



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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December 2021



"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

(John 1:14, The Message)



Have you ever been looking for something or someone and looked right past them? It is easy to misplace things when we are multi-tasking. Additionally, the narrowness of our hearts and minds can be very limiting, confining, and debilitating for us. In faith, God's desire is for us to see, hear, and understand more clearly what his desires have been for us all along. Salvation means a lifting of our head, our attention, to see all the possibilities. God wants to empower us to live a full, blessed life, and we live in the faith that his ultimate will is going to be fulfilled. Jesus Christ came to Earth to embody and make God's gifts and blessings a reality, as he opens our hearts and minds to God's possibilities. Advent is a time for us to prepare for his

coming, to be ready for, and make ready, for the ways God will reveal God's self to us. The anticipation is often intense and waiting may feel like the hardest part.

"Look! The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him, Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Even though the people had been taught to expect God to be among us, most people missed him. We cannot make the same mistake today, especially after what he has done for us. Christ will come in unexpected ways; many will miss him, not even notice. We get so wrapped up in our own agendas, we don't see or hear anything else. Too often we are looking among the powerful and what the world calls successful, but most often the world's "success" falls short as shallow and superficial. Jesus has a way of showing up when we least expect it, and so we respond to his warning to us that we might just overlook him, or overlook the opportunities to shine God's light in who we are and what we choose to do.

A seasoned pastor told his congregation that in the midst of all the hustle & bustle of activity, ambition, and competition of the day, especially in preparation for Christmas, the best thing to do is just stop whatever we are doing and just sit down and become aware of the real world: *God's world*. Take the center of what is happening off of ourselves, and place it where it always needs to be, with God. It is great advice for us today, especially as we are trying to get back to claiming life anew, often exhausted at the restart of our lives. It is a great blessing to take part in the generosity of God's heart and give of ourselves during the Christmas season. It's a season that can last a lifetime.

~ Pastor Tim



Worship in December 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 a.m Fully Open Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.



Advent is a time of preparing to receive Jesus Christ in new ways into our lives. Christ is coming! We want to be ready and prepared to receive him, to live and grow in his grace so that we can live lives that bless others. *In the first or second week* of December, the Mighty Writers staff will come and share with us what they have been and are doing to help our community. We look forward to hearing from them, and seeing how we can continue to be supportive of their ministries with our community, especially in education.

December 5, 2021 – Communion – Advent Christ as Our Way

Christ comes to us – sharing of our faith. The people asked him, “When did you come? We didn’t see you!” Our scripture will be Luke 3:1-6, & Matthew 25:31-46

Our hymns will be 61 Come Thou Almighty King, and 213 Lift Up Your Head Ye Mighty Gates

The Lighting of the Advent Candle will include reading from Mark 1:4

Special Advent Musical Celebration at 6:30 PM
Limited Seating, please use the links found in your digital bulletins, this newsletter, our website or contact the church office.

December 12, 2021 – Christ Is Our Joy

Our scripture will be Luke 3:7-18, when John the Baptist taught the people what it means to be faithful in our relationships with God, and to prepare for living an abundant life of service to the Lord. We also will hear God’s Word from Phil 4:4-7. Our hymns will be #202 People look East and #203 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed. The Lighting of the Advent Candle will include a reading from Isaiah 35:10. Mighty Writers will come and share more with us about their ministry

December 12—Blue Christmas Service at 7PM
as we entrust our emotions and losses to God to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ in new ways to us, preparing to meet the holiday more fully.

December 19 – Christ Is Our Peace

Luke 1:39-45, Heb 10:5-10

Peace in biblical terms means being whole, complete, wholeness and being in line, deeply connected with God. We want to reach people with very real life help, we cannot fall short in reaching them in faith. Our hymns will be #196 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus and #211 O Come, O Come Emmanuel. The Lighting of the Advent Candle will include a reading from Isaiah 9:6-7

December 24, 2021– Christ Is the Light of God’s Love – Christmas Eve

We will offer and share three services on Christmas Eve: **6:00PM; 8:00PM; & 10PM.** At each one we will have traditional readings of scripture, Christmas carols-hymns, and a candle lighting service, that reminds us that our faith, fellowship, friendship, and God’s love are all meant to be shared freely, carefully. We look forward to being together at this most sacred time of life and in sharing the Presence of God and pray you will feel at home joining us in person and inviting other to share too.

December 26, 2021—First Sunday After Christmas

It is usually one of the most lightly attended services of the year. How do you follow up from Christmas Eve? We remember in Luke 2:41-52 Jesus as a boy in the Temple, and how faith continues to grow in new, often unexpected ways. Our Hymns will be #219, “What Child Is This,” and #251 “Go Tell It On the Mountain.”

Pastor's Desk



Jenner's Pond Residents:

Join us for worship on
December 12 at 11 am

And

December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

On your closed circuit TV and in-person
in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

Blessed

Leadership & Service

I've been blessed by several leaders who enjoyed lifting up this phrase, that God in Christ "moved into the neighborhood." For it leads and teaches us how important it is for us as Christian disciples to work to become the embodiment of God's grace, mercy, and love to others in specific ways. As we move into the Advent season we look, truly look for and anticipate the coming of Christ in new ways to us, it is vital that we are faithful and creative with God in bringing faith to life. I don't think there is an easier time of the year to share our hearts with others, than this season. We are blessed that God has entrusted us so; we feel its intensity now that we are living more freely from the virus.

Thank you to everyone who has made specific commitments for 2022 of Time and Talent and with our financial gifts. At the time of this writing, 42 people have offered their consecration of time and talent and 46 people have made 31 commitments, as a couple or as an individual, of their finances for the coming year. We are blessed to be able to fulfill our covenant with God, responding with our prayers, our presence, gifts and service this season. We, again, invite you to join us and help us build the trust and hope, bringing the joy and peace that only Christ can provide. As one leader in faith reflected, "things matter." What we do and how we choose to live makes a great difference. Many of us can see that truth more clearly from our journey through the past year and a half. May God bless us all this season, and may we be a blessing to others in very real, effective ways, always. – Tim



Join Us IN Worship

We look forward to seeing you in worship! Our children have returned to Sunday School, Children's Worship and the Nursery. In order to protect our children and others who cannot yet be vaccinated, we ask that you wear masks at church. If you don't have one, or forget, we will be happy to give you one.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Friday, December 24th

As we move through the Holiday Season and Advent, may we also move closer to Christ the Lord and to one another. We invite you to join us throughout this blessed season as we anticipate the birth and second coming of Christ.



8:00 p.m. (Contemporary), and 10 p.m. (Traditional) with nursery provided for all services. We joyfully invite you to join us to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24. We offer three different services, so we hope you will find one

Our Sunday services are at 6:00 p.m. (Family), that will be a blessing to you!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

- 6:00 p.m. Our family service with music by our Memory Bells Handbell Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Jenner's Pond with The Rev. Jim Mundell in Allison Theater
- 8:00 p.m. Our Contemporary Service with music by our PraiseWorks Band
- 10:00 p.m. Our Traditional Service with music by our Chancel Choir and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

No reservations are necessary. We do ask that you wear a mask to protect children who are not vaccinated and others who are immune compromised. We hope you will join us!

BLUE CHRISTMAS—Sunday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.



What is a Blue Christmas?

Christmas is not a cheery time for some of us. "Blue", as in feeling sad, unhappy or depressed is often misunderstood, after all this is the happiest time of the year.

Know that it is okay to experience these emotions, for some it's the empty place at the table due to a loved one's death and if it's the "year of firsts", it's the anticipation of, how will I or I do react to that empty spot. Some are facing a life that includes learning to move forward from divorce. Some have lost a job, some have received a distressing diagnosis for either themselves or someone near and dear. And we all have felt the burden and fear of the pandemic and increasing changes to our "way of life".

We are all, at some point, are coping with something that takes some of joy out of the season. A Blue Christmas service creates a sacred space, a safe haven, for those feeling the darkness. The service is reflective, accepting and can be healing and bring hope.

Consider joining in the Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 12th at 7p.m.

Annual Christmas Giving Tree



We celebrate that we are

again able to offer gift tags for gifts for residents of Twin Pines Care Facility and several families in our community. One of the families is in the Family Promise Program and the other two are part of the Avon Grove Christmas Gift Basket program. The tags will be on the small tree in the lobby beginning Nov. 21st. Hopefully, by getting the tags to you early, all ordered gifts, will be received by you in plenty of time. **We ask that you bring your wrapped gifts, with the gift tag, taped to the outside of the gift, to the church by Monday, Dec. 13th.** If you have any questions, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net)



Sounds of the Season

Annual Christmas Music Celebration At West Grove UMC

Sunday, December 5th

6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us! Bring your family and invite your friends! Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m. allows all ages to join in the festivities.

Welcome the Advent Season with music by the Chancel Choir, PraiseWorks Band, Memory Bells Handbell Choir, special musical numbers and, of course, a carol sing-along.

In order to assure appropriate social distancing, **seating is limited, so we request you sign-up now. [\(Register Here\)](#)** The link can also be found in your digital bulletin, Constant Contact emails and our website. You may also call the office for a reservation.

If you would like to be a participant in this year's event, please contact Betsy by Sunday, November 28th to sign-up.

Do you Pray?

I loved this interpretation of Prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe'. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. "That is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. "Keep praying always"



Thank you to Linda Shiplet, Kay Yates, and Caryl Stuhcke, as well as the crew from the Mighty Writers, Dan Smith, Yakquelin Garduno, Raudel Franco DeSantos, Sara Dickens-Trillo!

They did a superb job cleaning the kitchen as it is readied for the annual inspection. They scrubbed for hours, so please be sure to take extra care in keeping the kitchen clean!

Church Office is closed on Friday, December 24 and on Monday, December 27, so that the staff may spend time over the holiday with their families.



Donna Fackler, Church Administrator, will be on vacation December 28 and 29.

The New Year holiday will have the office closed on Friday, December 31, 2021

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. **Please stop by the lobby information table and pick up an order form or use the form below.** Each plant will be in a 6" pot and will be red with 4 to 5 blooms.

The cost is \$6.50 each.

The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 19th** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room. You may also email Donna at office@westgroveumc.org with your order.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in **Christmas Eve bulletins**. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, December 26th after the 9:30 a.m. service or during that week. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.



Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Your Name: _____

No. of Plants ____ x **\$6.50** each = \$ _____ Total

(Please make checks payable to WGUMC with memo for "Poinsettias")

Check one: In Honor of: In Memory of: In Celebration of:



Advent Bags for Our Homebound



A huge thank you to Priscilla Barkman and Paulette Bryan for coordinating the collection of gifts and distribution of our annual advent bags to our homebound members and friends. Each year 20 bags are filled with 25 gifts with scriptures to be opened each day in December leading up to Christmas Day.

Thank you UMW ladies for your generous gifts which filled these bags with various goodies.

Thank you Betty Mundell and Sharon Nesbitt for helping Priscilla and Paulette assemble the advent bags preparing them for distribution. And, many thanks to all who gave of your time to visit and deliver the advent bags to their recipients. We are so grateful for our church family and friends and are blessed to let those who are not able to worship with us in person know that they are cared for and loved by West Grove UMC.



Retired Active People



RAP MEETS AT NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 for a Christmas Program

We are so excited to announce that RAP will gather once again, after quite a lengthy hiatus due to the pandemic. We look forward to greeting our members and friends on Friday, December 10th, at noon.

Please bring your bagged lunch! Coffee, decaf, water, lemonade, and iced tea will be provided. Of course, we must have desserts! Please notify Sara Ann Ramberger, 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net if you would like to provide a dessert.

We are delighted to welcome the return of The Providence Brass to share their musical talents with RAP by playing a selection of sacred and secular Christmas music.

We are always grateful for your help with setup and/or cleanup, Please arrive a little early and/or plan to stay a little later--your willingness to lend a hand will be greatly appreciated as we attempt to return to our regular schedule.

Plan to enjoy a joyful afternoon of Fun, Food and Fellowship as we welcome one another and enjoy our time together. Remember your lunch, and invite your friends! Everyone is welcome! RSVP YES or NO to Sara Ann Ramberger, 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net.

RAP Committee

Paulette Bryan, Cindy Haley, Caryl Stuhrke, and Sara Ann Ramberger

Donations Requested For New Folding Tables



From conversations I've had recently, there is one item I've become aware of that our church needs: It would be extremely helpful for us to purchase some new plastic tables. The old ones were made to last, but are too heavy and are getting old with sharp edges, and they have become difficult to use. We'd like to replace them and we ask for your help. We did not include them on the Trustees wish list, yet.

They cost between \$120 and \$145. We are asking for your help. Contributions can be made in addition to your weekly offering. Let us know by providing a note for your offering's use. Thanks for everyone's help.



The United Methodist Church
Bishop John Schol
Serving
Eastern Pennsylvania
& Greater New Jersey

November 8, 2021

Dear Lay and Clergy Leadership of EPA,

I continue to pray for our lay and clergy leaders daily as you lead your congregations and ministries forward. You are providing Holy Spirit-led ministry and Christ-filled compassion and healing with your congregation and in the community. Since I began with you on September 1, 2021, I have witnessed courageous and innovative leadership that is making a difference in people's lives. I thank God for you.

This past week the Council of Bishops met for four days. It was a Zoom meeting, and 110 residential and retired United Methodist Bishops gathered from around the world. We met from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Eastern time, which meant some were meeting past midnight in their countries. Regrettably, some bishops, mostly retired bishops, were unable to join us, or to join consistently, because the internet is not stable enough in some parts of all countries around the world.

We gathered to pray for the church and the world, to hear God's Word proclaimed, and to worship and work together. Of utmost importance for the bishops at this time are the following matters.

The ministry and witness of the church in the world during the pandemic.

Care for God's Creation because of climate change.

The call and work to end the sin of racism in the church and the world.

The healing and renewal of former scouts who were sexually abused, including through United Methodist troops and packs, and a settlement with the survivor claimants.

Advocating for the health and safety of all people around the world through vaccinations.

Update on the next General Conference. Due to the pandemic, the Commission on General Conference will decide by the end of March 2022 if there will be a General Conference. Key considerations are our progress toward stamping out COVID-19 and its variants, vaccination rates of our delegates around the world, visas for delegates from outside the U.S. (almost 50% of the delegates are from outside the U.S.) and the health and safety of all General Conference participants.

Separation and disaffiliation of congregations due to full inclusion of LGBTQ persons. Attached is a statement from the Council of Bishops about the future United Methodist Church. You will see that it parallels EPA's aspiration to be a diverse conference. While we may experience some congregations leaving The United Methodist Church, the bishops and leadership of EPA are prepared to continue to make a way forward for a diverse church and a church that continues to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ and to provide for local and global mission and ministry with the people in our communities.

I continue to look forward to serving and leading EPA. Together, God has a great future for us and our United Methodist witness and service in the world. I invite you to pray for the bishops, pray for EPA's leadership and pray that God will use us to be transformative disciples and difference-makers in our communities and in the world.

Keep the faith!

John

Bishop John Schol

The United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania & Greater New Jersey

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PASTOR JIM'S
CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN
 helping us to live the Christian life

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the new Christian year. The Christian calendar is different from the secular calendar that each of us live by in our daily life.

The Christian calendar is a creative way to tell the story of Jesus, from the anticipation of his birth to the outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon the Church. Nearly half of the calendar year is Ordinary Time when we continue to follow Jesus.

Advent (Anticipation)

Advent is the season of a joyful spirit of anticipation, preparation, and longing. The word Advent means to come. Our focus of the season is preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Jesus, as Christ the King, in his second Advent. We mark Advent by the four Sundays before Christmas to remind ourselves that Christmas is the time when God came to us as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, a moment we call the Incarnation.

Christmastide (Incarnation)

On the Christian calendar, Christmas is a twelve-day celebration beginning on December 25. During these 12 days of Christmas we celebrate the events of His birth.

Epiphany (Ministry)

We start the season of Epiphany on January 6, when we celebrate the visit of the Magi or Wisemen to the child Jesus in the home that the holy family was living in. During this season we remember the life of Jesus from his baptism to his ministry among the people of Israel. Epiphany is about God's act of revealing



himself to the world.

Lent (Crucifixion)

Lent is a 40-day season when we revisit, retell, and re-enter the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, leading to his suffering and death. Lent is a

time to reflect on our own lives, remember the life of Jesus, and repent of those things in our lives that do not look like Jesus.

Easter (Resurrection)

Easter Sunday is the ultimate day of Christian celebration. In one sense, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. But after we have spent 40 days of Lent reflecting on the suffering of Jesus, Easter Sunday is a celebration like no other! We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his triumph over sin, death, and evil. Easter season is a 50-day celebration, so after the season of Lent, we enter the season of Easter where we celebrate the resurrection in all we do.

Pentecost Sunday (Ascension)

The close of the Easter season is marked by Pentecost Sunday where we remember the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church so that we could be fully empowered as the body of Christ on the earth.

Ordinary Time (Responding to God)

Pentecost Sunday is the start of ordinary time where we continue to follow Jesus in our ordinary lives, using their gifts and talents to honor God. It ends on Christ the King Sunday and awaits a new Christian year beginning on Advent Sunday.

**PORTRAITS
OF CHRIST
BIBLE
STUDY**

A new Bible Study, taught by Pastor Jim Mundell, will be starting on January 10, 2022, entitled "PORTRAITS OF CHRIST". The world has been asking, "Who is this Jesus"? This study from the Gospel of John presents a series of pictures or portraits telling us about Jesus. Each of the twenty-one chapters gives us a portrayal of some special aspect of the character, life, and work of Christ. You are invited to take part in this study to gain knowledge and understanding of Jesus and His life. **Study begins January 10th at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.**

Grief Stephen Ministry Article 2021



"Mentioning my wife's name after she died was so hard for some people. It was almost as if she never existed. But I want them to remember her."

The holidays are normally a time for celebration, but for many there is a more somber tone, particularly those who have lost loved ones in the past year or so. Someone who would have been there to share the Thanksgiving meal, help hang the Christmas lights, or ring in the New Year is gone, with each event there is a reminder of their absence.

There are many sources of grief and loss, including the disruption of our lives during the pandemic. The painful feelings that come as a result, especially when it seems everyone else is celebrating, can make the holidays a very difficult time. What multiplies the impact is that people often avoid those people who are grieving, uncertain what to say or do. There is a simple, powerful way anyone can offer care: giving the gift of remembering the grieving person's loved one with them.

Say the Loved One's Name

The gift of remembering begins with being willing to say the loved one's name. One of the most common misconceptions about grief is that talking about a person's loss or saying the name of the deceased will only cause more pain. But the reality is just the opposite—people *want* to talk about the loved one they've lost. During the research for his book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk spoke with people who expressed that sentiment almost universally. One shared, "Mentioning my wife's name after she died was so hard for some people. It was almost as if she never existed. But I want them to remember her."

That's why it's important to say the loved one's name. Doing so acknowledges the loss and communicates that you're safe to talk with, that you won't shy away or abandon them because of their grief. In other words, it lets the grieving person know that you're with them in their grief and invites them to talk about what they're going through. You don't have to say a lot. Some brief, compassionate words are often enough—for example, "The holidays must be hard for you without [name]" or "I remember the time when [name] . . ." (and share a favorite memory). So, don't be afraid to mention the name of the deceased loved one, because saying their name opens the door to the gift of remembering.

Listening to and Sharing Memories

Once you've opened the door to remembering, be ready to listen to the grieving person's memories. Sharing memories is a way for them to express their love for the deceased, feel closer to their lost loved one, and experience comfort.

Although a grieving person can certainly reflect and remember on their own, there's something special about sharing memories with someone who will listen and care. Whether they're sharing happy memories, sad stories about the deceased's final days, funny anecdotes, or somber reflections, your being there to listen sends a clear message: **You are not alone.**

Each conversation is different.

Some people may want to talk and talk, while others may be eager to hear *your* recollections about their loved one. It varies by individual, so follow the other person's lead. Stay focused on their needs, and you'll be on the right track to providing meaningful care.

Embracing Every Emotion

One reason people often hesitate to bring up someone's loss is because they're worried about how the grieving person might respond. Memories of a loved one may bring strong emotions—anger, sadness, loneliness, regret—as well as the tears that often come with such feelings. It can be uncomfortable to encounter these strong feelings because we don't know what to say or do.

But here's a secret: Usually, the best response is simply to listen and embrace whatever emotions might come. You don't have to say exactly the right thing; in fact, trying to find the perfect words often leads to clichés, platitudes, or other unhelpful responses. In contrast, listening to, accepting, and validating a grieving person's emotions brings comfort.

Of course, it isn't always easy to listen as someone cries, expresses anger, or shares how lonely they feel. But when you set aside your discomfort and focus on being present with the other person, you'll be providing exactly the kind of care they need.

Making the Holidays a Little Easier

Grief has no expiration date. We all experience it for a variety of reasons. Whether it's been a year, two years, or longer since someone lost a loved one, consider offering the gift of remembering to them, too. Understand there are a great number of sources for our grief, especially as we come away from a pandemic. No matter how long it's been, listening and reminiscing together is a wonderful way to bring comfort, deepen relationships, offer care, and bring Christ's healing love to those who are hurting during the holidays. Doing that can make a difficult holiday season a little easier.

(Adapted from an article by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministry)

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Middle School Youth Group
Sundays, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group
Sundays, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

December schedule:

December 5: TBA

December 12 & 19

December 26: No youth group



Youth Christmas Party

December 19,
5:00-6:30 p.m.

Our annual tradition is almost here! Our annual tradition of Christmas games, food and secret gift exchange! more

details coming soon!

If you have any questions or would like detailed information, please contact Melanie Hartley

All Worship Sunday

December 5, 9:30 a.m. service

Children remain in worship on communion Sundays so that all can partake at the Lord's Table together. We provide worship packets and hands on toys to keep our kids engaged while they learn about our practices and worship with the congregation.

There will be no Children's Worship on Sunday, December 26th

Children's Worship is offered during the worship service for children in grades K-4. Children will have the opportunity to learn the scripture lesson of the day as well as worship practices of the church, and the church seasons.

Children will begin in the worship service with their families and be dismissed by the pastor to children's worship. The children will be brought back to the worship service before the children's message.

Sunday School on Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

There will be no Sunday school on Sunday, December 26th

Sunday School

is available for children in grades K-5 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We will be starting a new unit for Advent on December 5, as we anticipate the birth of Jesus.



We do fun activities with art, science, and games while we learn more about God and our faith. Our time together is filled with fun times with friends, learning, and smiles.

All Children and volunteers will be asked to wear masks during our time together in children's worship and Sunday school in order to respect the health of our unvaccinated children.

For information about Sunday school and our children's programs please contact Melanie Hartley.



Children's Morning Out and Preschool

We are looking forward to a fun and festive month ahead in December. This time of year with the little ones is always so magical! The classes will all be busy preparing for Christmas over the next few weeks -- hearing stories, making gifts for parents, singing songs, and most importantly learning about the birth of Jesus. Our teachers always plan the most fun and engaging activities for the children at school. Time will also be spent preparing for our Christmas Celebration where each class will sing a song for parents and Pastor Tim and Miss Melanie will share the story of Christmas with a special Chapel time.

It is hard to believe that we are already planning for next school year. We are hoping to host an Open House at the end of January and our registration for the 2022-2023 school year will be at the beginning of February. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Heather Smalley, CMO & Preschool, Director



Safe Sanctuaries, Nursery Attendants, Sunday School Roamers and YOU!

Just a reminder that as we continue to work to renew our in-person Sunday School, children, and youth activities, it is important to keep clearances for all our volunteers up to date. Many of you who had clearances that were older than three years did renew this summer and early fall. I'll be sending reminders to those of you who will be due by the end of this year.

Our church policy requires two people for Sunday School classes, Nursery, and youth activities. Since many Sunday School classes are taught by one person, we use a Roamer to serve as the second person during the Sunday School hour. We are looking for volunteers to serve as Roamers. If we have four or five volunteers, you only need to serve every once every four to five weeks. If you have a child in Sunday School or you attend Sunday School, perhaps you could consider being a Roamer. It requires no preparation. You just need to walk up and down the hall and assist the Teacher or Nursery attendant if they need some help. Roamers do need clearances. These can be obtained on-line. Let Fran Miller know if you are interested in volunteering and you will be given the needed information. Clearances from other volunteer organizations can just be copied and turned in if they are less than three years old. Fran can be reached by email at jmille8698@verizon.net, by phone at 484-614-6627 or in church most Sundays.

Covid Information

Shared by our Faith Community Nurse ~ Susan Paisley

Quarantine vs. Isolation

You quarantine when you might have been exposed to the virus.

You isolate when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms.

Quarantine

Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 5-7 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

What To Do

Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.

If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

After Quarantine

Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.

If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine. Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to quarantine. Options they will consider include stopping quarantine after day 10 without testing and after day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).

Isolation

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

What To Do

Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.

Use a separate bathroom, if possible.

Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.

Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.

Wear a mask when around other people if able.

Learn more about what to do if you are sick and how to notify your contacts.

When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19?

Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19

Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure to that person, except if they meet the following conditions:

Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19 does not need to quarantine. However, fully vaccinated close contacts should:

Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result.

Get tested 5-7 days after close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Get tested and isolate immediately if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Someone who tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and has subsequently recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms does not need to quarantine. However, close contacts with prior COVID-19 infection in the previous 90 days should:

Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days after exposure.

(Continued on next page)

Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate immediately if symptoms develop.
Consult with a healthcare professional for testing recommendations if new symptoms develop.

I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms

You can be around others after:

10 days since symptoms first appeared and
24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*
*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation

Note that these recommendations do not apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised).

I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for "I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms."

I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) caused by a health condition or medication.

People who are severely ill with COVID-19 might need to stay home longer than 10 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. People with weakened immune systems may require testing to determine when they can be around others. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information. Your healthcare provider will let you know if you can resume being around other people based on the results of your testing.

People who are immunocompromised should be counseled about the potential for reduced immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines and the need to continue to follow current prevention measures (including wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others they don't live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces) to protect themselves against COVID-19 until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.

Close contacts of immunocompromised people should also be encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to help protect these people.



MIGHTY WRITERS

Dear Mighty Friends,

Why wait until #GivingTuesday when you can give today? Each and every contribution until November 30, 2021 will be doubled thanks to a matching donation.

Every year we teach over 3,000 kids across the region. Thanks to

your continued support our kids are becoming clearer thinkers and better writers! Right now, you can decide how Mighty you want to be.

Here are 5 ways you can help Mighty Writers on #GivingTuesday (or today):

- Become a Mighty Donor: Support our food distribution, in-person, and MW at Home programs. Your monetary contribution will provide kids with healthy meals, books, and high-quality writing programs.
- Sponsor a Holiday Meal: 'Tis the Season of Giving, and we believe that holidays are celebrated around the dinner table. Sponsor a holiday meal(s) to spread some much needed joy during this season of giving.
- Support our Facebook Fundraiser: You can now donate through our Facebook Fundraiser with a click of a button from the comfort of your home!
- Lend a Mighty Hand: Make a difference by giving your time at a food and literacy distribution site, by mentoring a student or providing homework help (virtually or in-person). Sign up today!
- Spread the Mighty Word: If you are a #MightySupporter, help us reach out to more amazing peeps like you. Please like us on social media and share our #Mightystories.

We are thankful for your Mightiness!

Mighty Writers (www.mightywriters.org)

1501 Christian St., Philadelphia, PA 19146



Open Grow Serve



OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

Winter is bringing many gifts to the church! We have had meetings, events, fellowship time and hosted groups. Here are a few people you might not have seen around the church, but work quietly behind the scenes. If you would like a “shout out” about someone/something you saw that should be recognized, email the office at office@westgroveumc.org.

A Big Thank You to:

Joan Leaman—Christmas Giving Tree

Paulette Bryan and Priscilla Barkman and volunteers—Advent Bags

Linda Shiplet, Kay Yates and Caryl Stuhrke—Kitchen Inspection Deep Clean

Mighty Writers volunteers—Kitchen deep clean

Office Volunteers—Cindy Haley, Esther Culbertson, Bonnie Wolf

Linda Shiplet, Joan Saller and Cindy Hoover—Decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas season

Heather Ditzel—Caring for the Poinsettias


Trustees—Their tireless work at keeping the church building in such great shape!



BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



12/02 Katie Barrett
12/02 Kay Yates
12/06 Sandi Hampton
12/06 Matthew Rinehimer
12/07 Grace Featherston
12/08 Harvey Chase
12/08 Timothy Shaub
12/08 Ed Tolmie
12/13 Anna Castaldi
12/13 Bill Ditzel
12/14 Jo Ann Coates
12/15 Sean Barrett
12/15 Karen Underwood
12/15 Dana Winters
12/16 Sydney Curtis
12/17 Ian Ditzel


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

12/17 Len Kuch
12/17 Debbie Schneider
12/18 Sandra Carmichael
12/18 Jessica Jones
12/19 Roann Bates Schneider
12/20 Catie Weingarten
12/21 Kayla Springer
12/24 Mollie Miller
12/24 Carol Schoff
12/25 Brad Beauchamp
12/18 Kim O'Neill
12/29 Alexandra Smith
12/30 Christine Hilgar
12/30 Betty Lafferty
12/31 Max Herrera
12/31 Simon Mullen



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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610-869-9334 office@westgroveumc.org

www.westgroveumc.org



~ Open, Grow, Serve ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

The Reverend Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor
pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Staff

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond
Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director
Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator
Office@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Interim Director
Keyboardist
Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director
davsan5@comcast.net

Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director
cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Maira Tena—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
Kim O'Neil and Kim Smith - Co-Trustee Chairs
OPEN - Finance Chair

Peter Mullen - Interim Treasurer

Heather McCummings - Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair

Steve May—Tech Team Leader

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—Ad Council Member at Large

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

OPEN—R.A.P Coordinator

TBA - Emergency Assistance Team Chair