and fellowship, and deepen the relationships we share. Our faith in Christ will bless us and bless others when God is at the center of our lives. As the new year approaches, we are blessed by the possibilities.



AMAZON SMILE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CHURCH

Due to Covid, many of us have been depending on on-line shopping to limit our exposure. If you use Amazon for your shopping, would you please consider signing in under

Amazon Smile? It's the same stuff, same account, but you get to chose a charity and Amazon will donate (at no cost to you) a percentage of what you spend to the charity. Of course, we hope you chose **West Grove United Methodist Church** when you make your choice. It's painless and it helps the church. **Please ask your family and friends to chose us too!**

I was amazed at how my Christmas shopping allowed donations to build up for the church. If everyone did it, it would be a wonderful gift to the church. Donna



Thank you to :
Linda Shiplet,
Kim Smith
and Caryl
Stuhrke. They
did a superb
job cleaning
the kitchen as
it is readied
for the annual
inspection.

Please be sure to take extra care in keeping the kitchen clean!



**The New Year holiday will have the office closed
on Friday, January 1, 2021**

**Donna Fackler will be on vacation the week
following Christmas.**

Gift cards and store cards. **SCRIP IS**

BACK! If you are ordering gift cards for the holidays to shop or give as gifts, grocery cards, gas cards, a selection of many store cards, please place your order through the church! We get a percentage as a donation to the church, so every card you purchase, helps the church! **Please call Gene Aucott to place your order today! 610-869-7355**



Boy Scout Troop 12 hold its 5th Eagle Court of Honor



On Saturday, December 5th, Boy Scout Troop 12 held its 5th Eagle Court of Honor at the church for Dylan Huss. Although attendance had to be limited, masks worn and social distancing observed, these measures did not dampen or otherwise detract from the spirit and full meaning of the occasion. Since its founding nearly 8 years ago, Troop 12 has seen 5 of its scouts achieve the rank of Eagle, an admirable achievement in its own right. Of those 5 scouts, 4 were founding members:

Nathaniel Krinnock, John Yaletchko, Jackson May and Alex Wilson. Dylan is the first boy to earn Eagle who joined after the troop was founded back in 2013. One of the requirements for Eagle that weighs heavily at his Board of Review, is a service project in which the scout demonstrates initiative, planning, organization, and leadership. He is also responsible for raising the funds necessary to cover the cost of his project. In addition, the eagle candidate is encouraged to seek advice and guidance from adults, especially in areas of expertise that might prove critical to the success of his project. Three of these projects have directly benefitted the church. Dylan's "eagle" project was the newly paved walkway from the parking lot to the back entrance to the church office, a much needed improvement in terms of safety and accessibility. During the award ceremony the scout usually recognizes the one adult who was most prominent in helping him along his journey to Eagle by awarding a gold Mentor pin. Dylan chose to recognize and thank two adults for this honor, scoutmaster Steve May and Gene Aucott. There is a picture somewhere that shows Gene on his hands and knees with Dylan and two other scouts watching intently as he shows the boys how to properly trowel the freshly poured concrete. As we congratulate Dylan for this fine achievement, let us not forget those who have unselfishly given of their time and talent and helped out along the way.



Boy Scout Troop Celebrates 8 Years and Pays Tribute to Scoutmaster Steve May



As mentioned in October's Newsletter, Troop 12 will not re-charter for 2021 and will cease to be an active boy scout troop as of December 31st. Troop 12 was founded back in April of 2013 when a core group of cub scouts crossed over and under the leadership of several adults decided to form their own troop. Steve May has faithfully served as its one and only scoutmaster since its founding. During its nearly 8 years of existence, more than 46 boys have passed through its ranks. The number of boys who have achieved the rank of Eagle is but one measure of success. In Steve's case it doesn't come close to telling the full story of the countless ways in which Steve touched the lives of not only those 46 boys but those adults who had the privilege of working with Steve over these past 8 years.

Thursday evening December 10th, Troop 12 held a dinner party at Loch Nairn CC to not only celebrate the life and times of the troop but to pay tribute to Steve for his 8 years of faithful and dedicated service as scoutmaster. For the occasion Steve was presented with a framed picture of perhaps one of Norman Rockwell's more iconic paintings entitled "The Scoutmaster". Affixed to the exquisitely handcrafted frame was a brass plaque which read:

Steve May - Scoutmaster Troop 12 WGUMC 2013 - 2020

The picture shows a scoutmaster standing over the dying embers of a campfire. His scouts are bedded down for the night. The day is done. Although he can finally savor a moment to himself, the tired look of care and concern on the scoutmaster's face as he looks down into the remains of that campfire, says it all. A scoutmaster's job is never really done. The picture is a perfect portrayal of Steve's legacy and tenure as scoutmaster of Troop 12. His devotion to the fundamental ideals of scouting never wavered. He was always there for the boys, sometimes at great personal sacrifice. He was always prepared and his care and concern for the boys always came first.

At the bottom of the print were the words to the first stanza of a poem also entitled "The Scoutmaster" written by Edward Guest.

There isn't any pay for you, you serve without reward.
The boys who tramp the field with you but little can afford.
And yet your pay is richer far than those who seek for gold,
For in a dozen ways your service shall be told.

In Steve's case, the last line should be changed to say that not in a dozen but in "a thousand ways your service shall be told". The impact he has had on the 46 boys who passed through the ranks of Troop 12 will continue to be told for many years to come as those boys grow up and take their place in the world. Although their stories may never be fully known, Steve can rest assured that he did not labor in vain. This is the essence of scouting as it was meant to be. Thank you, Steve for a job well done!



Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

AMEN



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

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry News



Children's Sunday school January 2021

Sunday school lessons will be back on **January 10**. This winter we will be learning

about different stories and passages in the bible. Each week we will have a bible lesson, some questions to think about, and an activity that connects us to the story.

All lessons are virtual. The bible stories and activity pages are sent to families via email.

If you would like Sunday school information, lesson resources and links, and other children's ministry information, contact Melanie Hartley.
(childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)



Youth

Summer Service Trip 2021

June 20-26

Boston, Massachusetts

Our summer work trip team will be heading to Boston this June to work with Next Step Ministries. Next Step Ministries works closely with organizations and individuals in need



There is still time to sign up for June 2021! Any students entering grade 8 through graduating seniors are invited to attend.

Information about the trip, including cost, important dates and COVID related information is available.

Contact Melanie Hartley for information or to sign up.



**Youth Group
is back January 10!**

We've had a few weeks off and it feels good to be back! Our welcome back week will feature a hot cocoa bar! Gary and Melanie can't wait to see you again!

Youth Group schedule: January 2021

January 10, 17, 24, 31

Children's Morning Out Preschool



Merry Christmas from the CMO & Preschool! We have been so grateful for our time together at preschool singing songs, playing and learning together, chasing the gingerbread man, and counting down the days 'til Santa comes. **Our first Christmas Card Sale** was a success and we are so appreciative of all of the families and church members who supported our efforts. Our teachers have done a magnificent job engaging the children in the magic and fun of the season, all while wearing masks and constantly cleaning. Out of an abundance of caution, we are on a short hiatus until after Christmas, but we eagerly look forward to coming back to school in the New Year!

Heather Smalley, Director

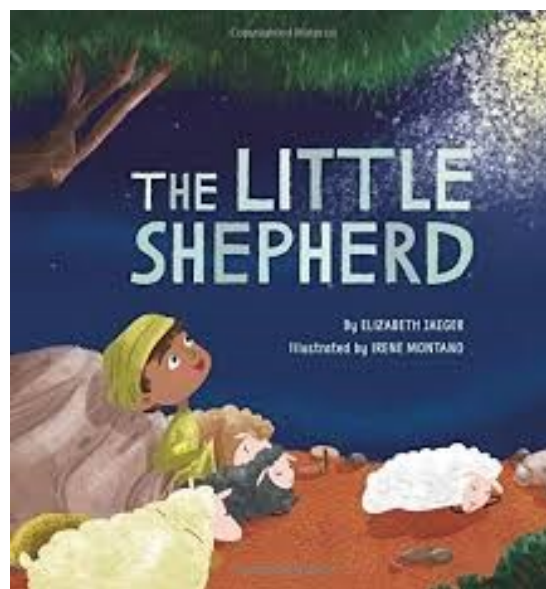
CMO Chapel Time



Melanie was thrilled to start chapel time again with her little friends at CMO! Melanie went to each classroom to read a story, sing a song and say a prayer together. Our little friends are so good about wearing their masks and helping care for their friends at school.

In December we read two stories for the Advent and coming Christmas season. Our first story is about waiting and all the wonderful things that can happen while we are waiting for something to happen. The second story is about the little shepherd boy that heard the good news and saw the newborn king.

In January we will learn about stories and characters from the bible. We can't wait to see each other again!



DREAM BIG

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



Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a

season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, Jan. 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.

In celebrating Epiphany this year, consider partnering with a Hispanic, Latino or other congregation to find new ways to joyously celebrate Epiphany/Tres Reyes. In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY



01/01 Carson Dunn	01/16 Karen Hruz	01/27 Becky Rinehimer
01/01 Zachary Jackson	01/17 Joanne Frost	01/27 Aiden Seltzer
01/02 Matt Hendrickson	01/17 Jerry Gula	01/29 Logan Wolfe
01/04 Steve Croft	01/18 Ava Kirwin	01/29 Fred Sullivan
01/05 Clarissa Robinson	01/18 Abigail Stephenson	01/30 Mike Reisinger
01/08 Ashley Irwin	01/23 Tom Adams	
01/10 Reed Smith	01/23 Liz Hadley	
01/15 Ken Rinehimer	01/24 Isaac Armstrong	
01/15 Elizabeth Luscavage		



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OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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~ 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

Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director

cmo@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

Heather McCummings - 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

Cindy Haley and Jean Kilmartin - Missions Co- Chairs

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley -Delegate 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

Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Betty Mundell, Dick Price

—Ad Council Member at Large

OPEN—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair