



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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## February 2022



### **Holy Living: Envisioning Faith In Community – Awareness of the Needs of Others:**

“Take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others who see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged (misled) to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?” (I Corinthians 8:9-10)

Christianity is not just a message, nor just a rule and command, it is sharing a lifestyle in God’s Covenant together. Being aware of how our words and actions have an impact on other people in our families and communities, is a key dynamic that is vital for us to come to terms with. Perhaps what we choose to do or not do, isn’t a big deal for us to work through, but it may have a huge impact on the development of other people’s faith and their relationships with God and other people. Such understanding of our faith in the real world adds complexity to our decisions and lifestyle, while it also helps us build community and real friendships in deeper ways.

How would you want the people you love to be treated in the ways other people set an example? How would we want a child, our children to be treated? We are all God’s children, we are all impressionable to some extent. So how does God want us to be treated? How does God want us to treat one another? Maybe even more important to ask is, how does God treat us, or relate with us?

In the eighth chapter of I Corinthians, Paul emphasizes that there is only one God the Father, and as Christians we are extremely blessed to know this powerful God, personally by His grace. As strong as God is, and while knowing how well God’s strength can lead our lives, we cannot allow God’s great strength to eclipse the vulnerabilities we need to see in ourselves and others as human beings. Jesus makes us aware and helps us understand how vulnerable we all are. And we are not all at the same level of understanding. So as we relate with one another throughout life, and especially in returning to claim a more social life after a pandemic, it is vital that we are aware that imaginations and consciences are shaped under a variety of conditions, and they are not going to change overnight. We pray for patience and understanding.

**Direct, Personal Friendships.** From Paul’s letter, and the life and teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18, we understand that God really does care how we use our

freedom, whether carelessly, or in thoughtful, empathetic ways. If we are not careful, we may be leading in a way that leads a fellow believer, still vulnerable, to be thrown off track from faith, to go back to an old, unfaithful way of living. We are blessed to have many opportunities to share real friendships that help encourage and empower one another to grow and mature in Christ. In verses 10-18 of chapter 18, Jesus makes it clear our relationships are to be eye to eye, face to face, heart to heart as we grow in our friendships. We strive to be open and initiate communication with the people in our lives. The words of Jesus and Paul only make sense when we allow ourselves to be embraced by God’s love, in 100% in life. So, we set God’s grace and mercy as our first priority.

**No Great Resignation for Us.** The times we are living in are calling us to a recommitment to faith in Christ at an important time in history and in our personal lives. The challenges of dealing with the virus have caused a lot of people to reexamine their lives and priorities. Many people have retired early or shifted the work they do. The “great resignation” is upon us, with many people choosing to start living in retirement or a different lifestyle, maybe a little earlier than originally planned. Throughout the years, many of my friends have said they are busier in retirement than when they worked. We are blessed that retirement can be a golden, meaningful time in life, especially when we celebrate good health.

So on one hand we are dealing with a trend that is bringing great joy and freedom to people, and we are ready to have fun in life. The great gift entrusted to us is we can have (serious) fun with God in ministry and discipleship. Another aspect of this dynamic is making sure the time entrusted to us is spent and shared wisely. Nothing brings greater satisfaction than to give worthwhile gifts to others. A church never retires, instead it seeks to share the journey and calling of Christ anew and train and lift up disciples. We want to help one another and others new to us see the blessings of responding to Christ. It is one of life’s greatest blessings to have the opportunity and freedom to offer our sacrifices to the One who has shown his love to us all. May God bless us as we move closer to spring and live the promise of Easter every day. I pray we all continue to experience the joy of serving Christ together as we receive and share God’s grace in new ways.

~ Pastor Tim



## Worship in February 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.*

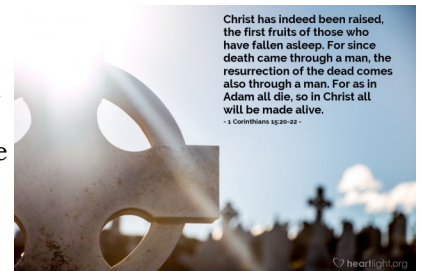


### February 6 – I Corinthians 15:1-11 We will share communion together

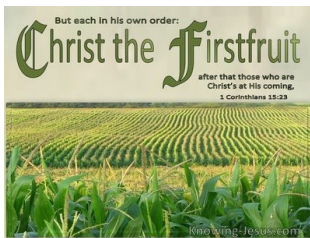
Can you believe someone would sacrifice their life for you? For all of us? We join with a multitude of saints, as we understand their witnesses to our faith in Christ. There often seems to be no logic to what God has done, for why would he do so much for us? The answer is humbling, as it assures and empowers our living.

### February 13 – I Corinthians 15:12-20

Paul affirms the Resurrection and perhaps like a theory of black holes and supernovas. It's easier for many people to believe in resurrection as a theory, than it is to believe how God can impact our hearts and lives to live transformed by grace, mercy every day. We are so quick to accept the limitations of life, of our minds and hearts, that are limiting our hope, and the possibilities before us, and what is possible for our loved ones.



### February 20 – I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-53



Tell us how Christ is raised! Explain it to us, and then we can believe. Paul turns to what keeps us alive every year, how we believe and trust in nature, in God's hand work to bring forth life from the seeds of the earth to sustain us. What caused their demand? Was it fear of death? Or life and living life fully by faith, trusting in God? When we truly look at ourselves there is a miracle to behold every day, because God, the Source and Author of Life has brought forth human life out of dust.

### February 27 – Transfiguration Sunday – We Experience God's Glory

We'll look at Luke 9:28-36, 37-48, and possibly II Corinthians 3:12-4:2, and look to understand what God's glory really is. What are we expecting, and do we notice it when we see it? In the life of Christ, and in moments like the transfiguration, the veil that was erected separating humanity from God is being removed. We accept the courage God provides to see and understand who God really is. We are no longer afraid to look upon God like the Israelites were, afraid if they did, they would die. We continue to seek to let go of what holds us back from personally experiencing the fullness God offers us all. Jesus brings continuity to the past, present, and future, as he bridges the distance between us and God, which brings us closer, more intimately in touch with Moses & Elijah, and each other.



### Ash Wednesday March 2 – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 and II Corinthians 5:20-6:10



We can believe we are following God and even sacrifice aspects of life and living, and find we did it for false or superficial reasons. God wants to deepen our journey of faith and the friendships and fellowship we share. How we present ourselves when we make a sacrifice tells a lot about why we are engaged in it, and these practices inform and impact our expressions of faith. God calls us to be as Jesus Christ was, humble in nature, authentic in the ways we express our faith in God, and God's love for us. It takes real examination of life, and letting go of what prevents us from getting close to the Lord.

# Pastor's Desk



## Prayers

We ask for your prayers for Steve May and his wife Melanie as they travel the Appalachian Trail starting in March. Steve has shared his gifts in our fellowship by working with the Sunday morning technology that sends our worship through the internet, and all things technology throughout the church.

Another member of our Sunday morning tech crew is Michael Duvall, who is currently on a mission trip to Africa. He has worked with others to help a village dig a new water well, and is travelling there to share faith and help in person. The well was a gusher, bringing fresh water directly to a community that has its own school. Now the members of the community can spend time learning in their school, instead of hauling water.

We look forward to hearing more about the journeys that Michael, Melanie, and Steve are travelling in faith.



## Special Thank you!

Julie and I would like to express a very special thank you for the ways so many of you expressed your friendship in Christ to us through the holidays. We were very blessed

and humbled by your generosity in sharing Christmas gifts for staff. Thank you!

We want to thank Pastor Jim Mundell for offering the Sunday morning message on the Sunday after Christmas, as he led us in reflecting on our need in our hearts to search for Christ. How blessed we are when we find him as the shepherds to be able to share and proclaim him to others.

Our thanks also to Rev. Dr. David Frame for offering us the message on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. I had a clean bill of health from a "normally" scheduled (every 10 year) colonoscopy the Thursday before, and it was a blessing to have him offer a great message, reminding us that the "Old Testament isn't so old!" I was taught that far too often as Christians we commandeer the Old Testament's message, forgetting to listen and hear how God was speaking during those days to the Hebrew people, encouraging them and all of us to hear the Word and live it fully. It has a rich gift of life and faith to offer us all.

## The Vision Ahead for Our Fellowship



It is a blessing when we can offer a variety of styles of worship, each with its own set of participants, from varieties of music to many participants and readers, as we spend more time focused on deepening the Word of God.

We currently work as best we can to keep the one service concise to fit into a format for the internet. We would like to again in the near future offer two worship services, a contemporary and a traditional one, every Sunday morning with one of them live-streamed. In order to do so, we will need more people to help with our sound system. We may need to wait until after summer to fulfill this vision.

We are grateful to be working to strengthen our return to Sunday School where God's vision is for us to have great fellowship together as we come to know God in Christ more fully. We currently have three adult classes and look to strengthen the attendance in each one, and also add one or two more adult classes in the future. We also are hopeful that as the children are vaccinated, more of them will also join us every week.



## Communication

My favorite, most preferred means of communication is first and foremost in person, (a challenge during a pandemic), my second is by e-mail or a phone call. I look forward to continuing to get to know all of you better as the year unfolds, and encourage you to stay in touch with the people in your lives and our fellowship. I am prayerful, and very hopeful, about the year ahead and the fellowship we can share together in Christ.

We are still prayerful about our need for leadership for Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, Finance Chair, and also people to help count and help with sound on Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office or leaders in these areas. We have several videos on our You Tube channel that explain what the tech teach does on Sundays as it witnesses to their dedication. Please take a look, and may we all give thanks for the servants of Christ, seen and unseen, who are with us.



## Children Making Resolutions for 2022

Did the children in resolutions for 2022? to learn from in helping them An article produced Service by Lanre some good ideas near future of 2022. the specifics of a resolutions. be flexible and they steps. The process envisioning and as important to focus actual goal. Some have created are the child, including young adults.



your life make any Did you? We have a lot children and especially learn and grow in life. by the Tribune News Falusi took a look at about looking to the First, consider calling vision, goals, not Understand they can are best approached in and purpose of creating them are often on as reaching the specific ideas families tailored to the age of some for youth, or

Involving the the decision process grow and mature.

to work it through is a blessing. Involving the whole family can help everyone feel closer together in expressions of love, as the goals are turned into life-long practices. Some specifics are:

### Preschoolers:

- I will try to clean up my toys and put them where they belong.
- I will let my parents help me brush my teeth twice a day.
- I will wash my hands after going to the bathroom and before eating.
- I will try new foods, especially different colors of vegetables.
- I will help to clear the table when I finish eating.
- I will be friendly to animals, and first ask the owner's permission before petting them.
- I will hold an adult's hand when I cross the street.
- I will be kind and nice to other children who need a friend, or seem to be sad or lonely.
- I will talk with my parent or other trusted adults when I am scared or need help.

### Ages 5 through 12 Years Old

- I will drink water and healthy beverages every day with meals.
- I will find a sport or activity when I play, like tag, jumping rope, dancing, or riding a bike, three times a week.
- I will always wear a helmet when I ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard.
- I will try to make friends with kids who may have a hard time making friends, by talking with them and inviting them to join in activities.
- I will tell an adult about bullying that I see or hear about.
- I will help to make the school safe for everyone

children and youth in is vital to helping them Spending time together

- I will keep my personal information safe, and not share my name, home address, school name, or phone number on line.
- I will never chat with anyone on line without asking my parents first.
- I will talk with my parents or trusted adult when I have a problem, fear, or stress.
- I will do what I can to follow our household rules for video games and internet use.

### **Age 13 and Older**

- I will try to eat two servings of fruit and two servings of vegetables every day.
- I will drink sodas or fruit drinks only at special times.
- I will do my best to take care of my body through fun and physical activity and eating the right foods.
- I will try to choose TV shows and video games that are non-violent and help me learn.
- I will spend no more than two hours each day on TV and video games.
- I promise to respect our household rules for video games and internet use.
- I will try to get eight to 10 hours of sleep every night.
- I will help out in our community, giving time to help others.
- When I get angry or fearful, or stressed, I will take a break, and find ways to relieve the pressure through prayer, reading, writing in a journal, or speaking with a trusted adult..
- When I notice my friends are struggling, being bullied, or making risky choices, I will speak with a trusted adult to provide help.

### **Older Teens**

- I will be careful with whom I choose to date.
- I will treat the other person with respect and not force them to do what they would not want to do.
- I will expect to be treated the same way in return.
- I will resist peer pressure to try alcohol, drugs, smoking, or vaping.
- I will not text or talk on the phone while driving.
- I will always wear a seatbelt.

We pray this year is one full of blessings for everyone. We always need to remember we live in community together and what we do will influence others and how they live out their faith.



### **SNOW CANCELLATIONS:**

**Winter is upon us! The church will post any cancellations of worship services on our website, [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org), through our constant contact email, our Facebook page, and our phone message by 7:00 a.m. on day of cancellation.**



Through Bridge of Hope, our church family has a new opportunity to extend the love and care Christ has given us, to families facing homelessness. Bridge of Hope is a unique ministry, a three-way partnership among families facing homelessness, church-based Neighboring Volunteers trained to

provide practical support and encouragement, and professional staff. Rather than offering short-term solutions, the Bridge of Hope Neighborhood of Support is designed to last 18 to 24 months to give families the time and opportunities necessary for long-term change. We are hoping to get about 10 volunteers who would commit to "neighboring" a family. Neighboring is similar to what we do, as we support and care for family and friends. We would be available to a family dealing with homelessness, by being a support network for them. We might provide a ride, make a meal together, help with taxes, homework assistance, and/or make a phone call offering encouragement. Each family and volunteers are unique, so neighboring will be specific to those working in partnership. This seems like a great way to continue our care for families facing homelessness, in the absence of being able to house them in the local churches, through Family Promise.

If this sounds like something you would care to know more about, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net).

Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this wonderful opportunity.



### **THANK YOU TO THE MIGHTY WRITERS FOR THE DONATION OF 2 NEW HANDBELL TABLES**

A while back, we noticed that two of tables used by the Memory Bells had been misplaced, borrowed, or lost. It could have been anyone. Perhaps someone borrowed them for an event at their home and they were stowed

away and forgotten about. The Mighty Writers were asked if they knew where they were, as they might be in the shed or pod that they use.

After advertising their loss throughout the church for several weeks, I was delighted when the Mighty Writers decided to donate two tables to the cause!

**THANK YOU!**



To My Church Family,

I am overwhelmed with your generosity! Thank you for the Christmas gift that SPRC

shared on your behalf. It truly touched my heart and I am so glad to be the Church Administrator in such a wonderful house of God.

As many of you know, I am buying a house in West Grove and your gift will be put to very good use as I move in!

With a grateful heart,

Donna Fackler



**Jenner's Pond Residents: Join us for worship on February 13th at 11 a.m. On your closed circuit TV and in-person in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you very much for your sustenance of our church community through these difficult 2 years, of confinement in protecting ourselves and each other.

As your interim treasurer, I see hope, even as we see surges in COVID cases due to Omicron. We are certainly learning how to be viable in the midst of the maelstrom, particularly for those who put real faith to the test through definitive actions. 2022 may be a year of greater chances to strengthen our community through our many ministries and education if we are fortified by our faith and our ability to offer ourselves to the God who has shown that he loves us at any price.

As a footnote, we do have an added problem - inflation. In view of the necessity to keep America afloat through government subsidies, particularly the poorest of the poor, when few could work in 2020, 2021 saw 7% inflation. Whether your contributions increase, or remain level, keep in mind if you will, this additional hurdle to climb back, in our love for Christ in our community.

Peter Mullen

Generous God,

I give thanks to you for the gifts family, my friends – time, talents, and material possessions. All that I have comes from you. Help me to rejoice in your goodness.

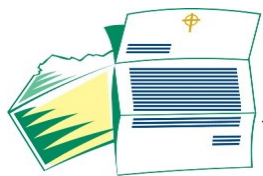
Walk with me, my God. Help me on my spiritual journey, so that I may constantly renew my relationship with you and all the good people in our parish and beyond.

Renew in me your Spirit. Give me the strength and courage to become a better follower of Jesus, to be a disciple. Help me hear the call to "Come, Follow Me."

I give glory to you, my God, as I make stewardship a way of life. Amen.



you have given me -my life, my talents, and material possessions. Help me to remember this and



## Annual Giving Statements

### Giving statements for 2021

The statements are being prepared and will be sent soon.

Thank you for faithful and generous support of the missions and ministries of the West Grove United Methodist Church!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Due to mail delays, we have just received our 2022 Offering Envelopes. They are **ready for you to pick up at the church.**

We have a table in the lobby with your envelopes in alphabetical order. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

daily, but Donna is available at other times as well if you call ahead. **Do you no longer wish to have envelopes, or would like to offer electronically?**

Please advise the office at [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) so that we can make the change to our records. **Unable to pick up your envelopes?** Let the church office know and we will arrange delivery or mail them.





## Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (RAP)

**Friday, February 11, 2022, 12:00 PM**

RAP started the New Year together on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. We gathered for lunch and enjoyed a time of fellowship and delicious desserts. Thank you everyone who provided a dessert, and those who helped us set up and clean up.

We were pleased to welcome RAP member and author, Doris Taylor, who presented a wonderful program, introducing us to her book series on the Vail Family. Doris shared her love of writing with us, highlighting her writing career and how she started. Thank you, Doris!

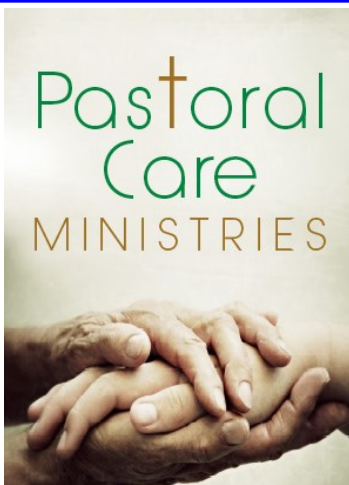
**Please join us at our next gathering on Friday, February 11, 2022, at noon in the sanctuary of the church. Local Historian, Scott Steele, will present a program centered around the 1928 West Grove Casket Factory Fire.**

Bring your lunch and enjoy provided beverages and delicious desserts. Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend or two and join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.



RAP Committee

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



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 (610-881-5105) or email him at [pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org) and he will be happy to arrange a time for you to receive communion.



**PASTOR JIM'S**  
**CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN**  
 helping us to live the Christian life  
 February 2022

I challenge you again to memorize a verse of scripture that will help you grow in your faith. This month's verse is one you probably already know. Hopefully, the insight given to you will help make this verse come alive in your daily walk of faith. The verse is Psalm 23:1, "**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want**" (KJV). As we look at this verse let us look at the first five words, "The...LORD...is...my...shepherd". Each word helps us to better understand what David, the writer, is telling us about our God.

"**THE**," this scripture does not say "A lord is my shepherd." Or some lord or another lord, but it says, "**The** LORD is my shepherd." Our LORD is the one and only, there is no one greater. He is Jehovah, Yahweh, the Hebrew name for God. The Jews had such regard for this name and the holiness of it, they would never spoke it nor said it in public.

"**LORD**," Note it is spelled using all capitals. In the English Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), this word is spelled three different ways, LORD, Lord, and lord. The translators do this to show us in English, the meaning of the various Hebrew words. **LORD**, (all capitals), is used to translate the Hebrew name YHWH (Yahweh, Jehovah), the holiest name for God. **Lord**, (Capital L and small letters for ord) is used to translate the name Adonai, another Hebrew word for God, meaning God is the master and sovereign of our lives, and is the name the Hebrews mainly use when speaking of Him. And **lord**, (all small letters), speaks



about our human master, our boss, our overseer, the one we report to. David in this verse is using the most holiest name for God.

"**IS**," this two-letter word has great depth for us, meaning, our LORD is present now, not in the past, nor in the future, but is present with us in this very moment to help meet our needs ("I shall not want").

"**MY**," our LORD is not just **a** shepherd or **any** shepherd but is MY shepherd. He is MY personal God that looks after me, cares for me, and loves me.

"**SHEPHERD**", our God is our guardian, like a shepherd who tends his flock, who will do anything to see that none are lost, they are fed and watered, and sees that no one will try to take them away. Jesus is our Good and Great Shepherd, (John 10:7-18), who leads His flock into green pastures and by still waters that we may follow Him and receive all His goodness that He has for us.

Perhaps when you were young you may have memorized all six verses of Psalm 23. This would be a good time to spend in reading this Psalm and noticing the pronouns of me, my and I. This Psalm is the most personal piece of scripture in the Bible because it is placing the reader directly into the text and makes us part of what David is saying. "**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**"

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## Summer Service Trip 2022

**June 26- July 2, 2022**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**



## Youth Group schedule February:

February 6; 20, 27  
Middle school- 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
High school- 5:00-6:30 p.m.



Our summer work trip team will be heading to Boston this June to work with Next Step Ministries. Next Step Ministries works closely with organizations and individuals in need in areas around the United States, building bridges within communities.

***Any students entering grade 8 through graduating seniors are welcome to attend. Any adults or parents interested in being volunteer leaders are also welcome!***

Information about the trip, including cost, important dates, and COVID-related information is available. Contact Melanie Hartley for information and to sign up!

## High School Spring Retreat at Gretna Glen

March 18-20, 2022

Gretna Glen

Our high school retreat is back this spring! We'll be heading to Gretna Glen for a weekend of relaxation and fun!

The Cost is \$120, with two payment dates:  
\$60 on February 20

\$60 by March 18

***\*Scholarship funds are available to any students. Contact Melanie for information***

**Children's Worship:**  
**Sunday, February 6**  
**9:30 a.m. service**

**Children's Sunday school**  
**Sunday mornings, 10:45-**  
**11:45 a.m.**

In Sunday school, we will be learning about different stories and passages in the bible. Each week we will have a bible



lesson, some questions to think about, and an activity that connects us to the story.

**If you would like information about the children's ministry and Christian education, contact Melanie Hartley.**

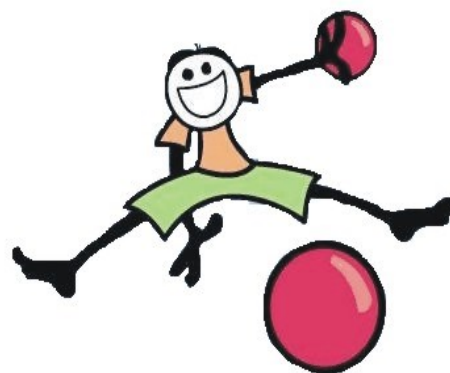
## YOUTH DODGEBALL & GAME NIGHT

**1ST Fridays, beginning February 4th. 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Games for everyone, so bring a friend and have fun!

Great snacks, too!

Questions? Feel welcomed to contact Melanie at [childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org) for more details



### EPA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS SEEK SUPPORT, APPLICANTS

Eastern PA Conference Scholarships are awarded for the fall and spring semesters to undergraduate and graduate students who have been active members of a church in our conference for at least two years. For many, these vital scholarships are one of Eastern PA's best-kept secrets but are deserving of much more awareness and support.

**March 1 is the application deadline for our scholarships for the fall semester. More information is available online.**

You can help fund our scholarships by mailing donations to the Eastern PA UMC Conference Treasurer's Office at P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482. Please indicate "Conference Scholarships" or "Conference Ordained Ministry Scholarships" in the memo line of your checks. Or you can give electronically by using our convenient online giving page.

Also, read "21 Conference students awarded UMC scholarships," which reports that 21 Eastern PA Conference students received scholarships in 2020 awarded by the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry



We begin the season of Lent on March 2nd. We will have a service with anointing with ashes. See your bulletin and our website for details.

This is our **16th year** of donating boxed valentines to the children of Penn London Elementary who do not have Valentines to give to their classmates.

Please consider buying a box of valentines and dropping it off in the collection box provided in the church lobby. You may also leave them at the office door

or in shopping basket outside of the front lobby doors.. **We will be collecting the valentines now through Sunday, February 6th.** Thank you!







## Children's Morning Out and Preschool

February is a busy month learning all about what it means to love and continuing to learn about all things winter --weather, clothing, animal adaptations, hibernation. There is lots of amazing artwork on the way that we look forward to seeing on our bulletin boards in the hallway.

**Registration time is here!!** Our registration for next school year begins on February 1st for our current families and the following week for new families. I am looking forward to having all of our families return and welcoming our new families.

**It's Consignment Sale time again!** Our consignment sale is **March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** and instructions and tags will be available beginning February 28th on the small table by the CMO and Preschool hallway. If you have gently used Spring and Summer children's clothing and toys, please consider consigning. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a little money and support our program. We are always looking for consignment sale volunteers. Please reach out to me if you would like to volunteer some time.

*Heather Smalley, CMO & Preschool, Director*

## 2022-2023 Preschool Registration Dates



### CMO & PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

**Coming soon! Current Families on Feb. 1st, Alumni Families on Feb. 3rd, and Open to the Community on Feb. 7th.**

Registration (pdf) forms can be found on our website ([www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)) under CMO & Preschool—Registration.

If you have questions, contact Heather Smalley, Director at 610-869-5393 or [cmo@westgroveumc.org](mailto:cmo@westgroveumc.org)



## 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 choose 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 choose **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 choose 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*

**Gift cards and store cards. SCRIP IS STILL GOING STRONG!** If you are ordering gift cards for the holidays to shop or give as gifts, grocery cards, gas cards, a selection of many store and restaurant cards, please place your order through the church! Restaurant cards can be used for Take-Out if you don't want to dine in! 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**



## Do you receive the weekly Constant Contact emails from the church?

We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition and a Sunday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including a link to the week's bulletin. If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash?

**A lot of information is shared in these two weekly emails and we often publish special editions of timely information you may be interested in.** This monthly newsletter is also shared via CC. If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, **email Donna Fackler, our Church Administrator, at [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) or call the office at 610-869-9334.** I will be happy to add you to the list! Donna



## **THE UNITED METHODIST - GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY (GBHEM) SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Across the denomination, 2,100 students received a total of \$5 million in financial assistance for 2021. These future leaders range from undergraduate freshmen to doctoral students. The scholarships are supported in part by United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday.

**Students who are members of The United Methodist Church may apply for a Fall 2022 GBHEM scholarship online between now and March 24, 2022, at [www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication](http://www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication).**



## **2022 Tools for Ministry**

It's time to open the proverbial tool box again to help build and repair church ministries—to fix what's broken and improve what's working. That requires leadership development and training more than anything else.

So the Eastern PA Conference will sponsor its **2022 Tools for Ministry on Saturday, March 5, 9 AM to 12:30 PM**. Classes will be offered virtually on Zoom once again, out of an

abundance of caution during the still-surging COVID pandemic.

Tools for Ministry is a half-day academy offering two sessions of diverse, dynamic learning for leaders. And it's open to all laity and clergy. Skilled instructors will provide valuable information, wise insights and helpful resources. And some classes will be recorded and made available later to be viewed again or for the first time by those who want to learn more.

**[Click here to see the full list of workshop descriptions.](#)**

**[Register today](#) before some classes fill up!**



# 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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org).

### A Big Thank You to:

**Joan Saller** who purchased the lovely clock in the lobby.

**Chris Curtiss and Joan Saller** for replacing the fabric on the chancel kneelers

**Bonnie Wolfe** for faithfully changing the paraments and keeping the chancel area updated. She cleaned the wax off of the altar and is looking for a cleaners willing to clean our white paraments.

**Fran Miller** who helps get folks their clearances and keep track of them all on Servant Keeper.

**Cindy Haley** who prepared all the offering envelopes for distribution.

**Esther Culbertson** who volunteers in the office usually 2 days per week. She is in the process of digitizing all of our paper records.

**Griffin** who is a cheerful greeter each day and brings smiles to many faces.

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

02/02 Sam Shane  
02/04 Seth Michaels  
02/04 Emily Fulton  
02/05 Patricia Kilmartin  
02/05 Jeanette Stryjewski  
02/06 Mary Kilmartin  
02/06 James Kilmartin  
02/07 Tim Mullen  
02/07 Jen Dunn  
02/07 Mila Capuano  
02/09 Dave McClain  
02/09 Peter Mullen  
02/09 Cecilia Figueroa  
02/09 Sophie May  
02/10 Laura Stephenson



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

2/10 Jenna Miller  
02/12 Andrew Herman  
02/12 Joan Leaman  
02/12 Olivia Rinehimer  
02/14 Donna Fackler  
02/14 Cecily Eason

02/16 Sydney Simonds  
02/16 Dylan Curtis  
02/17 Amy Castaldi  
02/18 Wayne Howard  
02/18 Reed Hadly  
02/18 Wesley Boyd  
02/19 Connie Simcox  
02/19 Katherine Whelan  
02/22 Yasmine Smith  
02/23 Carol McGinley  
02/26 Rachelle Schneider  
02/27 Lena Douglas  
02/27 Evelyn Herrera  
02/28 Carol Hocking  
02/28 Isabella Figueroa

Please join HAMEC in partnership with Philadelphia Councilmember Isaiah Thomas' office for a Black History Month event.

## Erasing the Silence: The Story of an Afro-Caribbean in the Nazi Era

The African Diaspora's history has been lost, excluded, or written by others. Mary L. Romney-Schaab tells the story of her father, Lionel Romney, an Afro-Caribbean, imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp system. From Fossoli to Mauthausen, this is the true story of a Black survivor's place in the Holocaust narrative. Mary's journey to capture her father's story illuminates the importance and significance of oral history to individuals, their families, and at times to the overall historical record.



Sunday, February 6, 2022  
2:00-3:00pm

Special Q&A for students and teachers from 3:00-3:30

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iJgr1SVNQbGJQ6Xq9P8iVA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iJgr1SVNQbGJQ6Xq9P8iVA)



Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center  
Preserving History to Learn From the Past | Est. 1961



### 'Clothed in love': Undies for Easter

Donate much-needed men's underwear briefs to Philadelphia prison inmates for Easter.

Each inmate arriving into the Philadelphia Prison System is given ONE pair of underwear. Can you imagine living with only one pair of underwear?

Head Chaplain Carmelo Urena serves about 6,000 prisoners, mostly men. His aim is to provide at least one additional pair of underwear to each new,

incoming inmate. We delivered signed Christmas cards to him for inmates there in December. Now we want to help him do more.

We have set up a new, online Undies for Easter Gift Registry on Amazon.com. There anyone can easily purchase packages of selected Hanes underwear, containing 9 pairs of men's white briefs—medium or large. They will benefit the health and wellness of our incarcerated brothers.

We hope to collect and deliver 2,000 pairs of briefs through this campaign to support the chaplain's efforts. This campaign will end on Palm Sunday, April 10; and all purchased underwear will be delivered to the chaplain before Easter Sunday.

All purchases must be made online via Amazon before Palm Sunday, April 10. Select "EPAUMC's Prison Ministry Gift Registry Address" for shipping. Contact the Rev. Marilyn Schneider, of the EPA UMC Prison Ministries & Restorative Justice Team, at [prisonministries@epaumc.org](mailto:prisonministries@epaumc.org) with any questions or concerns.





# Council of Bishops

## The United Methodist Church



### A Call for Equal Voting Rights

January 21, 2022

The United States Senate on Wednesday night rejected legislation which would counter actions taken by several states legislatures that will make voting more difficult, particularly in minority communities.

In the Fall of 2020, the United Methodist Bishops of the United States took a strong and bold stand against voter suppression standing firm on the voting rights of all persons. Today, we the bishops of the United Methodist Church reaffirm that stance believing that the right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons.

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

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

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



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

To that end we call upon the people of the United Methodist Church to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest participation in elections.

In Christ's name,



Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey  
President – Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

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## District Superintendents of The United Methodist Church

### **Two New District Superintendents Appointed –**

Bishop John Schol has announced the appointment of two new district superintendents to our Conference. Rev. Jenny Freymoyer will be serving the West District, and Rev. Hun Ju Lee will serve the North district. More information can be found on our Conference web site. We join in prayer for them both, and for our Conference as we move into new opportunities for serving Christ.

We are prayerful for our good friend Rev. BK Chung, as he transitions from serving as district superintendent to return to pastoral ministries.



Rev. Jenny Freymoyer



Rev. Hun Ju Lee



Rev. BK Chung



**The United Methodist Church**  
**Bishop John Schol**  
**Serving Eastern Pennsylvania**  
**& Greater New Jersey**  
**January 10, 2022**  
**Happy and Blessed New Year!**

You have probably heard the saying “practice makes perfect.” There is a lot of truth to that. Of course, if you are practicing the wrong thing, you may be perfecting the opposite of what you are trying to achieve.

In my experience, there are three things that I have found that helps me be better at something I do, particularly leadership: challenge, failure and practice.

### **Challenge**

A corporation wanted to better understand why some within their company excelled and were promoted and others did not. They studied all of their training and leadership development programs, both internal and external to the company. They studied bonus programs. They looked at particular supervisors and their success rates. They found none of these made the difference.

Instead, the common denominator was that those who excelled were those who were given a challenge and accomplished the challenge. They were then given a harder challenge and excelled. They found that those who excelled liked challenges and applied themselves to overcome the challenges. Good leaders like challenges. They see in the challenge opportunities to learn, excel and accomplish something for a greater outcome.

Life, ministry, the church have all been filled with challenges the last two years—more challenges than are reasonable and healthy. In this new year, focus on a couple of challenges that will make a difference for your ministry, family and community. Embrace these challenges as opportunities to learn, grow and help move the church’s mission and your personal mission forward.

### **Failure**

When I look back over my career in ministry, 43 years now, and identify when I grew the most, it was when I failed. It wasn’t a book I read, a class I took, a workshop I attended. These are all important, but most helpful to me was when I failed and asked what can I learn from this and what will I do differently in the future. I have failed many times over my lifetime and my attitude was critical. Many times I was defensive. Not helpful. There were times when I looked to someone else to blame. Not helpful. There were times I tried to put a good spin on it. Not helpful. There were times I tried to hide it. Not helpful.

What was helpful was to apologize as appropriate, own

my own mistakes, assess what I did and what I would do differently in the future. On a few occasions, I pursued outside help through a coach and even in a more challenging situation, a therapist. With God’s help and when I was willing to face into my failures, I grew. Not by a little, but by a lot.

Today, I tell young clergy, fail early and often. Take risks. To employ this strategy, you have to have healthy people around you. Healthy people are people who reserve judgement, care about you, encourage you, support you and give you honest, thoughtful feedback. Healthy people are not always easily found. People who only tell you what you want to hear are not the type of healthy people you need. People who only blame or criticize are not healthy people.

### **Practice**

When you understand and engage in taking on challenges and healthy failure, practice is beneficial. The best leaders practice. A gymnast’s routine may only be minutes or even seconds but they practice for years. Anything worth doing well or worth becoming takes practice.

Leaders do not practice enough. Practicing leadership requires observing the best leaders, volunteering for challenges and mentally and emotionally going over what you do and how you do it. It involves looking at various scenarios and how you will respond. In the days leading up to an annual conference session, I run through my mind all of the things I might encounter and how I will handle them. In my leadership, I ask people what they might expect will occur and how they would handle something. I envision myself in the role and what and how I would engage, lead.

I still have a lot to learn about leadership. I believe leadership is a lifelong learning experience. In this new year, I continue to identify how to be empathetic in the midst of a pandemic, how to lead through difference in the midst of denominational challenges and how to equip leaders to be their best. I invite you to think about what challenges you will seek and what you practice so you can be the best for the mission, your family and the world.

Keep the faith!

John

Bishop John Schol

The United Methodists of

Eastern Pennsylvania & Greater New Jersey

BishopJohnSchol@epaumc.org | 610-666-1442

BishopJohnSchol@gnjumc.org | 732-359-1010

Equipping transformational leaders for

New Disciples | Vital Congregations | Transformed World



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OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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



**2022**

*~ Open, Grow, Serve ~*

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

**The Reverend Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor**

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

**Office Hours: Monday—Friday**

**7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

**Staff**

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,  
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond

[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director

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

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator

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

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director  
Contemporary Music Interim Director  
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Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director  
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Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Maira Tena—Sexton

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

**Christ Servant Ministers**

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

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

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

**Board and Committee Leadership**

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair

Kim O'Neil and Kim Smith - Co-Trustee Chairs

OPEN - Finance Chair

OPEN - Treasurer

OPEN - Financial Secretary

OPEN - SPRC Chair

Steve May—Tech Team Leader

Melanie Hartley - Christian Education

Melanie Hartley - Children's Ministry Team Contact

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

Dick and Caryl Stuhrike - 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