



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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April 2021

Prayer



In the second chapter of Acts, Peter testified to the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus; then Acts 2:37-38, 42 shares: ³⁷ “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and **the prayers.**”

Prayer has always been at the center of the church. We read about it many times in the book of Acts. Cognitively, intellectually, conceptually, we know that prayer is vital, one of the most important dynamics to our faith life. Many of us have lived with the understanding that the longest, and often most difficult journey is from our head to our hearts. It is knowing and living faith practices from within our hearts that makes the greatest difference. Many people struggle with their prayer life more than they ever want to say; including many leaders, and even pastors. We are often just too busy with church activity, to spend quality time with God. We allow so many distractions to take a hold of us, and it all weakens the lives we live, and the ministry we engage in. There is a tyranny of the urgent often referred to by many people in all types of leadership, and it is a dynamic Christians constantly need to be aware of, and care for.

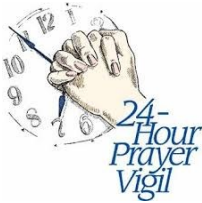
Developing a healthy, mature prayer life also means we are intentional about personally seeking God in prayer more fervently. The energy, commitment, and persistence required to fulfill God’s vision requires our full attention and energy. The early disciples and church all met together frequently, and constantly, no exceptions. Prayer was at the center, and it needed to be; we are no less vulnerable today. We especially see and understand this truth in the aftermath of any crisis, trauma, or tragedy. Prayer will be an essential part of how we move forward from the impact of the virus. It will be a unifying force among and within us as it weaves the life and practices of the church together. In his book, The Post Quarantine Church, Thom Rainer makes many good, traditional points about prayer, many of his points are also in the work of Mark Batterson in his book, Draw the Circle.

Aware of God’s Presence In Crisis, & Beyond

Times of crisis prompt individuals and churches to pray, and it is an essential response. We must also follow through to a broader approach where our practices are integrated into our personal lives and the whole life of our fellowship and community. Prayer is a time of claiming our purpose and clarifying the vision God is casting for us. By God’s grace and understanding the love and sacrifice of Christ, we move beyond praying out of sense of duty, and certainly beyond just going through the motions. We want to be sure to move beyond seeing the church as a bunch of religious activities full of meaningless

busyness, and not be distracted by the tyranny of urgent, where it is easy to lose our focus as individuals and as group and begin to drift apart.

Eventually after every crisis the fervor or intensity wanes. What makes a good prayer is when we are authentic in our emotions to God and especially when we seek to understand what God wants to reveal to us. We remember the word of Jesus as he prayed, “Not my will, but thine be done.” Paul told us that even a sigh can be a prayer. Prayer will prepare us for our outreach to our community in preparing to come to know the community from God’s perspective; it will help us exercise our powers of empathy, the ways we can engage in dialogue and conversation; and lead us to help others reflect on life, God, faith, community, seeing them faithfully. Inviting other people outside our fellowship to join us in prayer, will help us share and build community together, as we come to know each other and seek to build trust.



A Powerful Example

A powerful approach to prayer that one church shared, was that for over ten years, they had someone constantly praying for their fellowship. Many churches have prayer vigils; they prayed constantly for over ten years, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are inviting you to pray in our prayer vigil, **beginning Good Friday, April 2, at 8AM – Through Saturday, April 3 at 8AM.** We are asking more than one person to take each time slot; they can be accessed here:

[Sign-Up Genius](#)

Prayer Vigil – April

What might our prayers need to be focused on during our prayer vigil and beyond? I'm sure many of you have your own thoughts as well. Info will be e-mailed to you, or you may stop by where the info will be kept in the hall outside the church office. Here are some suggestions:

- Pray to see, hear, and understand our world and people from God’s perspective
- Pray for understanding in helping us overcome fears of the virus and rejoining fellowship
- Pray for patience when relating with other people
- Pray for the new opportunities to grow closer to Christ and reach out to others
- Pray the healing of the nation, and the building of trust among us all
- Pray for the wisdom to know how to come together to listen and share life
- Pray for Mighty Writers, and all the people who have been coming to receive help
 - ♦ How we might reach out to them and share Christian fellowship
 - ♦ How we might overcome language barriers, and share gracious friendships

Be Prepared to Pray & Wait,

We were taught as kids in Sunday School that not every prayer will be answered right away. This dynamic creates a great need in us to pray to stay alert, and we often think of the garden of Gethsemane; the disciples didn’t stay alert to the needs of Jesus. What might have happened had they stayed awake? Oh how they could have stood by Jesus and witnessed more deeply to our faith. Jesus comes to show us the choices we have to be faithful today, and we can learn from the lives of the disciples. A Protestant denomination had a slogan as part of their efforts to renew their faith in God’s movement. They said never place a period where God has placed a comma. When we are tired of listening



and want to stop, God may have more to say. It can take time, a whole lifetime and beyond, for our prayers to be fulfilled, yet pray we must! Many have not made it to the Promised Land, realized the vision fulfilled, yet have given their hearts and lives to the effort.

We are hopeful that our fellowship will continue to be led by God to become more adaptive and innovative in the ways we share faith. We know that prayer is required. May God bless us to be more aware of God's presence, and the possible solutions and creative new initiatives we can take to build relationships together with him. Through prayer we know we will never view one another, or the church the same way, for it is, and we are a new creation, always being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayer Garden & Taking Prayer Walks



In our May Newsletter, I hope to share plans to do some gardening of our prayer garden and also to consider how we might share prayer walks in West Grove, and our surrounding community. When I served in Mont Clare and Mount Joy, I took prayer walks with members. We would walk in the community and stop and pray at various times and places when something moved our hearts. We also prayed to be more open in seeing and hearing what God would reveal to us, so that we could more

effectively reach out in friendship in Christ. We wanted to be more prepared to pray with people in the community who were not members of our fellowship. Prayer walks broke down some barriers, and helped us be more prepared for receiving guests who joined us. I hope you will be able to join me in May.

Easter – The Complete Story

I've had a friend who is a pastor and leads chaplaincy in a hospital. He went to an Easter service one year, away from his own church. He was a little frustrated because the young pastor leading the Easter service tried to tell the *whole* Easter story, from the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus, to his resurrection, in one service on Easter morning. It was way too ambitious and overloaded everyone's attention and emotions. It seems as though that young pastor was trying to respond to a dynamic we were made aware of as we entered ministry, that churches have a habit of emphasizing one aspect of faith over others, in many different areas. In the case of Holy Week, certain denominations and individual churches may emphasize either the crucifixion, or the resurrection at the expense of the other. We need to remember we have the whole week to come together and remember all of what God has done, the whole story is essential.



In today's world, many people seem to avoid the dark part, the crucifixion, the sin, and many leaders respond by presenting it where and when they can. Yet we faithfully remember the sacrifice of Christ and what he went through all the time, especially during communion. Every Sunday is something of a mini Holy Week and Easter, as we look at sin, hear God's Good News in Christ of resurrection and new life, and then proclaim and respond to our call to discipleship. We always need to be aware and take action in the places where we need to seek God's transformation and empowerment. Celebrating the resurrection, its promise and hope, provides empowerment, and when done faithfully, will help us approach the efforts with the humility we need in discipleship. Join us on Holy Thursday for communion, and also on Easter Sunday, as we proclaim, "He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

Pastor's Desk

Calculating Attendance with Social Media

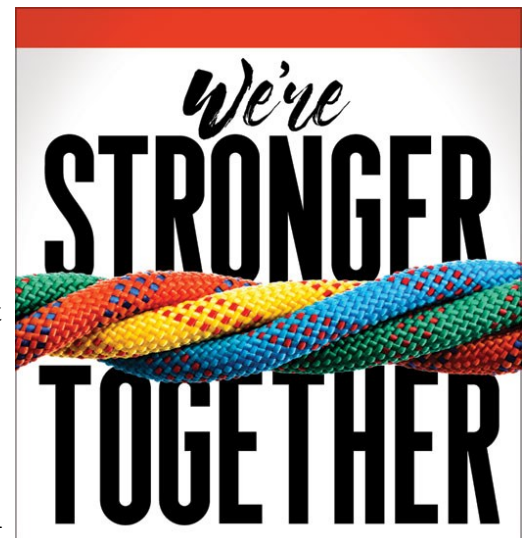


A guideline for measuring worship attendance on social media has been established based on research from the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our annual statistical reports of our church's ministries are due at the end of April. The attendance is calculated by taking the number of live-stream viewers and multiplying the number by 1.8. We then add the number of people who view during the week, who watch for more than 30 minutes, and we have the number researchers consider attending the service. A lot of research has gone into coming up with this calculation. A special thanks to

our Tech Crew for all of their hard work in keeping us together during the pandemic. A short video explaining their efforts will soon be available on our website, You Tube, and Face Book pages.

Reopening Steps Ahead

We've been so blessed to have people returning for in-person worship, who are also willing to continue to work with the requirements to relate safely within social distancing. There are several steps for us to take in the next couple of months, the order is still to be worked out. They will include the return of live music, singing in worship, nursery and children's church, and the sharing of Sunday School for adults and children and youth. I received my first vaccination shot on Monday, March 15, and look forward to the second shot on April 6. I felt a great burden lifted and experienced a great sense of freedom from knowing I was able to take these steps to reclaim life and especially to guard against spreading the disease. I encourage everyone to prepare to receive the vaccination. We are prayerful about how to go forward as individuals and as a fellowship. In some ways, it has been a small vision of heaven, to see a return to great fellowship that we have all missed greatly. Please feel free to call me to meet, if anyone would like to receive communion, especially after April 6.



Holy Week and Easter



Holy Week is right before us and we look forward to having you join us for worship. **We are offering in person worship with communion on Holy Thursday evening at 6:30PM**, and then an **outdoor Sunrise Worship at 6:30 Easter Sunday morning**. We are hopeful for clear skies and warm temperatures. We never know what to expect this time of year. We encourage you to wear layers of clothes to stay comfortable. **Our "regular" Easter Service will be held with in person worship and virtually at 9:30**, as we have for our

weekly Sunday morning services.





Let's Welcome Our Guests

With us reopening more and more in our ministries, we want to be more intentional in reaching out, and welcoming our guests, and help them feel more at home, and confident about staying healthy. We have the added challenges of seeking to do so in wisdom, looking for cues and knowing how to do so without overstepping boundaries, especially with concerns for health issues. Please be prayerful and invite, and encourage friends and family to join us as we move forward. We also encourage the sharing of addresses and contact info so that we can send and share our newsletter, e-mails, devotions, and mailings to them. One point I want to make, is to please call people “guests,” and not visitors. The name means everything in our approach as we want to see them from the start as someone who is not temporary like a visitor and is treated with grace, respect, and care like a guest, as if Jesus himself were joining us.

Easing of Rules

It is with great joy and hope that we have seen some of the rules, some of them, lifted for people who have received vaccinations. On March 22, Governor Wolfe announced that if a person has been fully vaccinated we can gather with other people who are fully vaccinated without having to wear a mask, or adhere to social distancing. It also applies to people gathering with people from a single household who have not been vaccinated but who are considered at low risk, such as vaccinated grandparents visiting with healthy grandchildren. Vaccinated people no longer have to be quarantined following an exposure to someone who has had the virus, as long as they do not develop symptoms. We are prayerful and hopeful as more people choose to be vaccinated, that we can rise above the difficulties we have faced this past year. It's an amazing miracle the ways God has created our bodies. We are built for recovery, and able to absorb illnesses and the treatments, receiving alterations and adjust to threats to our lives, our hearts and minds.





April Worship at West Grove UMC

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



9:30 In Person by reservation and Live Streaming

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2021

Scripture: Mark 14:12-42

A Service with Communion held outdoors

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Easter Sunrise at 7:00 a.m. outdoors

Easter Celebration Service at 9:30 a.m.

(In-Person and Virtual)

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon Subject: Easter! He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Second Sunday After Easter

(In-Person and Virtual)

Scripture: John 20: 19-31

Sermon Subject: The story of the faith of Thomas

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third Sunday After Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Scripture: Acts 3:12-19

Sermon Subject: Facing God, Knowing Our Blessings

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday After Easter

Scripture: 1John: 3:16-24

Sermon Subject: Love Requires Sacrifices

Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on

April 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.

Yes! **WE'RE
OPEN**
FOR CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

**The Church
is OPEN
and
NO
Reservations
Are
Needed!**

We continue to wear masks and observe social distancing. The church is disinfected before the service and throughout the week. Regrettably, we cannot offer coffee fellowship yet, but you are encouraged to fellowship after service outdoors.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday!

Starting March 28

We are moving our worship service live stream from Facebook to YouTube.

Get Ready

Subscribe to our channel today by **CLICKING HERE**, or by searching YouTube for “West Grove (PA) United Methodist Church”. Click the “All”

notifications bell to receive live notifications.

Recordings of all services since March 2020 are already posted, and also to our website under Watch & Read – **Weekly Sermons**.



CHURCH SEXTON JOB OPENING:

West Grove UMC is hiring a part-time Sexton.

We are looking for a motivated, independent, mechanically-minded individual to join our staff to be responsible for janitorial and repair duties.

This position is 12 hours per week on a flexible schedule. Please send resumes to staffing@westgroveumc.org.



CHURCH CLEAN-UP!

SATURDAY, May 1st

8 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Trustees need **your** help between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., to spruce up our church so it remains an inviting place to visit and to worship. Any time you can donate to any of the projects listed below would be a big help! One hour or four hours are appreciated.

OUTSIDE: Trim bushes in flowerbeds and along parking lots.

Weed flowerbeds and remove dead foliage.

Plant annual flowers.

Remove unused garden plots.

Cleanup dirt along parking lot curbs.

Remove weeds in drainage basin.

Wash and dry all exterior doors.

Remove weeds on bank sides to Harmony Road stairs.

INTERIOR: Wash windows.

Wipe woodwork in sanctuary.

Wipe woodwork in rooms.

Wipe and wax cabinets in North Wing classrooms and administrative offices.

Wipe and wax cabinets in Narthex.



If you are unable to help, a donation for the purchase of flowers or cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Please pray for good weather and for many volunteers to get the jobs done so our church will continue to be a welcoming place in our community.

Click Here to sign up on Sign Up Genius or contact Gene Aucott with your interest in helping and for more information:

gene.aucott@comcast.net



healthnotes®

Susan Paisley, RN
Parish Nurse



Sprint

12:34 PM

79%



CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response

1h · 🌐

Continue to wear a mask and practice physical distancing after vaccination. We don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how COVID-19 is spreading in communities.

Until we learn more, continue to:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands often.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3bTltG3>.

Mask Fit Checklist:

- Fit your mask snugly against the **sides of your face and over your mouth and nose.**
- Check for gaps by **cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask.**
- Make sure **no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.**
- You should feel **warm air come through the front of the mask.** You might see the mask move in and out with each breath.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

**Wash your hands
often with soap
and water for at
least 20 seconds.**



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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Drive-Up Food Distribution



Our Food Pantry

A big THANK YOU to our food pantry volunteers! Joan Leaman leads this wonderful ministry that serves an average of 25 families each week. She has been helped by a team of volunteers that include Marilyn Street, Joan and Aiden Saller, Cindy Haley, Karen Hruz, Mason Henderickson, Nancy Duvall, Sharon Nesbit, Tim Mullen, Edel Mullen, Peter Mullen, Mel Leaman, Cecily Eason, Natalie Eason, Fernando Tena, Jay Hughes, Rayma Hughes, Jill Croft, Julie Hughes, Jeanette Stryjewski, Peggy Watkins, Nellie Leaman and Donna Fackler.

Joan shared:

“Thanks to each of you for your amazing support of our church food pantry. We continue to serve 12-27 families every week. At some point, we hope to be back to having people come into the church and self select their food. Perhaps we will continue with the drive-up option, as well, since there are those who seem to prefer that method.

With the relatively small number of persons and families being served and our large pool of volunteers, I know some of you may wish to volunteer more often than you are presently doing. If that is the case, I wanted to suggest you consider helping the Mighty Writers with their distribution on Fridays, along with the volunteering you do with our church food pantry. If you have an interest in helping on Fridays, please contact Sara Dickens-Trillo at sdtrillo@mightywriters.org. She would be thrilled to know of your interest.

Thanks again for your care of those in our community struggling to make ends meet. You are truly God's heart, hands and feet. Joan”





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



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Please support the church through signing on to **Amazon Smile** for your online purchases or purchase gift cards through our **Scrip Program**.

Each purchase contributes a small percentage to the church, but with your participation we can, together, make a difference!

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**





MAKING SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY MIGHTY!

Mighty Writers teaches kids to think and write with clarity.

In 2019, we brought our successful out-of-school-time programs from Philadelphia to the bilingual community in Southern Chester County.

Our writing programs, like "Girl Power!", "Mighty Entrepreneurs" and "Mighty Travelers" were a big hit, with several hundred kids ages 7-17 enrolled.

Then came COVID and since March 2020, our writing centers have been closed to regular kid-

traffic. With schools closed, jobs lost and families struggling to put food on the table, Mighty Writers was committed to supporting our Mighty Chester County community.

What began with providing lunches to 25 kids quickly grew into boxes filled with groceries (eggs, meat, milk and fresh veggies), diapers, infant formula, clothes, books and lots of tootsie pops to more than 300 families every week.

All this thanks to the incredibly generous and supportive Chester County Community.

But our work is ongoing and we would love for you to get involved!

Every day, there's an opportunity for you to help local families by collecting food or books, making a contribution, or having your company become a Mighty Sponsor.

Please go to www.mightywriters.org to show your support or reach out to wgusler@mightywriters.org.

With Mighty Gratitude,

Your friends at Mighty Writers El Futuro Chester County.

Every day, there's an opportunity for you to help local families by collecting food or books, making a contribution, or having your company become a Mighty Sponsor.

Please go to www.mightywriters.org to show your support or reach out to wgusler@mightywriters.org.



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

Youth



April 4: No youth group; Happy Easter!

April 11 & 18: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

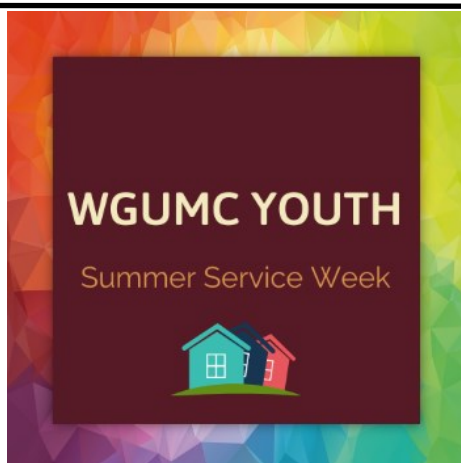
April 23-25: Spring retreat



Summer Service Week

June 20-26

Out of changed plans comes new opportunities. This year, instead of heading out of town, we will be holding a week of service here at West Grove UMC, under the new title of "Summer Service Week". This week will provide the opportunity for youth and adults to work with people in and around their community, learn about the needs of people in the community, and grow in compassion for their neighbors.



So what do we know right now?

- The church is hosting our week of service- it's where we will eat, sleep, hang out, and have all of our programming for the week.
- We will be participating in different types of service during the week. We may be

handing out food, sorting clothes, painting a shed, doing yard work for folks...there's so much to be done. Details will be shared over the coming months!

- We will have transportation to and from work sites each day.
- youth and adult participants will be able to go home each

day to shower and change. If needed, we will have host homes for those who need it.

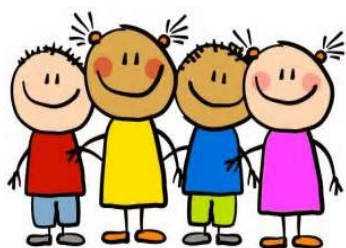
Is there any cost to participate?

There is no cost to participants! This week is free for students and adult volunteers.

Students entering 9th grade through graduating seniors are welcome to participate.

If you would like more information or you would like to sign up as a student or adult volunteer, contact Melanie at childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Children's Morning Out Preschool



What an exciting month we have had at Preschool! We have had snowy days and sunny playground days this month. March has been full of rainbows, learning colors and color mixing, shamrocks, and silly little leprechaun

shenanigans. This is also one of our favorite months because we have the chance to learn about Easter with our preschool friends. Our amazing teachers dye eggs, paint baskets, read about bunnies and talk all about the promise of new life that is resurrected each Spring. What a blessing it is for all of us at school to share in this special time with the children!

Heather Smalley, Director

CMO Chapel Time

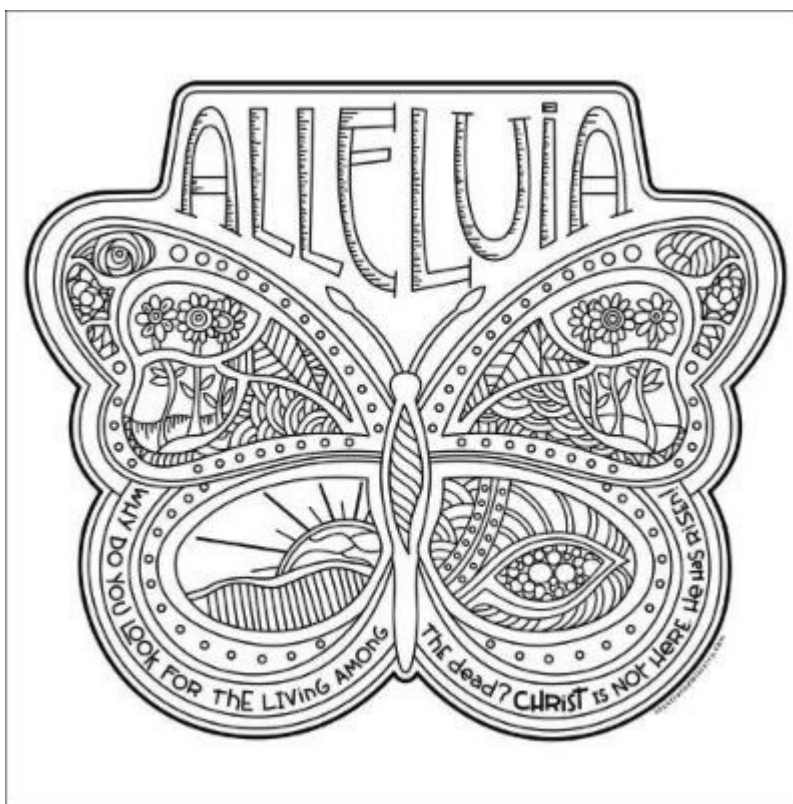
We have had a great time reading, singing, and praying together! This month our stories center around how God helps us grow. We'll be reading *The Bad Seed*, *The Good Egg*, *The Feels*, and *Seeds*.



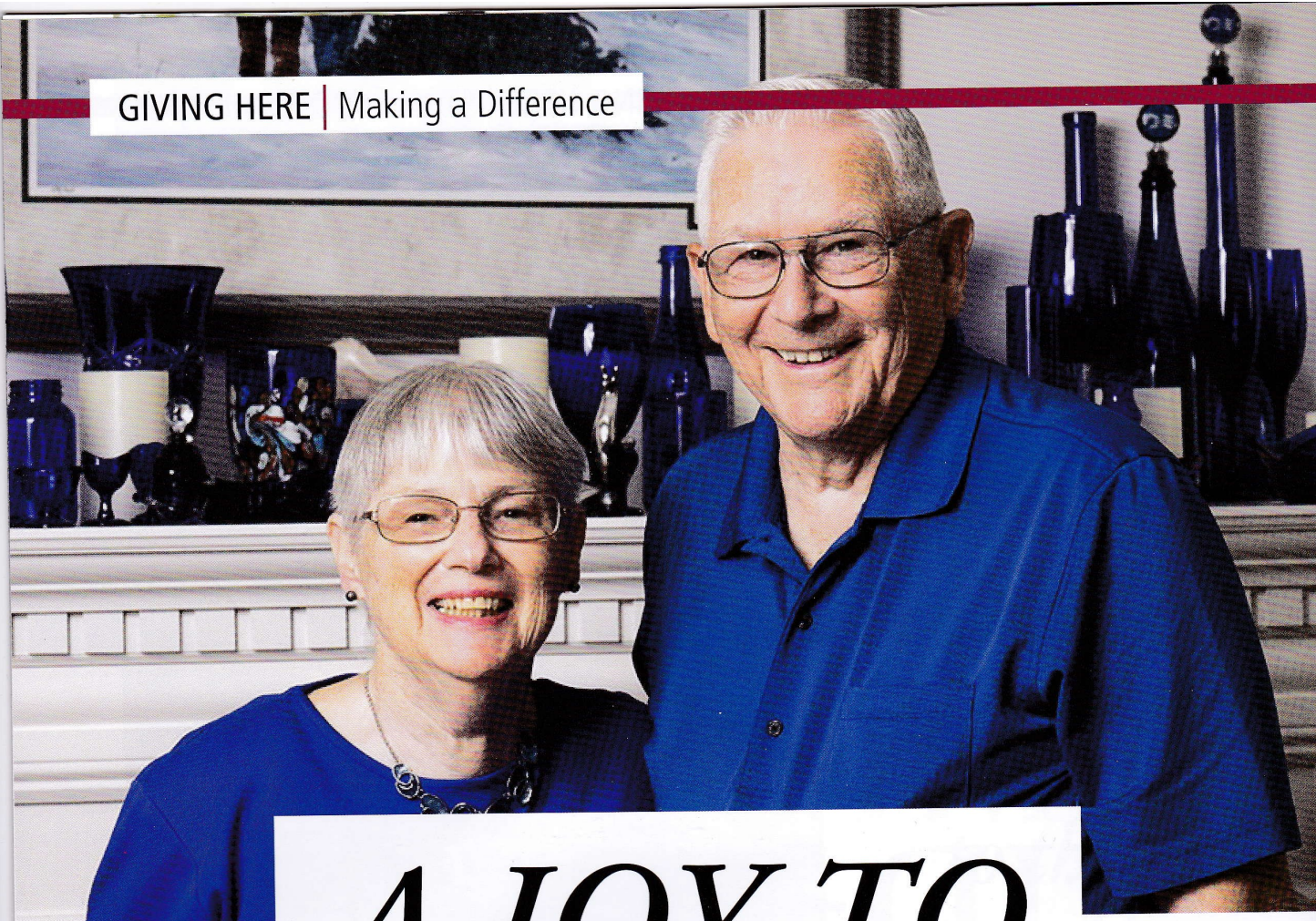
Children's Ministry News

We had a great six weeks of Reflecting on our hearts for Lent. We look forward to a few more lessons before the end of the year, and look forward to hopefully being back together next program year!

**DON'T FORGET
TO COLOR YOUR
BUTTERFLY FROM
MELANIE
AND DROP IT
OFF AT THE CHURCH
ON APRIL 1!**



GIVING HERE | Making a Difference



A JOY TO SERVE

Reverend Jim Mundell believes in the importance of service to his community, and he has devoted his life to supporting that belief.

"As a pastor, you want to give, and help, and be involved in other people's lives," he says. These words are exemplified in his life of service. "It's been a joy, being able to serve in both the church and community here. It's just second-nature."

Jim Mundell was born in Philadelphia in 1936, then moved to Delaware County at the age of 4. He lived there until 1961 when he married his beloved wife, Betty, on December 16. The newlyweds moved to Concord Township, where they lived for

30 years. Betty taught English and Home Ec, and Rev. Mundell graduated from Drexel University with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He worked at Southco Incorporated for 41 years.

At 42, Rev. Mundell decided to go into ministry. He was assigned to Hamorton United Methodist Church in 1979, where he pastored for 20 years. From 1981-89, he spent his vacation time in Washington D.C. to complete a course of study at Wesley Seminary. He retired from pastoring at Hamorton in 1999.

"We were wondering, 'what are we going to do now?'" said Rev. Mundell, when he and Betty had both retired, so they started exploring their options. Betty's parents had lived in a retirement community, so Rev. Mundell and Betty decided that would be a good fit for them as well. Betty was especially drawn to the community aspect and care it offered. They had a friend who was a salesperson for Simpson at Jenner's Pond, and though there were only five cottages built then, the Mundells signed up in June 1997. "We were there in the very beginning," said Rev. Mundell.

They moved in December 1999, and they've been at Simpson at Jenner's Pond for 21 years. "We enjoy it here," said Rev. Mundell. "It's just a wonderful place to live."

Rev. Mundell recently celebrated his 84th birthday, but he has no intentions of slowing down. Throughout his time at Simpson at Jenner's Pond, he has had the opportunity to be involved in numerous capacities.

When West Grove United Methodist Church opened a new building the month the Mundells moved to Simpson at Jenner's Pond, they became very active with it.

"I started a ministry at Simpson at Jenner's Pond to hold a church service once a month," said Rev. Mundell. "The bishop pulled me out of retirement in 2004 and assigned me as associate pastor for West Grove United Methodist Church for the ministry at Simpson at Jenner's Pond. We've had many baptisms and three weddings."

In 2015, six people were gathered to be founding members of the foundation board, and Rev. Mundell served as chair since 2019. As part of the foundation board, each community must have their own philanthropy community. Rev. Mundell started the Simpson at Jenner's Pond philanthropy committee in 2016. Representatives from various organizations are on that committee and individuals are elected to three-year terms.

"I've enjoyed working with the people on the board and getting to know them," he said. "We coordinate good philanthropy giving at all the communities."

In addition, Rev. Mundell is the bridge director, a bridge teacher, and the chair and conductor of the Simpson at Jenner's Pond choir since 2001. The choir usually puts on two shows a year.

When he's taking well-deserved breaks, Rev. Mundell and Betty take three-month world cruises every year from January through April, though that was canceled this year due to COVID-19. Rev. Mundell will devote himself to his other favorite way to relax—photography—while looking forward to the next world cruise.

At the end of each trip, they love having Simpson at Jenner's Pond to come home to, and to continue to serve. "I give and serve here because I enjoy doing it," said Rev. Mundell. "It's an amazing place to live."

*Rev. Mundell started
the Jenner's Pond
philanthropy committee
in 2016.*



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



BISHOPS CANCEL MAY 8, 2021

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has canceled its call for a special virtual General Conference on May 8.

The bishops made the decision to cancel during a March 22 online meeting that was closed to the public.

The bishops also announced that they plan to use their regularly scheduled April meeting to have conversations based on results of listening sessions and discern a possible new timeline.

“Much has been learned over the past few weeks and the extended timeline will allow for even deeper listening by the bishops at the general church level but also in our residential settings,” Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Council of Bishops president and leader of the Louisiana Conference, said in a press statement after the meeting.

Last month, the bishops called the special one-day session on the same day the Commission on the General Conference announced that COVID-19’s threat had forced the postponement of the global denomination’s top lawmaking assembly a second time. The full General Conference, originally set for May 2020, is now set for Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022. The meeting venue is still Minneapolis.

The commission appointed a technology study team to consider ways to hold the global conference virtually while ensuring full participation of the nearly 900 voting delegates from four continents.

Ultimately, the team concluded and the commission agreed that no virtual solution could overcome barriers that include a 16-hour time difference across the denomination, inequities in internet access and the need for vote security.

The bishops had planned for the May 8 General Conference only to be long enough for a quorum of delegates to suspend the rules so delegates could vote by mail on 12 legislative items. The items mostly dealt with administrative functioning amid the General Conference delay, and the bishops planned to announce the results of the votes on July 13.

Special Session for quorum vote faces pushback

However, the bishops ran into the same obstacles that the General Conference commission did, as well as concerns from delegates that would actually be part of the deliberative process.

Of the 862 delegates elected to the coming General Conference, 55.9% come from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church.

The bishops’ plans for a special General Conference already were facing pushback across the denomination.

The advocacy group the Africa Initiative sent questions to the Council of Bishops citing the General Conference commission’s finding that internet and even electricity is not readily available in some areas where United Methodists are located.

“This is absolutely true for us here in Africa. How can we have this Special Called Session without delegates from Africa being disenfranchised?” asked the Rev. Jerry P. Kulah, Africa Initiative’s general coordinator, in a letter to bishops. Kulah is also a General Conference delegate from Liberia.

Meanwhile, a group of U.S. delegates

also raised concerns about the special General Conference session similar to what the Africa Initiative raised, including that the virtual session would prevent Christian conferencing. Six U.S. delegations — from the Greater New Jersey, Iowa, Michigan, New England, Northern Illinois and Oregon-Idaho conferences — have endorsed the document “Christian Conferencing: Discerning United Methodism’s Path through a Pandemic.”

As the bishops were meeting March 22, the denomination’s top court also released a decision that could help church leaders on one matter before the special General Conference.

Judicial Council eases pressure for vote on due process

The first of the bishops’ 12 pieces of legislation proposed an amendment to church law to comply with a decision of the Judicial Council. On March 22, the church court issued a memo clarifying how annual conferences — church regions — can comply with the ruling related to clergy due process even before General Conference is able to meet.

For now, planning for when delegates can meet to deliberate on the denomination’s future remains a work in progress.

“We are thankful for the collaboration fostered with the Commission on General Conference and especially grateful for the work that had already begun in the planning for the special session,” Harvey said.

Newspirit, March 22, 2021



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



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A Faithful Response to the Border: Welcoming Migrant Children and Asylum Seekers

Wednesday, March 24, at 5 PM EDT

Online with Facebook Live: Free to the public. No Facebook account needed.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and American Friends Service Committee

There is a lot of news right now about asylum seekers, especially children, who are at the U.S. Border. But this situation did not come about overnight; it has been building for years, exasperated by cruel and inhumane policies and an outdated immigration system that denies our shared humanity, says Rebecca Cole, Director of Grassroots Organizing at the UMC's Board of Church and Society.

"If there is a crisis at the border, it is our government's failure to enact a pro-active and compassionate response. While the governmental response has been lacking, people of faith have been present at the southern border for decades and our prophetic witness and moral voice continue to be urgently needed."

During this Facebook Live, advocates of faith and other experts will provide context to what's happening at the border—educating on the number of arrivals of unaccompanied minors and relevant policies that have impacted asylum seekers over the years. We'll also share stories of impacted asylum seekers and what you can do to take action in this moment.

****If you have a question about the situation at the border, the asylum system, or anything else, please add it as a post in the discussion section of this Facebook event!****

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

04/01 Joyce Bischoff
 04/02 Alan Bratton
 04/04 Sue Curtis
 04/08 Payton Ingiosi
 04/10 Patrick Wiwel
 04/11 Mildred Chambers
 04/14 Janet Phillips
 04/15 Virgil Brown
 04/16 Maggie Stuhrke
 04/17 Charlie Bechtel
 04/17 Bob Sweet
 04/17 Kathy Wiwel



04/18 Thomas Hoover
 04/18 Sue Hutton
 04/19 Roxanne
 Shane
 04/23 Helen Carlin
 04/26 Roger Bates
 04/30 John McGinley
 04/30 April Spencer

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



What's going on at West Grove UMC?

There is much going on at church! Food pantry, Mighty Writers food and essentials distributions, CMO Preschool, Zoom and in-person meetings, a Bible study and music practices to name a few. Your church calendar is reviewed daily and updated with the latest events and meetings. Please refer to our website to get information, updates, calendar events, etc.

www.westgroveumc.org



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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www.westgroveumc.org



2021

~ 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.

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Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

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Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Ali Wills- Sexton

sexton@westgroveumc.org

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Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair

Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair

TBA - Finance Chair

Peter Mullen - Treasurer

Heather McCummings - Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC 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

Valerie Kapp-Benner and Jean Kilmartin - Missions Co-Chairs

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley -Delegate to Annual Conference

Hannah McCummings—Youth Delegate to AC

Pastor Tim - Committee on Lay Leadership

Karen Hruz and Cindy Haley—Co-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

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair