



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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

Email: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org

June 2021

"O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness." Isaiah 25:1

What words would you use to describe what God wants our church fellowship at WGUMC to be? I recently asked some leaders of our church what words they think of, and they responded with: prayerful, caring, welcoming, growth, supportive, connected, trust, learning (life-long). It's a great set of words that lift up a vision of what God wants in our fellowship and in our personal journeys of faith every day. The joyful part is when all of us are working together to fulfill God's vision; it is the greatest blessing of life for us all. So, what words would *you* use to describe the vision God has for our fellowship? I like the ones they shared and have a few more I'd add. Our list is incomplete without you. We all need to live out an answer, and we want to live faith in response to the ways God has blessed us and entrusted us with life and faith.

Pentecost is a season of celebrating God's creativity coming in fresh ways into our lives every day in very personal ways; the Holy Spirit speaks the truth and helps us mature, as we grow in faith and God's love together. It can be a scary dynamic, having the Holy Spirit enter more fully into our lives! Who knows what the God of the Resurrection can do with *us*! We are often so very comfortable with dealing with God as Father, Creator, or as Son in Jesus. Those parts or aspects of the relationship are very familiar, and maybe we believe, easier to talk about and "deal with." Yet truly, God is not under *our* control. God is God. The Holy Spirit continues to stretch us in creativity, helping us live in the deepest truth of life and faith; so does God as our Creator and Father, and Jesus Christ. It is good news. Most every church and Christian tends to emphasize one aspect of God over the others; faithfully we strive to live in the fullness of who God is, and not limit what God is doing in our lives and fellowship.

In a devotion I read recently, Eugene Peterson shared in his work, Leap Over a Wall, how King David lived his life in faith in an openness and vulnerability in the face of danger from wild animals, a giant warrior, a murdering king, and warring nations. David was led by the Spirit through prayer and song, by himself and in worship with others; David danced, praised, and loved almost recklessly and joyfully. Whether running and hiding, or praying and loving, David lived openly, daringly, trustingly, and exultantly before God. When many leaders of nations hid their hearts and truth, David's story was shared candidly and truthfully, even the sins, the faults, and mistakes. And so his life has become a witness to humanity especially for us, of God's creative power, for he had access to a life that far exceeded his capacity to measure or control. He was most often on the edge of mystery, experiencing God's glory proclaiming: "Thank you for your love. Thank you for your faithfulness." (Psalm 138:2, the Message)

I invite you, like David, to live in the fullness of God in Christ, especially during this season of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit can lead us in incredible ways, as the Spirit also did with the early Disciples. A special thanks to Pastor Jim Mundell for leading the Monday Bible study, focused on the Psalms. Many of them are attributed to David as either a composer or collector. What words would you use to describe God's vision for us that will stretch us to be creative and faithful? How might we overcome our fears to fulfill the possibilities before us? I look forward to meeting with more of you in the summer months ahead, and understanding your journey of faith.

Pastor Tim



June 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

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Communion Sunday

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Hebrews 10:19-25*

Sermon: "Won't You Be A Real Neighbor"

In the aftermath of a pandemic: Forgiveness and Grace

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Graduate Sunday

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *II Corinthians 5:6-10*

Sermon: "God Loves Us Deeply"

Graduate recognition and their new beginnings.
Juneteenth

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Father's Day

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

A Father's Day special music from the Congo Choir.

Now is the day to be claimed by grace: it is never given in vain.

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *Mark 5: 21-43*

Jesus was attentive and aware of what people were experiencing. How might we try to do the same?



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on

June 13th at 11 am

On your closed circuit TV
and in-person
In Alison Theater

Led by Pastor Jim

Join Us
IN Worship

**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 for worship!

You are invited to join us for an Adult Bible Study class at 10:30 a.m. led by Pastor Tim.

Pastor's Desk



Transition Detour

Transitions happen all the time for us in America today; we constantly face a lot of changes all the time.

Pastoral transitions are challenging even when they are appropriate and well-planned. Transitions can also have detours, and certainly our pastoral transition this past year had a huge detour because of the virus. Detours like these require a lot of patience, understanding, and empathy. Thank you for your kindness and understanding. I see many people re-evaluating their priorities and where they are focusing their lives, and who they are sharing them with. The wisdom of our faith teaches: *"Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."* Proverbs 3:3



Juneteenth

Many people in our nation are not aware of the great celebration of Juneteenth. It ranks up there in important holidays like July 4th, for it is an important celebration of freedom and hope. It is also a day of sacred remembrance in facing the truth of a horrible past. It is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It dates back to 1865 on June 19 when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed in Galveston, Texas with the news that the Civil war had ended and that the slaves were free.

It is important to note that this event happened two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was passed on January 1, 1863. The Proclamation had little impact on the people of Texas due to the small number of Union troops available in Texas to enforce it. We might also say that Texas has often acted in ways that claim an independence from the rest of the country, because at one time it *was* a separate country, and many in

Texas would have (and may still) preferred it that way. With the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865 and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were strong enough to influence and overcome resistance.

A Juneteenth Festival is planned for Chester County. It includes town tours and village walks starting on June 12. Visitation to historic sites, walking tours with speakers and family programs are planned; nationally known speakers are expected in and around Kennett Square; the United Way is a key sponsor. More info can be found at the web site: www.vuproject.org/juneteenth

Several questions have been lifted up for us to consider: Why do you think racism still exists in our society? How has racism changed? In what ways has racism stayed the same? What role do you play in perpetuating racism? Why do you think talking about it is so difficult for many people? In what ways have and do the current systems and institutions perpetuate racial inequality? In what ways would our nation be better and stronger if racism did not exist?

When I served in the Phoenixville area many years ago, the community hosted a celebration of Juneteenth. I grew to look forward to the fellowship and the opportunities to meet people, and get to know more of my neighbors in new and deeper ways. It is a joy to fulfill the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves. I'm hopeful and prayerful about the relationships we can share.

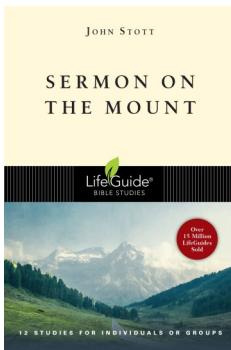
Sunday School Bible Time – The Sermon on the Mount, This Summer

Life Guide Bible Studies is a series of over 140 Bible studies that I have used in the past, and found very helpful for

everyone who has participated. The studies do more than just provide facts about the Bible. They ask insightful

questions for us, to help us apply our faith into life and thoughts and actions. They also offer some factual answers in the back of the book, but most of the questions are important for us to answer on a personal basis. **Starting on June 6, after worship, I'll use their "Sermon On the**





Mount study.” We’ll take a look at Matthew chapters 5 through 7, some of the most well-known teachings of Jesus that reveal the heart of God. I’m prayerful we will create a fellowship of trust where we can be open in our faithfulness, asking insightful questions of ourselves and one another. In our approaches to faith, we seek to be courageous in our willingness to learn and live more completely in God’s love, and with God’s grace guiding us, we need not be afraid of making mistakes. Please join us this summer.

Thank You

I want to express a special thank you to all who made our vacation possible in May. It’s a great joy and assurance to know we have people who are willing to step in. Thank you to Mel Leaman and Jim Mundell, and a special continued thanks to the Tech Crew who gives their time every week to our ministries. We could not do it without them. They are **still in great need of volunteers** to handle small spots in the service, so please speak with the Steve May or Michael Duvall to see how you might help. **We need two people monitoring the sound, as one person is more actively needed to guide the camera work when we have more**

thank
you!

Volunteer Opportunities Available



TEAM



BUDDY



SOLO

“live” activity during worship.

Vacation provides us with the joy of rest and recreation that we all need. This year,

especially, I found myself wanting to stay home and engage in ministry and continue the work of reopening and reaching out to the community. There was a tug at my heart from the joy of meeting personally with our members, and handing out food and services of support; and I look for even greater blessings in sharing the love and fellowship of Christ, and more completely connecting with people. If someone would like to **share communion, or receive a visit or meet at the church, please give me a call and leave a message. 610-881.5105**



Worship Is Essential for Our lives

We are blessed to be back to in-person worship with live musicians. In a reflection about worship, the great Christian, CS Lewis wrote, “There are compelling reasons why the church attendance is necessary to keep the Christian life alive, and to fulfill the duties of the Christian life. It is worth looking again at some familiar reasons.... (for attending worship and sharing fellowship.)

There are certain things in life which gain a great part of their value and of their impact from being experienced together. However well a great orchestra might play, the experience of listening to it would lose something if the listener were the only person in the concert hall. A football match would lose far more than half its excitement and its thrill, if there were only one person present (in the stadium).

There may be things that can be done perfectly well and experienced alone, but which have an infinitely greater impact and effect when they are done and experienced in the company of others. Worship is like that. Of course we can worship alone; and of course, there are times when we must worship alone. But the fact remains that togetherness is an essential part of worship, (a vital part of living and growing in faith).

There is a real value in being assured that the Christian faith is not only a personal experience, but the possession of a whole community. In the earliest days the creed began not “I believe,” but “We believe.” There are times when it is a very great comfort to remember that Christian faith and belief depend not on my acceptance of any part of it, not on my ability to understand any part of it, but on (God’s grace and decision to love us, and) the faith of the whole Church. There is a togetherness without which even worship becomes colder and an emptier thing (event and experience); there is a community of faith which does much to buttress the inadequacy of our own personal faith; there is a claim which would be folly and ingratitude not to acknowledge. **We need the church and the Church needs us.”**

WGUMC YOUTH

Summer Service Week



Youth Summer Service Week

June 20-26

Our youth team is asking for **donations of food items** for our summer service week. We have a group of 16 youth and adult volunteers and they like to eat! Here are some foods we like: Lemonade mix, Fruit punch mix, Peanut butter, Grape or strawberry jelly/jam, Granola bars, *nut free snack bars (like nutrigrain bars), Cereal variety packs (individual boxes), Chip/Snack variety packs, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad dressings, Pancake mix, Breakfast syrup. If you are interested in donating, contact Melanie Hartley. Donations can be placed in Melanie's office. Anything that is not used will go to our Food Pantry. Also, if you are interested in **helping to**

prepare meals (all items are provided) for the youth during that week, please see Melanie for details.

[Click here for link to lists](#)

Children's Morning Out Preschool

What a fantastic month we have had in Preschool! We have been working away in the classrooms learning and playing. Our little ones are doing such a great job working on letters and numbers and even walking in line in the hallway. In our classrooms, we observed our ants busily working in the ant farm and caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies, which we released outside. Luckily, our classes were able to visit White Clay Creek State Park for Nature Nuggets field trips. We used nets in a meadow and turned over logs to see the "not so creepy crawlies" that live outdoors around us.



It is so hard to believe we are approaching the end of our Preschool year! Classes will wrap up for summer on May 26 & 27 and we will celebrate the send off our Pre-K classes to their next adventure in Kindergarten on May 28th. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our teachers for all their hard work, incredible efforts, and dedication to our program. They have made this year so positive and memorable for the children and their families. Here's to a relaxing, fun summer for all!!

Heather Smalley, Director



Vacation Bible School
“Knights of the North Castle
July 19-23, 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Registration information & instructions

Registration for Church members/families is opened on Friday, May 21! Registration to the wider community opens on June 2nd.

[Click Here To Register](https://westgroveumc.mycokesburyvbs.com)

We are thrilled to be bringing VBS back to the church this year! We will be operating VBS in smaller numbers than usual this year to help ensure the safety and health of children and volunteers. We will have 3 *Pre-K groups of 5 children each. *We are only accepting Pre-K 4-year-olds this summer. We will have 30 spaces available for children in grades K-6. If we find that we are able to accommodate more children it will be communicated.

Go to our VBS website, <https://westgroveumc.mycokesburyvbs.com> to register.

About the Program

At Knights of North Castle VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening assembly time, the Knights make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Castle Callouts to equip your Knights for an active life with God. Your Knights will discover a Banner Verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The children will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring wonders at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Knights will hear about our mission project as their response to a call for action!

Contact Melanie Hartley with questions and for information.



Hearing Assistive Devices

Do you sometimes miss what's been said in worship?

Do you want to make sure you get every word?

We give thanks to God the technology we have in the sanctuary that can help everyone hear.

Head back to sound booth in the sanctuary and ask one of sound booth technicians about our hearing assistive devices. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.

We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.

GRADUATING THIS YEAR?



Please let the church know about your future plans—educational or vocational. Send the names and plans to office@westgroveumc.org.

We want to celebrate with you and keep you in our prayers!



Family Promise Update

During this past year, Family Promise has been meeting the needs of families experiencing homelessness by working with them to find employment, get GEDs, driver's licenses, job training, etc. Since Family Promise cannot presently house families, they are living with family members or friends, during their time of homelessness. The board and staff have been exploring numerous housing options for the families, in the future, one being going back to the church rotation as we knew it. If this happens, it probably won't start until 2022.

Many of the volunteers from our church and our supporting churches have indicated that they would like to continue to volunteer if Family Promise does revert back to housing families in churches. That is great to hear! We are always looking for additional volunteers. **If you think you might have some interest, or would like to know more about Family Promise or what volunteering entails, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net).**

The one area of definite need, for us to serve as a host church, would be to identify someone or **several persons who could take on the responsibilities of the church coordinator for the program.** Without this role filled, serving as a host church would not be feasible. If you would like to know what the job of the coordinator encompasses and how those roles might be shared among several people, please contact Joan Leaman. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

Pastoral Care MINISTRIES



Please let Pastor Tim, Pastor Jim, or the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a Pastor's visit or care.

We would love to support you and your family with a visit.

If you desire to receive communion and cannot come to the church, please call Pastor Tim and he will be happy to arrange a time to for you to receive communion

FATHER'S DAY

On this day we honor fathers, we remember all men who have guided us.

Those who we can shake their hand today

and those who wishing they could hug their fathers.

We remember those whose fathers were challenging figures as well as those who never knew a biological dad.

We give thanks for men who guided in the faith as godfathers and church fathers

as well as Sunday school teachers, ushers, elders, and all around eyes, ears, and role models.

We think of uncles and cousins, neighbors and friends, those we look up and listened closely to.

May our lives be enriched by their presence and be strengthened by their wisdom.

As we give thanks to God on this father's day, we look to those who raised us and those we are raising.

May we all depend on the God of wonders who moves among us.

(Author Unknown)



Food Pantry Update



The support of our church and the West Grove community has been wonderful as we continue to meet the needs of families and individuals facing food insecurity. As a Tier 2 agency of the Chester Food Bank, we are fortunate to be able receive the bulk of our non-perishables, produce, meat and cheese from them. We thank the Mullen family for faithfully driving to Exton each week to pick-up the food at the Food Bank and bagging the produce once it is at the church. Thanks also, to all the other volunteers who regularly sort, bag and distribute the food. This past month we have

consistently seen 12-16 families come for assistance, each week.

As we have moved forward, and the opportunity to invite people back into our church building, is now a reality, we are making some changes to our food distribution, to hopefully, improve on the ways we best serve our neighbors. We are able to offer those who come three choices. Households may continue to

receive the prepacked bags of food, they may complete a checklist of available items and wait in their car, while we complete their orders and finally, they may come into our stocked pantry, and self-select the items they would like for themselves and their families. We are very excited to be able to provide this flexibility.

We hope you will continue to support this ministry of our church through food donations or as a volunteer. If you are not on our list of volunteers, and would like to be, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) Thanks!



PRAYER BEAD GARDEN FUNDRAISING

The Prayer Bead Garden has been a long time coming to fruition. It started with a bead and a prayer, became a passion in the hearts of many members in the congregation, was taken on as a mission by Susan Paisley and, after many, many months, grew into a garden. It still has a long way to go to become the vision in the plan. It is all landscaping now.

The committee needs to purchase a white dogwood tree and a line of Green Giant Arborvitae, each about 8 to 10 feet tall. This will hopefully provide a buffer between the Garden and Route 1 Bypass.

Please be generous with your donations to complete this wonderful place of prayer and meditation.

Updates will follow in the coming weeks. If you would like to make a donation, please be sure to **designate Prayer Bead Garden in the memo section of your check** or note it on the envelope. Please contact Susan Paisley with your questions.



CMO & Preschool Part Time Position (mornings)

Assistant Teacher
Experience with young
children in educational
setting Preferred

For more info:
cmo@westgroveumc.org
or call 610-806-5393

Summer UM Church Camps Are In Session This Summer 2021

We are all working to recover our lives from the impact the virus has had on them. Our United Methodist summer camps are in session and being offered throughout the summer this year. Day camps as well as full week camps are still being offered, and we are prayerful that all children who want to, will be able to attend. There are camps for the very young, for children and their grandparents, and for campers who speak Spanish, and camps built around meeting the special challenges many children face. Scholarships are available, so that all who would like to attend may do so. Please contact the church office or pastor Tim for ways to help make camp a fun, faithful option for this summer

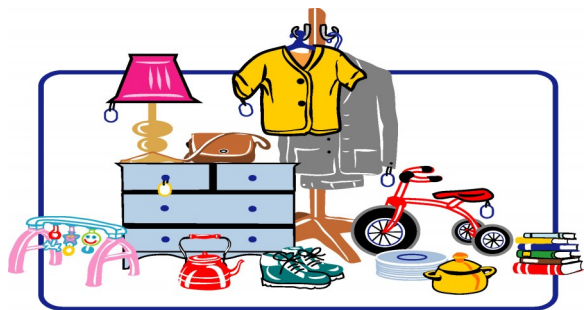


We have brochures at the church to look through, or take a look at their web sites:

Gretna Glen Mount Gretna, PA www.gretnaglen.org
(Along the Lebanon/Lancaster County Boarder)

Camp Innabah Pottstown, PA www.innabah.org
In Chester County

Pocono Plateau, Cresco, PA www.poconoplateau.org



Fall Rummage Sale

SAVE-THE-DATE

Friday, October 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Start saving all the household goods, furniture, clothing and other treasures to donate.

Donations accepted at the church beginning Sunday, September 26



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



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

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

06/03 Dave Talley
 06/04 Natalie Eason
 06/05 David Lytle
 06/07 Max Gula
 06/07 Jordan Howard
 06/09 Vera Erickson
 06/10 Michelle Jane LeStourgeon
 06/12 Chip Lestourgeon
 06/13 Shelby Dawson
 06/16 Olivia Hardy
 06/16 Laura Herrera
 06/18 Jeff Curtis



06/18 Melanie Hartley
 06/20 Ralph Curtiss
 06/22 Nancy Simmons
 06/23 Alison Aucott
 06/25 Maryanne Covington
 06/25 Keira O'Neil
 06/26 Eric Dunn
 06/27 Heather McCummings

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.

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OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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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.

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

dvasan5@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

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

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